



WATERY SAUCES Oldies and Boldies

Newsletter No 56 July 2008

Newsletter of the Water Resource Retirees Association

End of An Era

David Morwood joined the Oldies and Boldies Committee fourteen years ago, even before he had retired, and has remained on it ever since. He served as President, Past President, Vice President and Executive member. At the AGM held on April, Dave stood down from the Committee. He rather regretted the move but was absolutely true to his principles that organisations need a regular transfusion of new blood. Gracious in retirement, he spoke of his great enjoyment in having been a member of the Committee.

President Lee Rogers paid tribute to Dave's outstanding contribution and the 26 members and spouses present applauded. Thank you Dave.

From the Editor's Chair

With the last edition of the Newsletter we circulated a questionnaire seeking guidance from you, the members, on the direction of the Association.

Although only a very few took the time to respond, it is clear that the most popular activities are those that give the attending members the opportunity to meet in convivial circumstances and share memories and future plans. Accordingly, the Committee has prepared the next year's programme with this in mind (see page 2).

Comments on the Newsletter were very complimentary, although I was seeking guidance not congratulations. Predominantly, members were seeking news of other members – one suggestion was a "what are they doing now?" column. Nothing could be closer to my own desires, but once again I have to point out that I can't tell members what anyone is doing if no one tells me!

I look forward to receiving many newsy snippets in the coming year. My deadlines are early November, March and July.

Until next time, au reservoir.

Ian Pullar Editor

Also retiring from the Committee was Tom Fenwick. But as one former Commissioner stood down, another one stood up. We welcome Peter Bevin who, along with Geoff Eades, has been elected to the Committee.

There were no other changes to the Committee – if anyone needs to be reminded of the identity of the members, they are listed on the back page of this Newsletter.

We were privileged to have as our guests at the AGM representatives from our patron departments – Debbie Best from NRW and Tom Vanderbyl from SunWater. One patron, Scott Spencer, was unable to come (don't tell anyone, but he had taken leave to go to Melbourne to watch his beloved Collingwood play Essendon). In his stead, Debbie Best, who is Deputy DG (Water & Catchment Services) of NRW, joined us and gave us an entertaining address. Debbie is a somewhat different DDG from what most members are used to – she is female and not an engineer. In fact she spent (as she told us) thirty years in the Education Department, as a teacher, principal and bureaucrat, before seeking a change of career at age 50. She moved to EPA and then to NRW where she is enjoying the challenges which are greater than she has previously experienced. Having been a geography teacher, she does understand the big word "geomorphology", to the surprise of one of her subordinates. Thank you, Debbie, for your contribution and we look forward to seeing more of you.

Peter Boettcher, who was acting CEO SunWater (but see page 7), was unable to attend. Instead, Tom Vanderbyl, who a few years ago moved from writing Water Resource Plans in NRW to trying to build dams and other infrastructure for SunWater, brought us up to date on the many projects SunWater is pursuing. It was good that Tom could join us for lunch.

President Lee Rogers delivered his report on the activities of a fairly busy year. The functions experienced patchy patronage, which is why the Committee decided to circulate a questionnaire to members. Given that the AGM had the best attendance for a number of years, it can only be hoped that members will be interested in giving greater support to our activities in the coming year. The proposed activities can be found on page 2.

Membership currently stands at 203, a slight decrease from last year. As is customary, the Meeting observed a minute's silence for the passing of members during the year.

Treasurer Bevan Faulkner presented his financial statement showing that the Association is in a sound position – thanks to the support received from NRW and the policy of pricing most events on a break-even budget. Accordingly, there was again no increase in fees.

With expectations of another good year, the members closed the Meeting and adjourned for a convivial lunch.

Out and About

Home again, home again, jiggety jog! The Pullars are home again after a wonderful trip through China, Russia, Finland and Thailand and just in time to finish this Newsletter. A few snippets are presented on page 3.

Also recently returned are Mike and Hjordis Marley who attended the ICOLD Executive Meeting in Bulgaria - I gather without untoward incident.

Peter and Lesley Gilbey made their first overseas trip - to the Shaky Isles where they met up, in Dunedin, with the Claydons who had ventured across the ditch in a cruise liner. Both couples reported a wonderful time.

Preparing to venture overseas in the near future are Lee and Denise Rogers who will visit Turkey and Greece and the intermediate islands.

Others have chosen to visit Australia first. Among these are Peter and Adrienne Noonan (as reported in the last Newsletter). Hein and Françoise Van der Heide are also grey-nomadding. I had a missive from Hein about visiting Australia's geographic centre which I intend to publish in the next edition.

John Morse and Don Beattie have ventured as far as Sydney for a 60th reunion of their graduating class at Sydney University - an achievement that demands hearty congratulations. Among the cohort is Bruce Sinclair of Sinclair Knight (and more recently) SKM fame. This group has been holding reunions now for a number of years.

On the subject of reunions, one has been organised in August by local landholders to commemorate the forty years since the completion of Coolmunda Dam. WRRRA has provided the organisers with the addresses of those members (and others we have tracked down) who served on the project. No doubt a good time will be had by all who attend.

Our functions, of course, serve as reunions in their own right. We were particularly interested to meet up with Phil Whitmee at the AGM. It is many years since Phil left the Commission and almost as many since Bernie Credlin persuaded him to become a member of WRRRA. He happened to be in Brisbane at the time of this year's AGM and decided to join us. We hope he enjoyed our company as much as we did his.

The mid-year luncheon at COTAH was attended by 31 members and spouses. Although the numbers were down on previous events, those attending certainly enjoyed themselves and the improved venue and services.

Many of the people who have left Water Resources, either into "retirement" or to new jobs have certainly been very active. Rob Lait and Peter Evans now work for rival Groundwater consultancy firms. John Hillier and Col Hazel also work in the same field.

Under the Model Rules of June 2007 for Incorporated Associations, issued by the Office of Fair Trading, the Management Committee is required to advise members whether or not the association has public liability insurance or not.

Members are now advised that WRRRA does not have public liability insurance.

(Advice has been received that it is neither required nor very affordable.)

Mike Barry works for Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd (of which Tom Fenwick is a director) and I hear on the grapevine that Rob Herd has retired from NRW but is working for QWI.

Frank Van Shagen's CRC for Coal in Sustainable Development is about to be wound up after achieving its aims. No doubt Frank will find plenty to do in the future.

Bill Eastgate is on the staff of Seqwater (who, note, have changed their acronym). Bill and Robyn are also building a home at Tenterfield and will probably move there in due course.

On the other hand, the O'Sheas have moved from Toowoomba to Brisbane after all this time. Maybe they wanted to be part of the recycled water regime!

Sherry Credlin has also moved - to the James Duhig home - where she will be well looked after. We offer Sherry our very best wishes.

Former President and Executive member Gordon Wilson is currently on a voyage of discovery up the Queensland coastline in his pleasure cruiser *M.V. Daybreak*. He and his able crew travelled as far as Airlie Beach and after a pleasant time cruising the beautiful Whitsundays, commenced their return journey on 29 June. After battling strong south easterly winds, strong tidal currents and rough seas, they arrived at Port Clinton on 8 July, where they will shelter from the rough weather before resuming the journey south.

Kyle Waye joined the Commission in 1984 as a geologist in Planning Division. After working on a number of major projects including Burdekin Falls Dam he left for Main Roads Department in 1998. He recently joined Cemex in Brisbane as their aggregate planning and development manager. Kyle still enjoys his footie but, after two knee operations, confines his activities to coaching and having a kick with the kids.

New members of WRRRA this quarter are Ray Sutherland and Neville Ablitt. Vince Moore retired from NRW and his position in Longreach. It has also been rumoured that Mal Cremer has departed Government service.

A Vice-regal connection: the new State Governor, Penelope Wensley, is married to Stuart McCosker, the brother of Margaret Ward and Helen Eades.

With considerable regret, I have to inform members of the passing in May of Robert Alan "Snow" Engstrom who was a lab technician on many construction projects. We also offer our condolences to Pat McMahon and family on the death of his wife Maureen and to the Wilmott family on the passing of June, widow of Dave.

Remaining Programme for 2008-09

August - Annual Bowls Day (see enclosed flyer)

August - Ipswich Little Theatre luncheon and plays
(see enclosed flyer)

October - Lunch and possible movie at Portside
Shipping Terminal

November - Christmas luncheon at COTAH

February - Lunch-time social at Public Service Club
(including possible talk on water recycling,
water conservation or other appropriate topic)

April - AGM at Public Service Club

It would be really good to see lots of members attending.

Meet the New Committee Members

As noted on Page 1, this year we welcomed two new (old) members to the Committee.

I'd be surprised if any members didn't recognise **Peter Bevin** who was the last Commissioner of Water Resources. However, not everyone may be familiar with his career. Peter started as a fellowship holder with the then Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in 1957, graduating in Civil Engineering from UQ early in 1961. He started work in Farm Advisory Branch and later transferred to construction work at Mareeba, Borumba and Wuruma Dams before moving to the Burdekin to implement works for the North and South Burdekin Water Boards.

He became attracted to the work of District/Regional Engineers, and as a result spent a lot of time on land and water development schemes in regional Qld including the Emerald and Bundaberg irrigation projects. In due course, he transferred back to Irrigation Branch in Brisbane. He was promoted to Deputy Commissioner of the then WRC in 1987 and from 1991 to Commissioner when it was part of DPI. He was appointed DDG of DNR on its establishment in mid 1996 until he retired in December 1998.

He is married to Pam and has three grown up children: Kathy (medical admin work), Chris (wine research scientist) and Tim (information technology).

Geoff Eades started at what was then Queensland Water Resources Commission in September 1981 after more than 15 years with Main Roads Department. His job in QWRC was to lead a small group of geologists and technicians in the geotechnical investigation of dams and other structures. The 1980s were an exciting time for water resource planning and development and he was fortunate to work on a number of significant projects including Wivenhoe, Burdekin Falls and Bjelke-Petersen dams, all with their share of geotechnical issues. In the 1990s the emphasis changed from water resource development to management. Nevertheless there were still interesting projects in interesting places. These included urban water supply dams at Palm, Mornington and Thursday Islands. In 2001 the geotechnical group, which by this time was part of Engineering Services in SunWater, was disbanded. Most of the staff left for other positions in industry or government. From 2001 until his retirement from SunWater in 2004, he worked in international business trying to secure work on aid projects in Asia and the Pacific. This is a tough market with different challenges from what we are used to in Queensland.

He is still involved in water resource projects but in a review role. He spends a lot more time enjoying life with his wife Helen on their land at Mapleton.

Travellers' Tales

From the eastern Pacific Ocean

About 600 km off the coast of Chile is a small island known as Robinson Crusoe Island. The story goes that a Scottish sailor, Alexander Selkirk, was mate on a ship *Cinque Ports*, captained by one William Dampier (who was the same pirate who sailed off the western Australian coast). Apparently Selkirk suggested to the captain that the ship's seaworthiness left something to be desired, so he was abandoned on the island in 1704, with only a knife, an axe, a gun, a pound of gunpowder, some clothes and a bible.

Four years later he was discovered and rescued by the English ship *Duke*. By this time, Selkirk had lost his speech.

Daniel Defoe got to hear the story and used a fictionalised version as the basis of *Robinson Crusoe*, generally considered the first novel in English, published in 1719.

- information provided by Gary Luck of NRW's Mackay Office.

Footnote: William Dampier's extensive writings on his travels were the partial inspiration for *Gulliver's Travels*, by Jonathan Swift.

From Siberia

During the Soviet Regime, all the provinces of USSR were asked to nominate a regional emblem. Not surprisingly, Siberia selected the Siberian Tiger and drew an emblem comprising the striped tiger with a mink in its mouth. This was duly sent off to Moscow for ratification.

However, the Siberian word for "tiger" was unfamiliar to the Muscovite bureaucrats and remarkably like their word for "beaver". So the stripes were removed and replaced by matt black and the tail was replaced by a spade-like appendage, but the mink was retained! The Siberians, who obviously decided that it wasn't worth opposing Moscow, adopted the amended emblem!

From Moscow

In the Moscow River, there is a very impressive maritime monument (see picture) commemorating the tercentenary of the formation of the first Russian navy by Peter the Great in 1697.

The story goes that Italian sculptor, Z. Tsereteli, created a monument to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of the New World in 1492 and offered it for sale to the USA which wasn't interested. Having failed to achieve the sale, he had another idea, removed Columbus's head and replaced it with that of Peter the Great, then sold it to Russia and, presumably, everyone was happy!



From Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, not so very long ago, a high rise building was under construction when the owners were informed that legend had it that a sea-dragon resided in the hills behind it that was likely to want to migrate to the sea without warning.

Accordingly, the builder was instructed to leave a large rectangular opening in the building, quite some storeys up, so that the dragon's progress was not impeded! This was duly done - for all to see!

The Morwood Memoirs

Concluding Dave Morwood's memorable memories of events in the Burdekin in the 1950s.

THAT CYCLONE

One of the cyclones (I can't remember the name or date) in the area, had been approaching the coast for a few days, and there'd been a fair bit of wind and rain around, even as far inland as Dalbeg. One morning we woke to a clear blue sky no wind, etc. and concluded the cyclone had moved south. So we listened to the radio news, which told us that the cyclone was centred about 60 miles west of Bowen. Cripes, that's where we are. They were spot on. A bit later it blew like blazes, and even rained a bit.

SETTING OUT PEGS

Pat Walsh was a surveyor, of outstanding ability, and like all surveyors that ability included fast walking. He was based at a very nice small survey camp, on the river bank near Millaroo, and did all the preliminary base line setting out of works for us. One of the things I dreaded was Pat calling in and saying "Come on Davy me bhoys, and I'll show you the next lot of pegs." These pegs were in untouched (except by cattle and surveyors) ghost gum and black spear grass country, and Pat would set off walking at 100 km/hr (OK only 10 really), through this stuff. Suggestions we use the blitz wagon or a jeep were rejected, "We'd never find the pegs that way and we might knock some of them out". I was younger than him too, but it was probably good exercise. I had to run.

I'll leave Alan Vizer's story about Paddy's impending departure to Mareeba, to Alan himself. Ask him.

Years later, after Pat had left the Commission and was in private practice, I was walking down the street in Townsville. I heard a booming great voice from far away, "Jaaazez! There's a feller I know". Pat didn't forget his old colleagues.

BIBLE BANGING

"And it came to pass that at Dalbeg the weather was fine, and the tribes were striving with mighty strength, for very long daily hours, Yea, even unto working Panchenko on the Sabbath, and at double rates of pay."

That was the opening of a memo I got from Arch McIntyre, a week or so after it was written, and more than a month after anyone on the job had worked any overtime. The memo went on in abrasive terms about people who couldn't comply with simple instructions to reduce the rate of expenditure by working no overtime, etc etc. If you worked for or with Arch, you had to expect that sort of thing.

So we got out the instructions and the past pay sheets and found that the Sabbath occasion was well before the slow down instruction. Slow down and speed up instructions followed one another with monotonous regularity. We just wanted to get on with the job of course. Panchenko had worked on the Sabbath, and was paid the award rates. I worked with him and was paid nothing, but that's OK of course. We were doing some essential advance setting out for an early start on Monday.

We sent an explanation to Arch McIntyre, and heard no more. He had been reading a pay sheet that was more than 2 months out of date. No sign of an apology yet!

ERIC W'S NEW BIKE

One incident (perhaps one of many) I am not proud of.

When Eric Wheeler arrived from Clare to initiate "operations" at Dalbeg, he had a beautiful Water Officers motor bike, a big single pot BSA and side car. I had ridden a bike before, never with a side car, but insisted on my right to have a go at whatever machinery. I was "the boss" (probably not Eric's).

We were at the fuel store, which was in the corner of the store yard, right next to the workshop yard, so that it could supply both vehicles on the road, and in the workshop. The fences were all 6 feet high K-wire on bush poles.

The bike started OK, then clutch, into low gear OK, let out clutch, and swing hard to the right with enormous power, straight over the fence into the workshop yard. I finally got the steering worked out, and the bike straightened up, heading straight for the workshop. Extreme luck had arranged an empty bay in the workshop, so I rode straight through that and out the other side, threw a left, and headed out the gate and round the block.

The wild cheering had subsided a bit by the time I got back. I did help to put the fence poles back in the ground, and Doug Kelly reckoned the entertainment was well worth the cost. Eric never let me near the bike again.

A FAIR COP

The pay cart came on a Friday, and the Senior Constable from Clare came with it. I remember his name well, but not for publication. There was lots of cash, all to be counted into individual pay packets and Grahame Bertram and the other office staff had to get it all to balance. The constable kept an eye on the proceedings not for any good reason, but he had nothing else much to do.

He sometimes came to our place for lunch. On one occasion he asked to see my driving licence. In some trepidation I handed it over and the third degree started.

"Do you really drive only a car on this job?"..... "Well, no, I drive a utility mostly"..... "Utilities are OK on a car licence, but not trucks over 1 ton"..... "OK, Sorry. I do drive trucks occasionally including a Chev. blitz"..... Well I'm sorry but I'll have to do something about that, we can't have that sort of thing going on..... Any other vehicles at all"..... "Well I have ridden a motor bike" (see above)

With that he started to write, on the licence. When I got it back it was amended to apply to trucks of all sizes and motor bikes. It still does, but with recent amendments to the law, now applies only to single vehicle trucks. I couldn't face up to a test in a B Double at age 75.

Once again, thanks Dave for this most valuable contribution.

Contributions from other members are still welcome. - Ed.



“Old Girls” Reunion

On 8 March, a group of “Old Girls” got together, as they do annually, to reminisce about the old days. One suspects they may have found a few other things to talk about as well!

Heather Clarke, who was one of the attendees, was good enough to provide us with a photograph and some of the memories.



Back Row: Dianne Harvey, Joyce Rieck (Armstrong), Heather Clarke (Murdoch), Shirley McArthur
Front row: Jennifer Mayor (Gataker), Clare Taylor (Connole), Donna Everding (Hegarty), Elaine James (Murphy)

The Memories

I started in Accounts Branch with Bill Adamson, Rex Bucknell, Bill Brannelly, Dan Rowley, Bill May, Col Llewellyn, etc. and with Records next door with Eric Davis and Roy Hoskins (two rascals).

From typing all the group certificates and pay envelopes, I got to know lots of the country staff names also. I served my last three years upstairs in Rivers and Streams Branch with Ken Carmichael, John Swales, Ian Pryor, Dave Morwood, Col Cornford, Stan Gilmore, Col Llewellyn and also Bob Gamble and Dick Wilson. Back to the girls who meet on the first Saturday in March each year for a great chat and photos after 53 years. I think it is a great meeting for our memories.

Shirley McArthur (January 1956-January 1962).

My first job after leaving school at 15 years old was at the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in the Typing Pool with Elaine Murphy as the Head Typist. Looking back, I was very young and Elaine was very good to me. I was so inexperienced and immature. After one and a half years in the Typing Pool, Elaine sent me “upstairs” to work with Alec Morris, the then Secretary. I was terrified. Anyway, I stayed and typed for Project Planning as well as Mr Mortley. Charlie Martin had a habit of bringing me long letters late in the afternoon which “just had to be typed to catch the mail” that afternoon.

I stayed at the Commission until I got married in 1962. I thoroughly enjoyed my seven years at “Irrigation”.

Jenny Major (Gateker)

We are grateful that the friendships made back then are still going strong today. We worked in Accounts Branch from 1947 to 1956.

Clare (Connole) and Donna (Hegarty)

I started in the Typing Pool at the then Department of Irrigation and Water Supply in 1948. I was later assigned to Harold Buckle as his secretary for several years until I went back to the Typing Pool as Head Typist.

They were happy years with lifelong friendships made. I left in November 1955 to be married.

Elaine James (Murphy)

The friendships I made with the girls at Irrigation have been precious to me all my life. I also appreciated the help the men in Accounts gave to me - a young country girl at her first job in the city.

Joyce Rieck (Armstrong)

My first job in Accounts at I.W.S.C. started me working in accounting all my working life. I don't know if that was good or bad, but it was fun and I remember all the happy times we girls had.

Diane Harvey

Well, what more can I say? The girls have more or less said it all. But the years spent at the Commission were the happiest years of my life.

Who can forget:

FRED HAIGH
THE CHRISTMAS PARTIES
THE CAMPS AT TALLEBUDGERA
CRICKET AT CABOOLTURE
THE DRAFTING ROOM BOYS
THE FORTNIGHTLY REPORTS AND THE HANDWRITING!!!
CYRIL & JACK, THE DRIVERS
SITTING IN THE ACCOUNTS TROLLEYS AND BEING PUSHED
INTO THE SAFE
SNEAKING OUT TO GO TO THE “BELLEVUE” HOTEL TO SEE
JOHNNY RAY

(Murph. was sure after us that day)
TAKING THE WINDOWS OUT & CHECKING OUT THE
BOYS OVER THE ROAD AT SEAQ
THOSE GREAT-LOOKING RED VAGABONDS THAT
ALWAYS CAME ON WEDNESDAYS!!!!!!
JIM PILL, CON O'ROURKE, PAUL KERSWELL, BILL
HILEY, JACK CONROY
OH, WHAT A WONDERFUL GROUP OF PEOPLE WE
WORKED WITH.

MAMA LUIGI'S AT ST PAUL'S TERRACE TO
CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
DANCES AT O'CONNOR BOATHOUSE

I could go on and on, but suffice to say they were happy, happy years. I feel privileged and humbled to still be associated with such wonderful people.

“Thank You” one and all.

Heather Clarke (Murdoch)

Memories of Alex Morris

In the last Newsletter, the death of Alex Morris was reported. John (Jack) O'Shea has been good enough to send me a copy of Alex's eulogy and some of his own personal memories of him.

Alexander Owen Morris was born in 1921 in Herberton. He was 18 when war broke out and he later joined the RAAF as a navigator. Stationed in Nassau, he flew planes across the South Atlantic to Africa and India, experiencing considerable danger.

After the war, Alex joined the State Government as an auditor and studied economics. He left the Auditor-General's Department to serve as Secretary to the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission and then transferred to Secretary of Main Roads. He had a daughter and three sons with his first wife Ailsa, who died many years before him. His second wife, Ann, outlived him. Having reached his 86th birthday, he died in November 2007.

John O'Shea reminisced: 'I was privileged to have had two periods of contact with Alex: firstly when he was secretary of IWSC and his signature appeared on practically every piece of correspondence;

and secondly when he married his second wife Ann who is the sister of a good friend of mine.

'Alex had a quiet sense of humour which I illustrate with the following story. In the 1960s and '70s everyone had an "In" and "Out" box. The Records staff who filled and cleared the trays were the nearest thing to perpetual motion and it was impossible to have an empty "In" tray no matter how hard you worked. "Urgent" files carried a red triangular tag. Standard letters went out with an A.O. Morris imprint, while "red triangle" responses were personally signed by Alex or Fred Haigh (Commissioner).

'I recall visiting Alex one Friday and commenting on his empty "In" tray. Without blinking an eyelid, he responded, "At about 3.30 on a Friday I transfer all the documents from my in box to my out box – and you know only about half of them ever come back."

'Years later, in my second contact with him, I reminded him of the conversation. He replied in his soft voice, "Did I say that?" and changed the conversation to another topic. That was Alex!'

Thanks, John, for your contribution. - Ed

VALE Daniel Rowley

11 November 1915 - 1 March 2008

Dan was born in Brisbane and attended primary school in Charters Towers, Townsville and Brisbane. His secondary education was at Brisbane State High where he played A Grade cricket when only a sub-junior (Grade 9).

He worked for a Sydney firm of Chartered Accountants from 1934 to 1937 when he returned to Brisbane and worked as a senior auditor.

In 1940, he married Jean MacAllister. They were happily married for 45 years until she passed away in 1985. He is survived by his children Helen and Dan, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

In March 1943, he joined the RAAF from which he was discharged in 1946. He resumed his career as an auditor, undertaking study and exams through the Australian Society of Accountants. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1949. In February 2000 he was given a certificate and special morning tea for over 50 years community service.

In 1951, Dan joined the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, where he remained until his retirement in 1980, serving in a number of branches.

He remained keenly interested in cricket and was a delegate to the Queensland Cricket Association. He served as secretary of the Western Suburbs District Cricket Club and was elected a life member in 1975. He was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000 for services to cricket.

He was also a keen golfer and a member of Oxley Golf Club for more than 30 years. He was also a foundation member of the Sherwood Services Club where he celebrated his ninetieth birthday.

Dan Rowley's mother was a Zillman. I remember him telling me that Zillmere was named after his family. - Ed.

More Power to Us

I thought this might interest members - Ed.

Carnegie Corporation has recently deployed a second CETO 2 Wave Energy prototype off the coast at Fremantle.

Named after the Greek ocean goddess, the CETO technology distinguishes itself from other wave energy devices by resting out of sight on the ocean floor. An array of submerged buoys is tethered to seabed pump units. The buoys move in harmony with the motion of the passing waves, driving the pumps which in turn pressurises seawater and delivers it ashore via a pipeline. The high-pressure seawater can be used to supply a reverse osmosis desalination plant, replacing greenhouse gas emitting pumps usually required for such plants. The high pressure seawater can also be used to drive hydro turbines, generating zero-emission electricity.

Some CETO characteristics:

- Wave energy is a renewable, zero-emission source of power
- 60% of the world lives within 60km of a coast, removing transmission issues
- As water is about 800 times denser than air, the energy density of waves exceeds that of wind many times over dramatically increasing the amount of energy available for harvesting
- Waves are predictable days in advance making it easy to match supply and demand
- CETO sits underwater, moored to the sea floor, meaning there is no aesthetic impact
- CETO units operate in deep water, away from breaking waves. The waves regenerate once they pass the CETO units, meaning there is no impact on popular surfing sites
- CETO units are designed to operate in harmony with the waves rather than attempting to resist them. This means there is no need for massive steel and concrete structures
- CETO is the only wave energy technology that produces fresh water directly from seawater
- Any combination of power and water can be achieved from 100% power through to 100% water
- CETO contains no oils, lubricants, or offshore electrical components. CETO is built from components with a known subsea life of over 30 years
- CETO units act like artificial reefs in the way they attract marine life

For more information: www.ceto.com.au



SunWater Snippets

After an extensive search among candidates from a wide range of backgrounds, the Chairmen of the SunWater Board, Phil Hennessy, recently announced the appointment of a Peter Boettcher (pictured) as the new CEO of the corporation. Peter is an “old boy” of Water Resources and has been acting in the position of CEO since Peter Noonan’s

retirement. Mr Boettcher holds a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Southern Queensland and an MBA from Deakin University.

WRRRA extends a cordial welcome to Mr Boettcher and congratulates him on his appointment. In response to our invitation, he has already agreed to serve as co-patron of the Association. We look forward to seeing him at future functions.

In response to the pressures of a growing population, climate change and expanding industry sectors, \$420 million has been earmarked by the state government toward the investigation and delivery of a number of water projects.

SunWater has been named the proponent for many of these projects and will investigate a range of water supply options, being dams, weirs and pipelines to help provide water to areas where it is needed most.

Readers will be particularly interested in the current investigations into potential infrastructure projects, many of which have been noted in previous Newsletters. These include a dam on the Connors River (Mt Bridget), the long anticipated Nathan Dam on the Dawson River, Nullinga Dam on the Walsh River, raising Kinchant Dam, raising Eden Bann Weir and a new Rookwood Weir on the Fitzroy River and the Water for Proserpine and the Water for Bowen projects.

This work load is certainly keeping the employees busy and endeavouring to obtain new staff - which is not easy with private industry offering much higher salaries.

New Bulk Water Supply Agency for South East Queensland

The *South East Queensland Water (Restructuring) Act 2007* created four new water entities to facilitate the restructure of water supply arrangements in south east Queensland.

The four new water entities are:

1. the Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority;
2. the Queensland Bulk Water Transport Authority;
3. the Queensland Manufactured Water Authority; and
4. the South East Queensland Water Grid Manager.

Prior to this reform, bulk supply treatment and transport assets were owned by 25 entities across south east Queensland and it was considered that a general lack of consistency in water pricing existed across local governments in the region. The new model proposes streamlining water supply, transport and distribution across south east Queensland with the state government managing regional water security, controlling all bulk supply and transport assets and the new water grid manager.

On 1 July, the Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority became the largest dam owner in Queensland and one of the largest dam owners in Australia when it acquired dams from the 25 agencies. The dams that have been acquired are Baroon Pocket, Enoggera, Gold Creek, Lake Manchester, Ewen Maddock, Hinze, Little Nerang, Cooloolabin, Poona, Wappa, Lake Macdonald, Sideling Creek, Leslie Harrison, North Pine, Somerset, Wivenhoe, Atkinson, Bill Gunn, Borumba, Cedar Pocket, Clarendon, Maroon and Moogerah.

The Authority also assumed control of all the weirs associated with these dams including the groundwater recharge weirs on Lockyer Creek and its tributaries from the Department of Natural Resources and Water and the irrigation customers served from Cedar Pocket Dam, the Pie Creek Diversion Scheme, Yabba Creek and the Mary River upstream of the Mary River Barrage, the Warrill Valley Irrigation Scheme, the Logan River Irrigation Scheme and the groundwater irrigators in the Central and Lower Lockyer.

By 30 June 2012, the bulk supply entity is expected to own assets in excess of \$5.5 billion in value.

News Regarding Water

The recent Murray Darling Basin agreement signed at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting in Sydney is a \$510 million coup for the State. The majority of the funding will be for the purchase of water entitlements and to improve water use efficiency in the Queensland section of the Murray-Darling Basin. The funds will be allocated to Queensland’s “Healthy Headwaters” project, which will be further refined in consultation with industry and the community in the region.

Around \$115 million will go towards assisting irrigators to further improve their water efficiency measures. This new funding will greatly improve the work irrigators, and industry groups, can do to lower their on-farm water use and also provide environmental benefits. Up to \$350 million will go on voluntary buy backs of water, with the overall funding to be provided over 10 years.

Water Minister Craig Wallace recently announced the start of work on an historic water blueprint for the North West Queensland region for the next 50 years through the development of a North

West Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy (NWQRWSS).

The proposed strategy will examine the capacity of current storages such as Lake Moondarra and Julius Dam to service the future water needs of the region, along with likely increased water demand from mining, agricultural and other industries and town water users. The strategy covers an area of 150,000 sq km and includes Mount Isa and Cloncurry, along with mining communities within the North West Mineral Province.

A steering committee, with representation from local and state government, industry, water service providers and community interests, will bring together their combined expertise to ensure all options are considered.

The draft strategy is expected to be completed in late 2009 and will complement Regional strategies currently being developed in other regions including Wide Bay-Burnett, Mackay-Whitsunday, North Queensland and Far North Queensland.

- information supplied by NRW pkf Greg Claydon et al

HEALTH *and beauty*

The tomato has long been credited with being a “superfood” which cuts cholesterol and some cancers. Now recent research has given it two more healthy benefits. It provides protection against sunburn and keeps the skin youthful looking.

Researchers at Britain’s Manchester and Newcastle universities recommend to tomato-based meals a day for optimum health. Possible menus include a glass of tomato juice for breakfast and a salad later, or tomato soup and pasta with tomato for dinner.

The research involved ten volunteers eating five tablespoons of tomato paste mixed with olive oil each day for three months, while a control group had the oil without the tomato. Tests with ultra-violet lamps showed the tomato eaters were a third better protected against sunburn. While tomatoes cannot replace sunscreen, they are a good additive.

You can see it now: “But Officer, I only threw those tomatoes at the candidate to protect his skin!”

Research has also found that women who drink three or more cups of tea a day may be protecting themselves against heart attacks and strokes. The tea appears to reduce the plaques - dangerous build ups of fat and cholesterol - in their arteries.

The same French study appeared to show that men who regularly drank tea did not reap the same benefits. I guess us fellers will just have to stick to the red wine.

Why men shouldn’t write advice columns

Dear Uncle Ted

The other day I set off for work, leaving my husband at home as usual. I hadn’t gone more than a mile when the car engine conked out and wouldn’t restart.

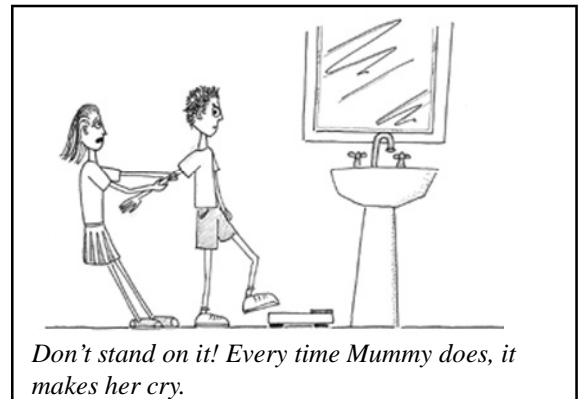
I walked home to get my husband’s help. But when I got there, I discovered him in bed with the woman from next door, both stark naked. I have to admit we had words in which I accused him of being unfaithful. He admitted having an affair, but claims that he is suffering from depression after being retrenched six months ago and blames me for not giving him the support and encouragement he needs. He won’t promise to give her up and has become increasingly distant. I still love him very much. What should I do? - Desperate

Dear Desperate

A car stalling after being driven a short distance can be caused by a variety of faults. Start by checking that there is no debris in the fuel line. If it is clear, check the clips holding the vacuum lines onto the manifold for air leaks. If none of these approaches solves the problem, it could be that the fuel pump itself is faulty, causing low delivery pressure to the carburettor float chamber. I hope this helps. - Uncle Ted

Exercise those Brain Cells

X X X
X X
X X X X
X X X X
X X X X X



If all the X are 2, 3, 5 or 7, complete the multiplication sum.

Solution to last edition’s puzzle

Call the truthful god T, the liar L and the sometimes god S. Then the six possible combinations are shown in the adjacent table:

God	1	2	3	4	5	6
A	T	T	L	L	S	S
B	L	S	T	S	L	T
C	S	L	S	T	T	L

Q1. Ask A “Would B claim to be the god of truth?”							
Ans “Yes” then 1,5 or 6 applies.		Ans “No” then 3,5 or 6 applies			Ans “I don’t know” then 2,5 or 6 applies		
Q2. Ask B “Would C claim to be the god of truth?”				Q2. Ask B “Would C claim to be the god of truth?”			
Ans “Yes” then 6	Ans “No” then 5	Ans “Yes” then 6	Ans “No” then 5	Ans “I don’t know” then 3	Ans “Yes” then 2,6 Q3 Ask C “Does A tell the truth?” Ans “Yes” then 6 Ans “No” then 2	Ans “No” then 2,5 Q3 Ask C “Does 2+2=4?” Ans “Yes” then 5 Ans “No” then 2	Ans “I don’t know” then 2

How Come ?

The curious phrase **To Mind One's P's and Q's** – meaning to be careful in one's words and behaviour – may have evolved from the shape of the letters themselves. Lower case “p” and “q” are mirror images of each other and without special care and attention, children learning their alphabet or inexperienced typesetters (who have to recognise letters backwards anyway) could easily confuse them. Young pupils and apprentice printers do need to be warned to “mind their p's and q's”.

Does this sound convincing? It's certainly plausible, but there are other possible explanations. One explanation comes from the old ale houses where inn-keepers used to keep a tally of drinks consumed in chalk on a board or on the wall. Pints were recorded as P and quarts as Q. A careful drinker, not wanting to be overcharged, might well beseech the publican to “mind his p's and q's”. On the other hand, equally plausibly, innkeepers concerned about their customers' capacity to pay, might have implored drinkers in danger of losing count to take care.

More far-fetched, but still plausible, is a claimed French origin linking the phrase with court etiquette. During the reign of Louis XIV, men used to wear large wigs. When greeting their social superiors, they bowed very low. This gesture required a great deal of practice to ensure the courtier avoided tripping over his own feet or having his wig disarranged or displaced. Dancing masters exhorted their pupils to “mind their feet and wigs”, in French their *pieds* (feet) and *queues* (wigs). When the English copied the fashion (as naturally they did) they anglicised the phrase to p's and q's.

Tracing the Past

Any members who suspect they may have shady ancestors, may be interested to know that there is a new website that publishes online details of nearly 200,000 Old Bailey (London) trials.

The Old Bailey is officially called the Central Criminal Court. Its nickname comes from the street where it is located which follows the original fortified wall of the city, known as the “bailey”. The current building dates from 1907 and has hosted the notorious trials of Dr Crippen, Ruth Ellis and Peter Sutcliffe.

The records show all sorts of crimes including the theft of shoes, candlesticks and cloth, pickpocketing and getting into street fights. One defendant, Stephen Comber, was accused in 1850 of “unlawfully laying his hands on a cow with intent.” Some of the crimes are no longer current – publishing pamphlets encouraging the assassination of a Russian emperor, abandoning someone in New Zealand during a voyage, and stealing and manning a ship for use in the slave trade.

Other more familiar crimes have their own slant. In 1853 two men were accused of dangerous driving, in operating a railway in an “incautious” manner.

Between 1674 and 1913: 4,230 people were charged with animal theft; 4,169 with highway robbery; 2,650 with murder; 2,380 with bigamy; 2,018 with rape; 183 with keeping a brothel; and 131 with performing illegal abortions.

Just be warned if you go to look – you might find out why that three-bedroomed terraced house turned out to be such a bargain after all.

- story from BBC News

A Sign of the Times

On a truck in Melbourne:

TAYLORS
Tree & Stump Removals
No job to big No job to small

And just what does Mr Taylor have against the towns of big and small that he won't go there?

Trouble with the Law

By the mid-twentieth century, the proliferation of motor-cars and incompetent drivers had already increased the volume of litigation prodigiously. The decline of religion in recent decades has greatly compounded the effect. Tragedy and God have been replaced by justice and compensation. Misfortunes previously regarded as endemic to the human condition, or even attributable to the inscrutable degrees of divine vengeance or providence, are now routinely perceived as simple forms of human negligence or injustice for which somebody somewhere has got to pay. Whole armies of fresh-faced barristers are spontaneously generating to do battle for and against all these somebodies who make other people unhappy in such an infinity of potentially lucrative ways.

- from “The Four Courts Murder” by Andrew Nugent
Mark Twain told a tale of a lone lawyer in a town with the backside out of his pants until another lawyer came to town, after which they both became very rich. - Ed.

The Road to Disaster

There are certainly some strange road rules around the world:

In Beijing, it is an offence to stop at a pedestrian crossing.

In El Salvador, drunk drivers face death by firing squad.

In Macedonia, it is illegal for the front-seat passenger to also be drunk.

In Vancouver, all vehicles must carry an anchor as an emergency brake.

In Russel, Kansas, it is illegal to have a musical car horn.

In Colorado, hitch-hiking can attract a two-year jail sentence.

In San Francisco, washing your car with used underwear is banned.

In Missouri, (no, not NZ), sheep in the back of a truck must be accompanied by a chaperone.

- from “Car Confidential” by Richard Hammond

Some Observations on the Shortcomings of Psychology as a Science

Revise your plan
oh analyst –
the average man
does not exist.

Book Club

I've discovered the perfect book for grumpy old men. It is called *Is it just me or is everything shit?* – a veritable encyclopedia of modern life by Steve Lowe and Alan McArthur. My daughter brought a copy over from London for me recently because she knows it is aimed at cynical semi geriatrics such as me.

There are 26 chapters, A to Z, each with a dozen or so examples of how useless, pretentious, misleading and even fraudulent are many aspects of human behaviour in the world of today. This book is very clever and very funny.

The subject matter deals with a wide range of issues from the serious to the frivolous. Why do prominent people who fall from grace, some of whom are sent to jail for white collar crime, give media interviews claiming to draw strength from the sayings of Nelson Mandela in the hope that the public will think that these people are really martyrs for a cause? Why also does the *Guinness Book of Records* continue to give world wide recognition to a person from New York simply because "this f... freak walked 130.3 kilometres with a f... milk bottle on his empty f... head"? Perhaps I should point out that the authors consolidate their argument by telling us that this same person also holds the world record for holding the most number of Guinness World Records.

Much of the content relates to everyday life in Britain, particularly the way its politicians, media and businesses behave. Even so, you do not need to be up on all the detail to appreciate its cutting humour.

This is not a book for prudes. The word in the title; *shit*, is just one of many four letter words sprinkled throughout the text. You may also find some new naughty words that you haven't seen before and of which you do not know the meaning. But then again, you can always ask your children, or maybe even your grandchildren.

Hector Macdonald

In the last Newsletter Marilyn Caton enthused about *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. As I result, I read it too and thoroughly endorse Marilyn's opinion. It's brilliant.

Following our trip to Turkey last year, a friend lent me *Birds Without Wings*, by Loius de Bernieres, the author of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*. The story is set in a remote Turkish village in the years leading up to and beyond World War I. For generations, the village has been inhabited by people from a wide range of backgrounds – Greek Christians, Anatolian Moslems, etc., all mucking along pretty well. But as the Ottoman empire begins to crumble, things change.

Central characters are two boys, one Moslem and one Christian who have been inseparable. One is absorbed into the Turkish army which will fight at Gallipoli, while his Christian friend is forbidden to join the army, but is forced to suffer dreadful privations as a forced labourer.

Throughout the book, the progress of Mustafa Kemal (later Ataturk) is mapped. A telling couple of sentences deserve thought: "It is quite likely that without Mustafa Kemal the Ottomans would have lost the campaign at Gallipoli, which would have saved the world a great deal of trouble. There would have been no Russian Revolution and no Cold War, and the Great War might have ended a year sooner".

It is an extremely well written book (many reviewers prefer it to *Corelli*) which provides an excellent background for understanding the emergence of modern Turkey.

But if you are looking for a romance with a happy ending, look elsewhere.

A more contemporary view of Turkey can be found in a series of crime novels by British author Barbara Nadel. They are certainly evocative of the country and its aspirations to join the European community from a very different background.

Ian Pullar

Credits

My thanks are once again due to Helen; to my proof-reader daughter Jean Yates; to Graham Bauer who printed this; to the contributors; to Natasha Carson and Katrina Mack who made it available to departmental staff; and to Harvey Yates for his cartoons.

"My husband ran off with my best friend."

"How long has she been your best friend?"

"Since she ran off with my husband."



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