



WATERY SAUCES OLDIES and BOLDIES

Newsletter No 50 July 2006

Newsletter of the WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION

More Watering Down

There have been more changes in the land of water. Some of these will also be addressed on page 6 by the Director General.

Greg Claydon has now been confirmed as the head of the Water Taskforce. Greg is unsure of whether he deserves congratulations or commiserations but we will endorse the former.

In a way, it's *deja vu* all over again, but the Government has also created a Queensland Water Commission. Its initial task will be to implement the South East Queensland Water Supply Strategy and to that end will be intimately involved in its development. The Commissioners are Elizabeth Nosworthy (Chair), David Green and Jamie Quinn.

The Government has also established a Special Purpose Vehicle (like the one used to implement Paradise Dam) called Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd and dubbed QWIPL by the Strategy group who have some apprehensions of being QWIPLed by it. It has been given the responsibility of implementing new infrastructure - in the first instance, the new dams in the Mary Basin (Traveston

Crossing) and the Logan Basin (Wyralong).

The Government has also established a team under former Governor Peter Arnison to examine and make recommendations concerning the social impacts of the proposed works. No doubt members (at least in the south east of the State) have seen the spate of letters and protests about the social impacts of the new proposals. It is good to see the Government addressing their legitimate concerns while recognising the needs of the rest of the community - many of whom do not even live here yet. Who would want to be a politician? It is difficult enough to deal with the NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) principle without adding the complaints of the BANANA (Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anything) lobby.

As Director General Bob McCarthy, in his address to the AGM (delivered by surrogate Peter Artemieff) noted, life in the world of water grows more hectic with each passing day. Aren't we all glad we have retired - unless of course we have been seduced, as so many of us have, into going back to work?

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held, as advertised, at the Public Services Club on 20 April. As only 27 members attended, it can be concluded that the Committee's bribe of a free lunch was not an unmitigated success. Even so, some new faces were welcome.

The retiring Committee was reelected, perhaps to the relief of other attendees.

The highlight of the meeting was, as usual, the messages from our co-patrons. Peter Noonan delivered his in person, but Bob McCarthy was unavoidably detained at the last minute and sent Peter Artemieff to represent him (see page 6 for their address.)

From the Editor's Chair

This is the fiftieth Watery Sauces Newsletter to be published by WRRRA - quite a milestone. Stan Ross produced the first Newsletters before Bernie Credlin produced 33 of them. I was privileged to work for both of these fine gentlemen as a recent graduate and then to carry on their work in this task. This is my ninth effort. As I sit at my word processor, I can't help but reflect on how much easier it is for me because of this wonderful technology.

I also reflect on the difficulty I have inherited. In his final Newsletter, Bernie appealed to readers to supply the editor with news of members lest the publication cease for lack of content. Since then I have requested, cajoled, pleaded, begged for copy, but to very limited effect. You all want to hear of other members' activities but are loath to supply me with information.

In the words of the Beatles (who sang of retirement) "Send me a postcard, drop me a line." I only need a few words. For the next edition, by early November. PLEASE!

Until next time, au reservoir.

Ian Pullar, Editor

Mid Year Luncheon

COTAH was once again the venue for the mid-year luncheon, held on 9 June. As usual, the students did a fine job, presenting the 38 attendees with a delectable selection of well-prepared foods.

Bob McCarthy was once again unable to join us, but he sent in his Deputy Director-General Scott Spencer who provided good company for those of us who shared his table as well as an entertaining account of departmental activities.

Our other patron, Peter Noonan, was on this occasion represented by Daryl Brigden who summed up SunWater's hectic schedule. The main points of his address are to be found on page 7. We are naturally very grateful to these men who find the time to join us and keep us informed.

Out and About

On 16 June, George William Pearce celebrated his 90th birthday. I'm sure all our members and other former employees of IWSC will join me in wishing 'Gentleman George' all the very best and in thanking him for his efforts.

I was very touched by the messages of sympathy Helen and I received in relation to our fire. In particular, I had a lovely letter from Andy Winkler. I'm sure some of you will be interested to know how we are progressing and the answer is very slowly. After 22 weeks, we are close to having a new roof. Disappointing, but we managed to get to Europe where we had a wonderful time, even joining Prince Charles at Thiepval to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the First Battle of the Somme.

Also venturing overseas on trips have been Lee and Denise Rogers (as foreshadowed last edition) and Brian Shannon and Mike Marley who attended the ICOLD Meeting in Barcelona.

Many moons ago Mike Wilke left Water Resources to join Munro Johnson, Consultants. Over the years, he was absorbed by numerous different firms including PakPoyKneebone and then Parsons Brinckerhoff. He rose to be Managing Director of PB's Australian operations and has now been appointed Chief Operating Officer (COO) of PB's billion-dollar Americas business. He and Jan are now resident in New York, which has the consolation for Jan of being closer to the children in London. Mike has also been short-listed for QUT's Alumnus of the Year Award. Go Mike!

YOUR NEWS COULD HAVE BEEN HERE!

After suffering poor health for a number of years, former WRRRA President Gordon Wilson had a kidney transplant. Unfortunately, his progress has been less than ideal, but he is "getting along quite well", despite the handicap of regular hospital visits. Our very best wishes, Gordon.

John Cantor has had a terrible time with leukemia, having to spend some time in hospital in total isolation as well as undergoing fairly traumatic chemotherapy. But he is now home (again) and, in his own words, "hanging on". Best wishes, John

Des Foster is currently in St Vincent's hospital in Toowoomba. He had a hip replacement about a month ago and had been making good progress when infection flared. He has been back in hospital twice and the physician predicts that the current stay will be long and tedious.

Phil Sternes reported that he had noticed the death in mid April of retired Senior Works Supervisor Les Warren, husband of Dell, in Innisfail aged 77. Les came to the IWSC from the RAN where amongst other things he served on HMAS Monoora running the milk up to the BCOF in Japan after WW2.

Emmanuel (Em) Soloduhin passed away peacefully on 23 April. His funeral was held at the Jewish Chapel, Mt Gravatt Cemetery on 26 April. Our condolences to his widow, Sylvia.

Our condolences also to Bob Marshall whose wife Nora passed away on 22 April. Her funeral was held at the Arundel Presbyterian Church on 27 April.

Snippets from OS

While in England, we visited Broughton Castle, near Banbury. This estate, owned by the Fiennes family, has been used in numerous films including Shakespeare in Love where it was the home of young Shakespeare's love interest (Gwynneth Paltrow) and the site of a balcony scene. The connection of Joseph Fiennes (young Shakespeare) to the owners (his distant cousins) was no doubt important. Everyone knows the nursery rhyme *Ride a cock-horse to Banbury Cross to see a fine lady upon a white horse*. But who knows what a *cock-horse* is? In the days when Shire horses were used to pull carriages, they coped well with going up hill, but going down was a problem as the carriage tended to run into the horses. So wiry, cocky little horses were hired out to be harnessed to the rear end of carriages to act as a brake. Back in the C18th, a certain Celia Fiennes, resentful of her male contemporaries' ability to travel wherever they chose, rode her horse widely around England and wrote books about her travels. This was commemorated in the rhyme as *to see a Fiennes lady upon a white horse*.

More than ten years ago, a man arrived on a flight at Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris, with no passport or other papers. Obviously the French authorities could not admit him to their country without accreditation. But without any proof of citizenship, no other country is prepared to accept him either. So he lives in limbo, unable to leave the airport. The French authorities have agreed to feed him and his "patch" is recognised, but he "ain't goin' nowhere". I'm told a film was made with Tom Hanks about this story.

Members who have travelled in Europe may appreciate the following observation. Heaven is where the French are the cooks, the Italians are the lovers, the Germans are the police and the Swiss are the organisers. Hell is when the Swiss are the cooks, the Germans are the lovers, the French are the police and the Italians are the organisers.

The Year's Program

The following functions are planned or being considered for 2006/07:

9 June - mid-year luncheon

11 August - Annual Bowls Day at Aspley Bowls Club (flyer enclosed with this Newsletter)

Late September/early October - Boat Trip (St Helena Island or Coomera River are being investigated)

Late November (date to be advised) - Christmas Luncheon at COTAH

Late January/early February - lunchtime social at Public Service Club

Late March/early April - possible Theatre booking at Ipswich Little Theatre (to be negotiated)

19 April - Annual General Meeting at Public Service Club

I spy, with my little ey something beginning with A



Serious Training

Aaaaah! The thrill of the steam era, the smell of coal smoke mixed with steam, with soot or coal-dust in bloodshot eyes – yes these were some of the memories revived when members of the Water Resources Retirees Association ventured into the Workshops Rail Museum at Ipswich on Wednesday 15 March. In reality, none of the engines was fired and not a wheel was turned, so all the sensations were in the imagination of the 16 people present.

The rail museum is a section of the Queensland Museum and opened to the public in September 2002. For many years vintage engines had languished in a modest static display area at Redbank, and were deteriorating. It was decided to include them in the preservation of the Ipswich Railway Workshops complex for the benefit of all and, in true museum style, make the exhibition live for the younger people as well. A large part of the complex is still used by Queensland Rail to house, rebuild and restore engines and rolling stock of the heritage fleet.

Our group met outside and after entry, had a brief look around before assembling at the traverser, a mechanical monster capable of carrying a full-sized engine (or any other equipment) from one end of the workshop complex to the other then unloading it to enter an adjacent building for its next procedure. The group, supplemented by some other “ordinary” visiting citizens climbed on board the traverser and were transported some buildings further down to view work being done on the Heritage fleet of steam engines. In so doing we moved from the museum area into the Queensland Rail section of the complex. The engines are owned by QR and leased out to organisations for day and longer trips. We were introduced to our guide who gave commentary on all that was seen around. The basic principles of steam propulsion were explained and an old boiler with sections cut away aided the understanding. Boilers which are made at the site, both for QR engines and for some interstate and private operators, are now of welded construction, not riveted like the one displayed.

The oldest locomotive in the Heritage Fleet is the A10, which was used between Ipswich and Bigge’s Camp, later known as Grandchester, in the early 1900s. This railway line was the first built in Queensland and headed West rather than to Brisbane because river boats handled all freight in that direction. Near the A10 was a C17 class loco which has been off the tracks for some time. It has been fitted with a new boiler, which has now been tested, and other necessary work has been done. The whole restoration will be complete in a couple of months’ time, and the loco will be seen on the tracks again.

New Members

A fairly lean period with only two new members, Bill Sticklan and Ted Norbury. A hearty welcome to both.

There are still quite a few old boys who have indicated an intention to join but who haven’t quite got round to it. Some gentle persuasion from members to these and others might be called for.

Several other engines were visible as the party moved through the connected buildings, including the “Blue Baby”, the Beyer Garratt, and the two green monsters, which do many of the main line excursions, the Pacific Class BB18 ¼s. Blue Babies were tank engines that commonly hauled commuter trains all round Brisbane prior to the introduction of the diesel engines, and later the electric trains.

Finishing that tour, the group found itself back in the museum which includes a number of theatrettes showing audio visuals, a model train layout, various displays of old tools and casting patterns, even a diesel engine cab set up as a simulator. Anyone can see what it is like to drive an engine. There is an area with information on the tilt train, and lots of interactive displays for the youngsters. Finish that off with a bookshop of information, memorabilia and souvenirs, and the complex is complete.

Lunch was in the Trackside Café, which is set up in the original workers’ dining hall. Lunch was roast meat and vegies, sweets, coffee and tea, and was most enjoyable. The area underneath the dining hall was used for storage of workers’ bikes, which on a good day numbered about a thousand. Behind this cafe was the power house, built in 1902, which supplied power and compressed air to the workshops. Even hydraulic power was provided for some operations. The power station operated till 1987, and the building and some of the equipment are still there.

Queensland Rail also conducts tours of its blacksmithing and forging area. In its hey-day this section forged the necessary billets for the lathes and milling machines to turn out engine and rolling stock components. There once was a claim that if an item could be built in Australia it could be done at the Ipswich workshops. During the War years, much of the capacity of the works was devoted to military supplies and equipment.

Any “oldies and boldies” who missed this trip should consider a day out to the museum. Most people of our age group still have a strong memory of steam. Annual passes are available, and special days are conducted for kids, and big kids. A pass entitles the holder to discounted entry to other campuses of the Queensland Museum, such as Southbank, the Cobb & Co museum in Toowoomba, and the museum of Tropical Queensland. Discounts apply to purchases in the shop and café.

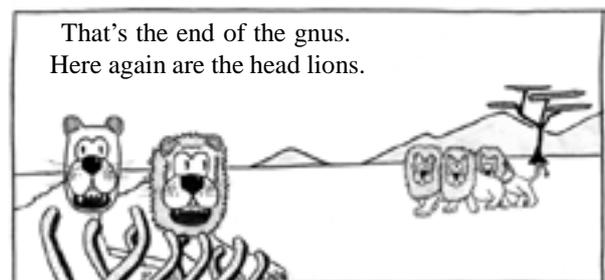
Thank you John Connolly for organising the day’s outing.

Dennis Gilbard

This is the promised report on the event. Thank you Dennis for your contribution. Ed.



Train BB1089



Tinaroo in Fifty-two

Luxury! Sheer bloody luxury!

An office comprising a corrugated galvanized iron shed with a concrete floor, sleeping/living quarters consisting of a canvas tent (one occupant) with an actual timber floor, a spring bed with a real mattress, and an outside wood stove (shared with three other people) protected from the elements by more galvanized corrugated iron sheeting – these being the staff amenities provided in the early stages of construction at Tinaroo Dam in 1952.

I describe these conditions as luxury because I had been moved at the Commissioner's direction to the Tinaroo construction camp from our survey camp at nearby Danbulla Bridge where the office and quarters did not nearly match the five star accommodation described above.

If you are the inquisitive Pauline Hansen type requesting 'Please explain' read on – if you are not, don't bother. Well you wouldn't, would you?

The sleeping/living quarters were shared canvas tents – two people per tent – with a dirt floor (originally a grassed floor – long grass, no lawns here – but eventually the grass died and wore out) and lighting provided by carbide lamps.

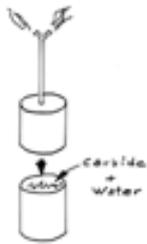


Diagram 1

comprise a base can into which carbide and water are placed and covered with a fitted inverted type can from which a thin pipe extends vertically for about 1 foot (that's 300 mm but remember this era is circa 1952 so imperial measures rule) and is fitted with a single or double burner, through which the gas produced by the carbide and water exits and is lit, providing naked flame lighting. (See diagram 1)

I purposely mention the naked flame because of an incident which will be described later.

The beds (beds! Now that's a generous description) consisted of a tubular steel rectangular frame with collapsible tubular steel legs, with the frame supporting a rigid chain wire base, as per the wire in a modern chain wire fence. The mattresses were single-bed sized hessian bags stuffed with straw, a palliase in fact. The straw gradually became compressed and hard, very hard, and would be 'topped up' by stuffing the mattress as thick as possible to make it more comfortable. Again with use it again became compressed. I use the word comfortable, but these beds were never comfortable – the straw was prickly when first slept on and hard (and harder) with usage. I think the body adjusted to the mattress, rather than the reverse, but whatever the situation these mattresses would never be described as comfortable. (See diagram 2)



Diagram 2

The toilet – and that's a very loose description – required the digging of a large pit over 3 feet (in keeping with this imperial era, but 1 metre if you must) in diameter and some 6 feet (surely you can work that out) in depth, with a largish post about 4 feet (yes, I know) high placed vertically at what might be termed the front of the pit. Two forked trees were cut and trimmed, then embedded also vertically at either side of the pit, and a suitable log placed across the pit resting in the trimmed forks, thus providing a 'seat' and a post to hold on to; so to retain one's balance. Not pretty but practical. This may be uniquely Australian. (See diagram 3)

Unlike Tinaroo we did not have to provide our own meals at Danbulla, as the camp employed a full time cook, which was common in all survey camps in that era. I could tell a few stories about some of the cooks in the various camps, but I fear the editor would invoke his editorial powers and reject them.

And now we come to the camp office. Another wild misnomer. The 'office' was just another tent, which had unfortunately been sited in an area covered by what we called 'bladey grass' (so I'm not a horticulturalist) – tall thick clumped reed-like grass with strong hard



Diagram 3

roots. The grass in the office area had been cut low, and the bases of the clumps were extremely hard, like short spikes, requiring the wearing of solid work-boots at all times. Anything less, including one's feet, would have been shredded.

The drawing board was supported (?) on a somewhat rickety table which required frequent adjustment, relocation, and various other forms of attention to maintain stability. The storage area for all drawings, paper, and cardboard tubing (for plan storage) was one of the previously described camp beds, sans mattress.

Because the basic material on which drawings were produced at that time was waxed linen, a material easily subject to damage, particularly by water, which when coming in contact with a drawing would cause the removal of the wax, and anything drawn on it, drawings had to be carefully stored to avoid damage. With condensation occurring regularly on the inside of the roof of the tent (office) overnight it was therefore necessary to roll up all drawings and cover them with additional paper wrapping and/or place them in cardboard tubing for protection. Just another responsibility for the field draftsman.

When working on dull, overcast days, or early mornings, (what dedication!) light inside the 'office' was somewhat less than perfect, so that two carbide lights were used, one placed at each of the top corners of the drawing board. This proved to be quite satisfactory until the day the naked flames of the carbide lights (placed a bit higher on the board than usual) set fire to the roof of the office. The lighting was great – but the panic was even greater. However – and I mean how ever – the fire was quickly contained and extinguished with no damage to the contents of the office, some to the office roof, and considerable to the arsonist's pride.

It was shortly after this incident when Commissioner Fred Haigh visited and, on seeing the conditions under which drawings were being produced, made an instant decision to move the survey camp drawing office to the salubrious surrounds of the Tinaroo construction camp. The conversation went like this:

Commissioner Haigh: "We'll move you up to Tinaroo. You wouldn't like to work under these conditions in Brisbane, would you?"

Young, brash, confident (stupid) Cadet: "I'd look bloody silly with a tent pitched in the middle of Queen Street, wouldn't I, Mr Haigh?"

Commissioner Haigh: "You'll move tomorrow."

Tomorrow did come. See opening paragraph.

Alan Vizer

This article has been produced thanks to Gwen Vizer's nagging at the insistence of Ian Pullar.

VALE ROY MINCHER 21-9-1928 to 14-6-2005

Abridged from the address of Roy's son David at his father's funeral.

Born in Stone, England, Dad was against the odds as an only child to a single mum, but he made opportunities, receiving a county scholarship to an esteemed private school and then achieving entry to university. But Dad showed the characteristic Mincher nonconformist trait. University or working world? Dad went with the latter and took a job as junior clerk with the local council. His 18th birthday was celebrated with compulsory military service in the British Army from which he had postings in India, Burma and Malaya. When discharged two years later, he was an NCO. Dad took his discharge package of a 3 piece lounge suit, raincoat, shirt, tie, pair of shoes and socks, 4 weeks pay and a train ticket and got a job as a Coal Mine Surveyor's Assistant and started the Coal Mine Manager's course at the local college.

At 21 years of age on a pub crawl, Dad spied an ad "WANTED IN AUSTRALIA. YOUNG SINGLE MEN. LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES". Here was the next adventure. So Dad and his mate boarded a ship in Southampton and disembarked in Melbourne, only to be flown to Tasmania the following day to find the start of OPPORTUNITES to be colder and wetter than he had left behind. Australia wasn't the land of the Suntanned Lifesaver. He joined 20 other single men on a bus to Bronte Park, a hutted camp for workers on the Pine Tier Hydro Dam where he had good times among the European refugee riff-raff or the politically correct term of displaced persons.

1951 saw Dad in Sydney but soon he took to the open road and dabbling in various jobs including joining a survey gang with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission. The Chief Surveyor, who liked the look of Dad, recommended him to George Toon in St George. The Engineer in Charge at the time, Bernie Credlin strongly advised Dad to submit an application for the advertised position of Assistant Hydrographer in Brisbane. Dad asked Bernie "What's assisting a Hydrographer?" Bernie replied that not many people knew much about this line of work, but Dad would be right for it, as it would require someone who could work on his own for most of the time. As Bernie predicted, Dad got the job as Assisting Hydrographer. Dad was forever grateful to Bernie for putting him onto this career path and they kept up a close friendship until Bernie died in early 2004.

Dad's new career as a Hydrographer meant very long trips, from south west of Mackay to Cape York Peninsula and west to the Northern Territory border through some basically uncharted country, studying, surveying and mapping waterways. In the early years these trips were made in an ex-army four wheel drive, along some bone rattling tracks. Sometimes the trips lasted months at a time and during those days the remote towns of Cooktown, Coen and Laura weren't places for the faint hearted.

This work was tough going and called upon Dad's natural bush man and hunting abilities, clearing river banks by axe, rowing across flooded rivers, dealing with cyclonic conditions and dining on wallaby, fish and eel as opposed to a constant diet of tinned food.

It was a foregone conclusion that Dad would want his children to experience the bush which he so loved, so he forged in us a love of the bush, camping and four wheel drive adventuring.

In the 50s and early 60s, Dad was bored and bought a boat and went into commercial fishing which was a profitable venture. Then he was a competitive woodchopper, which although there were no blue ribbons, must have been a good way to work up a thirst. Dad was a gifted soccer player in his youth and could have played for Liverpool but the lack of coin was a deterrent. His mate told me that Dad was a true friend with a kind heart and generous nature who talked of Peter, Samantha and myself with such pride and love.

For all his bluster and hot air, he was a man who achieved so much with just his wits, good friendships and adventurous free spirit.

Dad wrote in his memoirs that after 35 years of hydrographic work he was ready to retire in 1988 and that despite the occasional falling out with bosses, he had really enjoyed his work. I don't think Dad realised just how much impact he had on people until he was presented with a "tributary" on retirement. I think that this poem sums up how a lot of people will remember Dad – including me.

Tributary to Roy

*'Twas the early fifties they saw fit to employ
A pommy new chum by the name of Roy,
At St George there were flies and sun that would sear –
Unlike the cold of old Yorkshire.*

*Now he's at home on a rough dusty track,
Somewhere in Queensland's rugged outback,
From the Gulf to Lake Eyre, to the Territory and back
He's been everywhere with swag, Price Meter and pack.*

*He was bold and smart and had no fears –
This earned him repute among his peers
Now a legend in Hydrographic spheres,
His knowledge so vast of the tricks learned through the years.*

*Involved in the building of many a tower
He rose himself to the heights of great power,
For Roy we must say water's thicker than blood
For HE could stop a Burdekin flood.*

*But his greatest trademark (although rather foul)
Was those stinking cigars branded "White Owl" –
And any complaint or groan or howl
Was met with by Roy his best British scowl.*

*Sadly now comes the time of Adieu,
A time of great sorrow for all of his crew,
It's the end of an era; the start of a new –
So we'll all raise our glasses "Roy – Here's to You!"*

A Message from Bob the Builder

Here follows an abbreviated version of the address to the Annual General Meeting prepared by Director General Bob McCarthy and delivered by Peter Artemieff when, at the last minute, the DG was unable to attend. WRRRA is most grateful to both these gentlemen for giving us their support and valuable time. **Ed.**

Thank you for the opportunity to address your AGM.

Things have not changed. Water is a critical issue for all of us. There is increasing demand for water, driven largely by our growing population and robust economic development. While these two drivers – population and economic growth – place increased pressure on resources, so too does climate change.

To add to the complexity of the challenge, our State is faced with drastically diverse water conditions – North Queensland is experiencing floods and south east Queensland is in the worst drought for a century. The combined dam levels of Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine are at around 32 per cent. Up north, they're overflowing in some catchments. These opposing situations mean effective, long-term regional (and statewide) planning needs to be finalised.

In June 2004, the Queensland Government joined all mainland States and Territories to sign up to the National Water Initiative. As a part of this initiative, the Department is progressing water resource planning and management. Around 90 percent of the State has either completed – or is undergoing – water resource planning.

Last year, the Queensland Government released the Queensland Water Plan 2005-2010. This outlines the commitment and strategies for water security, largely to deal with the recurring drought.

Queensland's water reform agenda is also driven by the National Water Initiative. The Government is committed to implementing changes first raised over 10 years ago.

The Department is progressing water trading which is now operating in some parts of the state with significant "open market" sales being recorded in places like Emerald. For example irrigation water from Lake Maraboon is trading for over \$2000/ML with annual charges currently only \$11.48 per ML. Recently an irrigator sold 500ML of high priority water for \$7,500/ML.

At present some 865,000ML has been specifically identified in finalised Water Resource Plans as available for development. This provides a significant opportunity for private sector investments with secure access to water.

The water resource planning framework opens the door to water trading to promote higher value use. It also secures long-term water allocations for industry and agriculture. Water allocations are now a separate entitlement from land, but can be traded in a similar way.

In south-east Queensland, the sobering fact is that there is very little water available for future growth that has not already been allocated. So what is being done about it?

Late last year, the Department released an interim report on the draft *South East Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy*. This was released to address the immediate challenges of the drought and outline short-term priority projects and contingency planning initiatives. We are investigating new supply options and we are building new infrastructure. A Water Taskforce has been established to ensure all Government agencies with an interest in water are united in their efforts.

To support the Taskforce's goals, a Water Commission has been announced. It is expected to be operating in the second half of this year. The establishment of the Commission creates a model where the supply of water, and demand for water, can be jointly managed by one entity. This is addressing the situation where the current water management regime is complex, with around 19 major water supply storages, owned by 12 different agencies, and 18 local governments within the region.

New projects include:

- Recycled water schemes for industry – just recently we have committed \$20 million for the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme in partnership with SEQWater and local councils.
- Leakage management and pressure reduction programs to reduce water wastages
- Water efficiency programs for households and industry
- Investigating alternative supply options, such as desalination on the Gold Coast and aquifer investigation
- Upgrading dam spillways
- Water restriction and conservation programs to protect water supplies

· Recommissioning of some small dams no longer in use

The strategy is a key example of State and local governments and water supply agencies working together for water security. The commission will drive the outcomes of the final SEQ Regional Water Supply Strategy due later in 2006.

The Department will continue to work with the community, industry and local councils on water supply to build infrastructure and investigate supply. We are committed to securing water for Queensland's future.

Editor's notes:

Since the DG prepared this address in April, dams in the south east region have now fallen to less than 30% full and level 3 water restrictions have been implemented. Level 4 restrictions will be introduced later in the year if significant inflows do not occur. Contingency plans to provide additional supplies, including a desalination plant at Tugun, are being pursued.

Greg Claydon has been appointed to head up the Taskforce. The Water Commission has come into existence and the government has established a Special Purpose Vehicle to manage the implementation of new infrastructure (see also page 1).



Brigden's Blarney

This is a very abbreviated version of Daryl Brigden's address to the mid-year luncheon. It is a simple summary of the overwhelming list of projects being undertaken by SunWater.

These development projects are not a comprehensive list, but cover some of the major undertakings.

Under Construction

- Burdekin to Moranbah Pipeline 220 km – pump station at Gorge Weir on the Burdekin to deliver 17,000 ML/year Stage 1 and 20,000 ML/year Stage 2 to the Central coalfields. Designed in one year, required to deliver water to 161 km connection point by December '06.

- Eungella Pipeline Eastern Extension to Coppabella 46km.
- Eungella Pipeline Southern Extension to Dysart 71 km

Completed Projects

- Gattonvale Offstream Storage at Bowen River Weir – 5200 ML – Designed and constructed in 1 year, commenced storing water during construction and filled while embankment was being

topped off. It provides water to Collinsville, Scottsville, Collinsville power station and mines in the northern Bowen Basin. *Ian Ferrier's account of the construction appeared in a previous Newsletter.*

Planning/Design

- Coal Seam Gas Water – project to treat and reticulate water from QGC gas fields for supply to Chinchilla and also feedlots
- Water for Bowen Project – water from the Burdekin
- Water Treatment Plant for Swanbank Paper Mill
- Engineering Services is lead Pipe Systems Designer in the consortium for the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project – recycled water from Luggage Point, Oxley, Wacol and Bundamba Treatment Plants to Swanbank and Tarong power stations. A major drought management project
- Engineering Services doing concept designs for Traveston Dam, Tilley's Bridge Dam and Wyaralong Dam for DNR&W
- Monto Minerals water supply – pipeline from borefield to Monto Minerals site.

Dam dumb!

Members will undoubtedly be aware of Premier Peter Beattie's announcements regarding the development of a new dam at Traveston Crossing on the Mary River and the extensive protests this has generated.

As part of the investigations for the dam, new aerial photography was commissioned. The actual flying was to take place after the announcement and at the request of the locals, they were given notice of the flyover. One of the landholders obviously wanted to express his opinion, got out his mower and made his mark for posterity. This wasn't even noticed until some time later, but it caused some amusement within the Department and SunWater whose officers are currently preparing the concept design.

One of the difficulties is that the landholders are demanding detailed information on why the site was selected, what the foundation conditions are like, what impact the dam will have on the environment or the locals. These questions cannot be answered without quite a deal of investigation which cannot be done without venturing onto the ground.

SunWater staff are wrestling with some of these problems. As expected, the site is not ideal in geological terms and the upstream impacts on land, roads and other infrastructure are significant.

The site, however, is the only remaining one in the region where a large dam can be built that can go a long way towards meeting the region's future water needs.

Additional sources, other than dams, are still being investigated, but they too have their problems.



A Fishy Story

A former officer (let's call him Mike) was caught redhanded by a Fisheries Inspector with an undersized yellow belly in his creel. "That's not an undersize fish", he pleaded. "That's my decoy fish, Molly. I put her in the shallows to attract other yellow bellies. I'll show you." He put Molly into the pool. "Where's the fish?" demanded the Inspector. "What fish?" asked Mike.

HEALTH *and* beauty

Excellent news on the health front.

Researchers have shown that regular jogging can increase life expectancy by three years. And in order to achieve that you will only have to spend a total of four years jogging!

According to the *Sunday Mail* on 25 May, an American study has found that anti-oxidants in red wine could delay the onset of hearing loss associated with age or exposure to loud noises. Seems the hairs in the ear can be damaged by oxygen-free radicals, so, in theory at least, anti-oxidants should protect against this damage.

By my reckoning, that's another glass required each day. Did you hear that?

What are the chances?

According to the *Courier Mail* (7 May) Emily May Bozman entered the world at Brisbane's Mater Private on Thursday at 1.23 a.m. - making her birth date 01.23 on the fourth day of the fifth month of 2006. If that is not coincidence enough, she weighed in at seven pounds eight ounces.

Exercise those Brain Cells

Three men were shortlisted for a position as logician and were given a selection test. They were shown three white discs and two black discs. A disc was pinned to the back of each such that each could see the other two but not his own. They were told that the appointment would go to the first to deduce the colour of the disc on his own back.



In no time flat, the successful applicant said, "I can see two white discs, therefore mine is white."

How did he deduce this?

Solution to last edition's puzzle

You were asked to determine which of twelve apparently identical balls is heavier or lighter, in three weighings. This is one way to do it. Other solutions may be possible.

Number the balls 1 to 12				
1. Weigh 1,2,3,4 against 5,6,7,8				
If these are equal the false ball is 9,10,11 or 12		If 12,3,4 are 'heavier' than 5,6,7,8		
2. Weigh 9,10,11 against any other three		2. Weigh 1,2,3,5 against 9,10,11,4		
If equal, then 12 is false.	If unequal, we know if the ball is heavy or light.	If 1,2,3,5 is still heavier then 1,2 or 3 is false and heavy.	If equal, then 6,7 or 8 is false and lighter.	If 1,2,3,5 is now lighter then either 4 is heavy or 5 is light.
3. Weigh 12 against any other to determine whether it is heavy or light.	3. Weigh 9 against 10. If equal, then 11 is false. If unequal, it is the heavier or lighter.	3. Weigh 1 against 2. If equal then 3 is heavy. If unequal, then the heavier is false.	3. Weigh 6 against 7. If equal then 8 is false. If unequal, then the lighter is false.	3. Weigh 4 against any real ball. If equal then 5 is light. If unequal, 4 is heavy.

(Advertisement)

EVENING CLASSES FOR MEN

OPEN TO MEN ONLY

Note: in recognition of difficulty and complexity, classes will be limited to a maximum of eight participants.

DAY ONE

HOW TO FILL ICE CUBE TRAYS

Step by step guide with slide presentation

TOILET ROLLS - DO THEY GROW ON THE HOLDERS?

Round table discussion

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LAUNDRY BASKET AND FLOOR

Practising with hamper (practical class)

DISHES AND SILVERWARE: DO THEY LEVITATE TO SINK OR DISHWASHER BY THEMSELVES?

Debate among a panel of experts

REMOTE CONTROL

Losing the remote control - Help Line and Support Groups

LEARNING HOW TO FIND THINGS

Starting with looking in the right place instead of turning the house upside down while screaming - Open Forum

DAY TWO

EMPTY MILK CARTONS: IN THE FRIDGE OR THE BIN?

Group discussion and role play

HEALTH WATCH: BRINGING HER FLOWERS IS NOT HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH

PowerPoint presentation

REAL MEN ASK FOR DIRECTIONS WHEN LOST

Real life testimonial from one man who did

IS IT GENETICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SIT QUIETLY WHILE SHE PARALLEL PARKS?

Driving simulation (with seat belt)

HOW TO BE THE IDEAL SHOPPING COMPANION

Relaxation exercises, meditation and breathing techniques

REMEMBERING IMPORTANT DATES OR CALLING WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE

Bring your calendar or PDA to class

GETTING OVER IT: HOW TO LIVE WITH BEING WRONG ALL THE TIME
Individual counsellors available

King Arthur and the Witch

Young King Arthur was ambushed and imprisoned by the monarch of a neighbouring kingdom. The monarch could have killed him but was moved by Arthur's youth and ideals.

So, the monarch offered him his freedom, as long as he could answer a very difficult question. Arthur would have a year to figure out the answer and, if after a year, he still had no answer, he would be put to death.

The question?...What do women really want?

To young Arthur, it seemed an impossible query, but, since it was better than death, he accepted the proposition. He returned to his kingdom and spoke with everyone: the princess, the priests, the wise men and even the court jester but no one could give him a satisfactory answer.

Many people advised him to consult an old witch but the witch was famous throughout the kingdom for the exorbitant prices she charged. The last day of the year arrived and Arthur had no choice but to talk to the witch. She agreed to answer the question provided she could marry Sir Lancelot, the most noble of the Knights of the Round Table and Arthur's closest friend!

Arthur was horrified. He had never encountered such a repugnant creature in all his life so he refused. But Lancelot, learning of the proposal, said nothing was too big a sacrifice compared to Arthur's life and the preservation of the Round Table. A wedding was proclaimed and the witch answered Arthur's question thus - what a woman really wants is to be in charge of her own life.

Everyone in the kingdom instantly knew that the witch had uttered a great truth and that Arthur's life would be spared. And so it was: Arthur was free and Lancelot and the witch had a wonderful wedding.

The honeymoon hour approached and Lancelot, steeling himself for a horrific experience, entered the bedroom. But, what a sight awaited him. The most beautiful woman he had ever seen lay before him on the bed. The astounded Lancelot asked what had happened.

The beauty replied that since he had been so kind to her when she appeared as a witch, she would henceforth be her horrible deformed self only half the time and the beautiful maiden the other half. Which would he prefer - beautiful during the day...or night?

Lancelot pondered the predicament. During the day, a beautiful woman to show off to his friends, but at night, in the privacy of his castle, an old witch? Or a hideous witch during the day, but by night, a beautiful woman for him to enjoy wondrous intimate moments?

Which would YOU choose?

Make YOUR choice before you read on.

Noble Lancelot said that he would allow HER to make the choice herself. Upon hearing this, she announced that she would be beautiful all the time because he had respected her enough to let her be in charge of her own life.

Now....what is the moral to this story?

The moral is.....If you don't let a woman have her own way, things are going to get ugly.

Thanks to **Ross Stewart** for this contribution

Choice

In a world that atom-powered
when rival nations cut up rough,
one might choose to be a coward
if only he were brave enough.

Words, Words, Words

As you, discerning reader, will have observed, I am fascinated by words and their meaning, particularly the way meanings change, even to the extent of morphing to entirely the opposite of the original.

Take, for example, the word 'sophisticated' which we all know means 'reflecting a high degree of skill, intelligence etc.' But it is derived from 'sophistry' which means 'tricky, specious and fallacious method of reasoning' and is connected with prostitution.

We all know that a 'scapegoat' is the one who is sacrificed to protect the real culprit. But in the book of *Leviticus*, Aaron presented two goats to God for possible sacrifice and the 'scape goat' was the one which wasn't sacrificed!

In modern parlance, any community consultation has to involve the stakeholders i.e. those with an interest in the matter being negotiated. But a stakeholder is really the one who holds the stake (that has been wagered) and is disinterested (i.e. does not gain or lose by the outcome - as opposed to uninterested or not caring less what the outcome is).

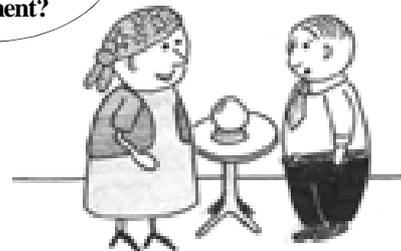
* * * * *

In 1486 *The Book of St Albans* was published. It was also known as *A Treatyse Perteynyng to Hawkyng, Huntynge and Coote Armiris*. It is particularly notable for its collection of nouns of assemblage such as a *colony* of ants, a *litter* of pups, a *skein* of geese (in flight) or a *gaggle* (on the ground). Many of the terms have disappeared, because so few people go *hawkyng* or *huntynge*, although *fysshynge* remains popular. Why have we forgotten a *skulk* of foxes, a *hover* of trout, a *charm* of finches, an *exaltation* of larks, a *drift* of hogs or a *bouquet* of pheasants? The last is of interest - it comes from the Italian *bosco* (wood) and *boschetto* (little wood). Our word *bouquet* comes from the flowers of the wood and by extension to their perfume and the 'nose' of wine. A *bouquet* of pheasants evoked the image of birds rising from the bushes ready to be shot at.

Some readers may recall *Aquarius* in the 1970s running a competition for suggestions of new nouns of assembly. Among the entries were a *phylum* of Records Clerks and (what Judge Bernie Credlin described as bottom of the list), an *arsenal* of WCs.

Will Monday
at 2 o'clock be ok
for your
appointment?

You tell
me.



A Sign of the Times

On a church at Silkstone

Always plan ahead - it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

Book Club

British Historian Norman Davis reported in the *Guardian* in November 1999 that the pilot who shot down most Luftwaffe planes in 1940 was a Czech. Joseph Frantisek was a pilot of the Kosciuszko Squadron (RAF 303) during the Battle of Britain. His mates called him admiringly an Honorary Pole.

A Question of Honor. The Kosciuszko Squadron. Forgotten Heroes of World War II, by American couple Lynne Olsen and Stanley Cloud, provides a full history of the Squadron from the beginning in 1920 to the epilogue in 1992 when the official Polish Air Force standard was handed by the veterans of WWII to the new independent Air Force in native Poland..

The Squadron was initially formed in 1920 by American volunteers who fought with Poles in a war against Bolsheviks. The idea of forming this unit came from Merian Cooper later better known as co-director and writer of the King-Kong movie and for pairing Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

Of particular interest was the changing relationship between the pilots and their British handlers: from initial disbelief that they could be any good, to astonishment that they were the best in the RAF (the squadron shot down more enemy planes than any other unit), to become darlings of the High Society and finally to fall from grace when they became 'an inconvenience' in negotiations with the Soviets. The Polish pilots refused from the beginning to follow the standard tight flight formation, which inflicted unnecessary losses and was seen by them as suicidal. This refusal caused tensions with the Brits but tight formation was abandoned shortly after the Squadron's amazing successes with much smaller losses than other units. As they survived these campaigns they became much better prepared than young Brits whose training consisted frequently of only 9 hours flying on Spitfires. Once they got machines of quality comparable with Messerschmitts they got the opportunity to show their class.

For an Australian reader it may be of interest to learn who Kosciuszko actually was. After all, the highest mountain on our continent is named after him. He was an exceptional person by any standard. He designed the fortification in Saratoga, which was credited for reversing the War of Independence to American advantage and he designed West Point fortification, which became the foundation of the now famous military academy. He was a personal friend of Franklin, Jefferson and Washington. He was also a commander of Rising in Poland in 1794. His moral standards were second to none, so I believe that it is no shame to have the highest peak in our country named after a human being with an unpronounceable name.

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The book is very well written and documented and reads like a thriller. I recommend it to people interested in history. I think it can be borrowed from the City Library, although I obtained my copy from Amazon.

Recent events provided a postscript to the book. After joining NATO the Kosciuszko Squadron was ordered to patrol the airspace of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. These countries do not have an Air Force. The Russians, knowing this, frequently attempt to enter the air space of these countries without permission, in their supply flights from St Petersburg to a military base in Kaliningrad (of course 'by mistake'). To prevent this happening NATO deploys a small force. In 2005, it was Poland's turn to patrol the space.

Wojciech Poplawski

In *Room One Nineteen* by Queensland writer Luke Kieskie, the central character is Dr Carl Luskan, a teacher who conducts a creative writing course at the Green Institute for Wayward Adolescents in Melbourne. He receives very little help from the Head of the Institute, but ploughs on in the hope that his efforts will contribute to the rehabilitation of the five boys selected to take part in his program, who have been institutionalised for reasons unknown.

From the start of the book, it is apparent that Luskan has been killed by a member of the class. As the Head refuses to supply any information on the background of the boys, clues to the culprit are provided only by the transcripts of Luskan's dictaphone notes and the pieces of work submitted by the boys. These works, developed in a variety of genres, are fascinating in themselves.

The book is intriguing as it approaches the climax and identifies the killer. Although written with a young adult audience in mind, it moved this reader who is young only in mind.

Ian Pullar

Paradox

The liar paradox was first propounded by Epimenedes in the C6th BC. 'I am a liar' is truly paradoxical; it is true only if it is false and false only if it is true.

Credits

My thanks are once again due to Helen; to my daughter Jean Yates; to Graham Bauer who printed this; to the contributors; to Scott Spencer, Peter Noonan, Natasha Gajda and Katrina Mack who made it available to departmental staff; and to Harvey Yates for his cartoons.