



# WATERY SAUCES OLDIES and BOLDIES

Newsletter No 89

July 2019

NEWSLETTER OF THE WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION

## 2019 Annual General Meeting

Our 35th Annual General Meeting was duly held on Thursday 2 May at the Victory Hotel, 127 Edward Street and attended by a total of 23 members and friends.

Unfortunately, neither of our Patrons was able to join us, but they each sent a representative who provided very interesting information about departmental activities – Gordon Delaney from Sun-Water and Daniel Harris from DNRME. Brief summaries of their addresses can be found on page 9 and more detailed versions on our website. Many thanks to both gentlemen for their contributions.

Elections were held with almost no change in the membership of the Committee. Russ Robson was unable to continue and his place was taken by Rob Herd. A summary of Rob's career can be found on page 2. We welcome him aboard.

The meeting was followed by the usual conviviality in the Victory beer garden.

### From the Editor's Chair

*Doesn't time fly? Already we are half way through this year and heading precipitately for the twenty-twenty vision. Time does seem to pass more rapidly each year (unless of course one is sweating on an event). But this is surely only a mathematical phenomenon. For a five year old, the time between one Christmas and the next is 20% of his life span, whereas for us retirees it is – without the effort of doing the sum, obviously a tiny percentage.*

*...There was a surprise result in the Federal election. We are told that nothing is certain except death and taxes. It appears that in this case the 'certain' result didn't happen, largely because of threatened taxes on retirees!*

*Or was it just that Queenslanders are bogans? What do you think?*

*Until next time, au reservoir.*

**Ian Pullar, Editor**

## St Helena Tour

The weather was glorious on 16 May when we 23 Oldies and Boldies set out for our tour of St Helena Island. There was a forecast of possible rain later in the day, but fortunately this did not eventuate.

We were greeted by our former work colleague, Dennis Howarth-Crewdson who is now a semi-regular crew member of the *Cat-O-Nine-Tails*. Dennis served as our affable guide during a very pleasant and informative stroll through this beautiful island, which belies the horrors of the era when it was a prison.



Treasurer Gary Corbett who organised the trip and Dennis Howarth-Crewdson

Dennis was full of facts and figures. The island was at various stages highly profitable from such ventures as cane growing, but inevitably that was eventually beaten by competitors as did the other ventures attempted.

Because men involved in the Shearers Strike of 1891 who were imprisoned on the island were able to exert political influence on visitors, St Helena can claim to be responsible for the first Labour government anywhere in the world.

*Continued next page*

The main emphasis of the tour is naturally the prison and Dennis excelled himself in describing the conditions for the inmates.

After a simple but pleasant lunch, we inspected the commandant's quarters – now restored by National Parks – before returning to the *Cat-O-Nine-Tails* and the cruise back to the mainland to complete a very enjoyable day out.

Many thanks to Gary Corbett who suggested the tour and arranged it and to Dennis who really looked after us, along with his fellow crew members.

### Rob Herd - New Committee Member

Robert Herd joined IWSC in 1973, being firstly posted to Central Region where he investigated rural water supply schemes. Then followed a stint in Designs, working on Gunpowder Creek Dam. After a rotational year in Groundwater Branch, he was posted to Callide Dam where he supervised the construction of the Callide diversion channel.

He worked for six years in Forward Planning on Regional Water Resources assessments for the Fitzroy River Basin, Bowen Basin Industrial Study, Central Coastal Queensland, North-west Queensland and Far North Queensland and alternative water supply proposals for future power stations.

Two years in Head Office Construction working on specification and contract documentation for major and minor contracts, was followed by 10 years construction based on Woongarra camp supervising construction of pump stations, channels and pipelines. Then came three years on the Lower Mary Irrigation Project, before transferring again to Woongarra.

Then, based in Biloela, he was Project Engineer for the construction of Kroombit Dam and the reconstruction of Gylanda Weir. As Resident Project Engineer, he was responsible for management of the construction by direct labour of Horn Island Dam and the 8.5km Horn Island to Thursday Island pipeline and Horn Island Reservoir. He then returned to Biloela to complete the construction of Kroombit Dam.



Part of the St Helena prison – now in ruin.

Posted to Nambour Regional office in 1993, he coordinated Scheme Strategic Plans for the Central Burnett, Bundaberg and Warrill Creek irrigation areas and projects.

He was seconded to State Water Projects, Engineering Services in the position of Project Engineer, Eungella Pipeline construction for 12 months, before returning to Nambour where he held a number of (increasingly senior) positions in the Regional Office until 2006. He was engaged in a multiplicity of tasks associated with water resource planning. In particular, he project managed the Mary Basin Water Resource Planning Team with the final plan released in August 2006.

In 2006 he was seconded to Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd (QWI) where he managed the onsite landholder (some 600 properties), enquiries for negotiations for acquisition of land for the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam. He also managed the client input into the local and Bruce Highway road relocation designs and geotechnical investigations carried out by consultants and prepared the documentation to hand over all the acquired properties to the Department of Infrastructure & Planning.

He retired in 2010 and lives at Forest Glen..

*We welcome Rob to the team. Ed.*

### New Members

WRRRA welcomes four new members  
Aaron Hieatt, Mike Gidley, Ross Carruthers and Ken Davis

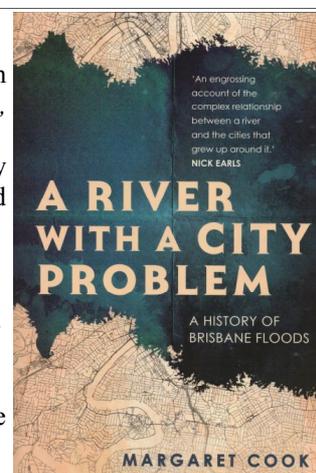
### A New Book

Members will remember that in February 2017 Margaret Cook delivered an address to WRRRA members titled *Living on the Brisbane River Floodplain*, which formed part of her PhD thesis.

Having been awarded the degree, Margaret has turned the thesis into a very readable book which will be published by University of Queensland Press and will be released on 3 September.

*A River with a City Problem* is a compelling history of floods in the Brisbane River catchment, especially those in 1893, 1974 and 2011. Extensively researched, it highlights the force of nature, the vagaries of politics and the power of community. With many river cities facing urban development challenges, Cook makes a convincing argument for what must change to prevent further tragedy.

Pre-orders are now available at a discounted price of \$25.90 – 21% off the normal price. Just google Booktopia, enter name and author, and you're there.



## Around the World in 104 Days

### Part 8

**Bruce Pearce**

Day 72

Having joined the queue at Port Said, *Dawn Princess* joined the next available southbound convoy for the transit of the Suez Canal.

The Suez Canal is 163km long. The minimum bottom width of the channel is 60m and ships of 16m draft can make the transit. The canal can accommodate ships as large as 150,000 tons fully loaded.

Features of interest while passing through the canal included the stark contrast between the left and right banks. On the right side of the canal the landscape was quite green and lush being irrigated from the Nile River and containing several small towns. On the left side the landscape was desert with sand dunes and little or no vegetation. During the trip, whistling was often heard coming from supposedly bored Egyptian soldiers posted in a series of sentry boxes located along the length of the canal to protect it. We left the Gulf of Suez in the early hours of the morning and sailed into the Red Sea heading to Safaga, the gateway for the Valley of the Kings, Luxor and Karnak, location of some of the most spectacular temples and tombs of Egypt. Getting to these historic sites involved a three hour trip by bus across a rugged scenic mountainous desert terrain. The coaches transporting us were the same ones that had taken us from Port Said to Cairo. Our tour for the day took us to the Valley of the Kings and Karnak.

In the Valley of the Kings, for a period of nearly 500 years from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> century BC, tombs were constructed for the kings and nobles of the New Kingdom (the Eighteenth through Twentieth Dynasties of Ancient Egypt). The valley stands on the West bank of the Nile, across from Luxor, within the heart of the Theban Necropolis. The wadi consists of two valleys, East Valley (where the majority of the royal tombs are situated) and West Valley. The Egyptian belief that "To speak the name of the dead is to make him live again" is certainly carried out in the building of the tombs. The king's formal names and titles are inscribed in his tomb along with his images and statues. The text in the tombs are from the Book of the Dead, the Book of the Gates and the Book of the Underworld. The area has been a focus of concentrated archaeological and egyptological exploration since the end of the 18th century, and is one of the most famous archaeological sites in the world, particularly for the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun. We visited only one tomb because we lost our guide in the crowds. With the temperature nudging 50°, we were glad to get back to the air-conditioning on the coach.

There is a sharp contrast between the desolation of the desert and the lush green of the Nile Valley. To Egypt the Nile is life, nothing lives without it. The main crop appeared to be sugar cane and most work in the fields was undertaken using a donkey and cart.

The dynamic Pharaohs of the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty built the massive Temples of Luxor and Karnak on the east bank of the Nile. We visited the Temple of Karnak. The central Hypostyle Hall covers 50,000 square feet, and is the largest space of any temple in the world. There are 134 huge columns in all, in addition to the 97 foot obelisk of Queen Hatshepsut. The site was well preserved and very spectacular.



The entrance to Karnak

On our return to Safaga the Captain advised us that the pilot scheduled to take the ship out of the port had not turned up (presumably celebrating the end of Ramadan that day) so he decided he would take it out himself advising us that the pilot would miss out on his usual bribes of beer and cigarettes. We departed the harbour safely and set sail through the Red Sea.

Next morning, several high pressure fire-fighting hoses had been mounted around the promenade deck for the ship's company to be exercised in a Piracy Drill Routine. Broadcasts would be made from the Bridge and alarm bells would be sounded with instructions relayed by public address. Passengers were instructed to return to their staterooms via internal routes and sit as low down and as far inboard as possible away from windows and balcony doors. All curtains and balcony doors were to be closed and secured. The threat of pirates from Somalia was taken very seriously. For our voyage through the Red Sea our ship was followed by an Australian naval vessel which was currently deployed in the Gulf region.

During the day, *Dawn Princess* continued her south-easterly course down through the Red Sea, passing through the Bab El Mandeb. We then set an east-north easterly course in the Gulf of Aden. There was no sign of any pirates! The ship was ready though, with water cannons and a sonic boom gun set up and manned.

Around sunrise we left the Gulf of Aden and entered the Arabian Sea. We saw some fishing boats in the afternoon that caused the crew on the cannons to take stations just in case they were pirates.

After a quiet day at sea, we left the Arabian Sea and entered the Gulf of Oman on way to the port of Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman. This oil rich state was amazing with evidence of incredible wealth everywhere.

### Around the World in 104 Days continued

We visited the Grand Mosque built in 1992 which was something out of this world! As its centre piece it had an amazing chandelier 14 metres in height, made from Swarovski crystal suspended from the central dome, surrounded by about 15 other smaller matching chandeliers around the margins of the huge building. The altar background was covered in pure gold foil and the whole floor of the mosque was covered in Persian carpet. The whole building was constructed of polished marble from India. It was one of the most amazing buildings that we had ever seen.

We then visited the ancient Nakhi Fort, a green retreat surrounded by desert, waste and mountains which predates Islam. The fort's terraces offered sweeping views of the oasis below, Nakhi Springs.



Nakhi Fort and Nakhi Oasis

We travelled about 120 kilometres along a most remarkable highway linking Muscat with the fort. For the whole distance there were manicured gardens along both sides of the highway extending out about 100 metres into the desert. All were planted with annuals such as petunias and marigolds which were in full bloom. At each intersection there were major roundabouts that had as their centre piece a large sculpture several metres high surrounded by beautiful gardens. The whole highway was obviously irrigated. We were told that the water supply came from springs in the adjacent mountains and from a major pipeline from Iraq that supplies most of the Sultanate of Oman.



Sculptured roundabout

*To be continued*

### Sharks reunion 18 June 2019

#### Terry Lewis

They say sharks have tough skin and sharp teeth. When some of the Sharks Rugby League team of 1974-75 met up at the Brisbane Casino today they definitely had tougher skin but it was doubtful they all still had their own teeth.

Former IWSC staffer, Terry Lewis, arranged the meet up of 12 former players and supporters who completely ignored the casino's gambling tables and slots to concentrate on recalling the legendary days of 45 years ago.

And legends they were as President's Cup, Patron's Cup, Minor Premiers and Premiership winners.

Old mates celebrated at the casino just the same way they did after their games at their inner Brisbane city clubhouse at the Cecil Hotel, now the site of Mineral House on the corner of George and Margaret Streets.

Quite a few stories and ales were shared from noon till the dark hours, often with several variations of the same story being corrected after years of embellishments with a fair bit of BS thrown in.

Attendees included Mick Garvey (captain/coach), Brian Murnane, Brad Dunne, Dave Austin, Bob Anderson, Ian Kulpa, Ron Moore, Rob Herd, Bruce Holland, Ken Davis, Rob Craig and Terry Lewis.

Several others had other appointments on the day and were disappointed they couldn't make it.

Some might remember Shark's fullback, Terry, who worked in several forms of the department becoming the Water Resources Commission's first Public Relations Manager in the 1980s and 90s reporting to Tom Fenwick and Bill Meredith. Among other things he was known as the instigator of the highly successful WaterWise Queensland campaign.

More reunions are planned for the future and details will be published in this newsletter.

*I look forward to receiving news. Thanks, Terry, for this - Ed.*



#### St Barnabas Bulletin Board

Volunteers wanted!  
A new obesity study calls for a larger group of participants.  
Special forms are available at the front office.

#### Vale Peter Floyd Parnell

Sadly we report that Peter Parnell passed away in June. He was known for his jovial approach to life – he loved to laugh and he loved a social beer. “Pedro” was an Administration and Procurement Officer within Construction Division, where his meticulous approach and his attention to detail were respected and appreciated by all those with whom he came in contact. Among the projects he worked on were Kinchant; Wivenhoe; Burdekin Falls and Peter Faust Dams and various pipeline and irrigation area developments.

## Catching the Lift – Falkirk Wheel, Scotland

Gary Corbett

*A sequel to the article on Rhine locks - Ed.*

'Catching the Lift' is second nature to most of us and is something we have all probably done many times over. But on a trip to Scotland in 2015, a first for Margaret and me was to 'catch the lift' from the Forth & Clyde Canal to the Union Canal (some 24 metres or so directly above). We and some 30 or so others did this in a boat floating in one of two gondolas resting opposite one another in cradles on a rotating boat lift, known as The Falkirk Wheel, near Falkirk.



The Wheel is the only rotating boat lift of its kind in the world.

The Wheel was completed in 2002 as part of a project known as Millennium Link. It re-connects the two canals for the first time since the 1930s, and replaces some 10 or so traditional locks in the process. The wheel raises/lowers boats by 24 metres in around 5 minutes and is one of only two working boat lifts in the United Kingdom, the other being the Anderton Boat Lift.

On the day of our ride and prior to commencing the lift of our boat from the 'pond', the boat captain explained to all passengers that it was a requirement of Scottish Maritime Law that he go through a full safety induction with us, as if we were to be getting underway in a full marine environment. By sheer co-incidence, it just so happened that the week before, Margaret and I had been to the Titanic Museum in Belfast and I was proudly wearing the new Titanic cap which she had bought me. The cap did not go un-noticed by the captain so it was not too long before he was wearing it while he put us through the induction process, all good fun.

I am pleased to report that there were no icebergs around in the pond that day as we began to ascend, so we proceeded to go up (and not down) from the Forth & Clyde to the Union Canal.

On the particular wheel rotation we were on, the other gondola did not contain a boat, but the wheel remained perfectly balanced just the same, as this particular gondola was full of water to the plimsoll line as if a boat was actually floating in it – weight of boat and passengers equals weight of water displaced (Archimedes Principle).



What is even more breath-taking was the commencement of the journey back down from the Union to the Forth & Clyde some 24m below, once our boat had entered the gondola at the top of the wheel and the water-tight bulkheads had been closed. All those on board were treated to the most wonderful view of the surrounding countryside, while sitting in a boat floating in a gondola some 24m above it – it was a little surreal.



A visit to the Falkirk area would not be complete without taking in the Kelpies – two 30-metre-high horse-head sculptures at the eastern entrance to the Forth & Clyde Canal – these sculptures are the largest such equine sculptures in the world. The structures were designed by sculptor Andy Scott. They stand around 34m tall, are made of SS plate, weigh more than 300 tonnes each and were completed in October 2013.



The Kelpies represent the lineage of the Clydesdale, the heavy horse of Scottish industry and economy, and which used to pull the wagons; ploughs; barges and coal-ships that helped shape Falkirk.

*Many thanks again, Gary - Ed*

## A Returning Voice

Bob McDonald

### Tyalgum.

Nearly 15 years ago in Newsletter No 45, I wrote a contribution about our efforts to establish ourselves just west of Tyalgum in northern NSW. The aim of the exercise was to develop a 5ha block from part of an old dairy farm subdivision into an attractive saleable establishment over time.

We spent 14 years in that part of the Mt Warning erosion caldera and it was the best place we have ever lived. We planted many trees including five Sydney Blue Gums that we put in as two inch tube seedlings and watched them grow to 40cm diameter, 25m high spectacular examples of Australian native vegetation. My favourite tree was a Queensland Maple (Flindersia) that we strategically placed alongside the shed path. By observation, I learnt that most tree rings aren't annual but reflect what I called the 'spurt growth' occurring every 6-8 weeks, leaving a 1-2mm clearly visible growth ring on the trunk cross section. In winter the number of growths slowed leaving a slightly visible colour change every 15mm approx. that indicated annual growth.

Existing trees on the lot included two Australian Teak (Flindersia Australus), Red Cedars and a White Beech. The beech had a straight 90cm diameter trunk for about 5m up. A couple of ancient Grey Gums often dropped huge branches that required the chain saw and tractor to remove. The red colour of the timber was very impressive. A branch that fell off a very old Red Stringybark I measured to be 17m long and 35cm diameter at the break. That timber doesn't float, i.e. it is very heavy.

I took samples with the chain saw off most fallen tree branches, smoothed them on the belt sander, ran the router around the edge and sprayed them with clear gloss just to admire their different qualities.

We always realised that there would come a time when a 5ha block would be too hard for a retired older person (ROF) to maintain. Eventually a buyer walked in and we sold up, and 'downsized' to a new house we have had built in Coomera.

Coincidentally, in that same newsletter I discovered a note about Jack Hegarty. See next story.

### The 'Skid Mark' incident.

Jack Hegarty, a DPI Director General from past years, and Ted (my Dad) worked together in Atherton in the early to mid 1940's.

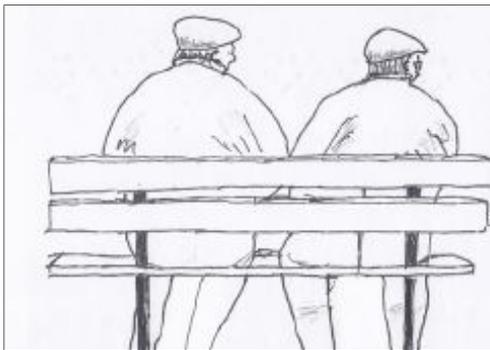
In her later years, my Mum had told me that around the time I was born, Jack had a habit of courting one or more of the many Land Army girls that Ted supervised on the Atherton Tablelands towards the end of World War II. Jack's idea of a good night out was to procure a chook from somewhere (dead, not KFC), bring it around mid-afternoon for Mum to prepare and cook, and then turn up later that night for dinner with the selected LAG.

Jack didn't take to the Ag & Stock job in Atherton and was about to resign. His mother apparently rang Ted from Brisbane and asked him to convince Jack to stay on. It seemed to have worked.

I first remember Mr Hegarty during the mid-fifties when I was about 10 or more years old. By then he had risen to be a senior DPI officer. He came to our family home in Mareeba for dinner one night and Mum cooked steak with onion gravy and three veg. When we all sat down, I was across the table from Mr Hegarty on the ex-army bench stool with my two brothers. With a nod from Mum we all dug in. While jostling for elbow room on the stool, my fork didn't have time to get a good grip of the big slab of meat. The sudden pushing action of the knife sent the whole piece of meat at speed off my plate and across Mum's best white tablecloth. It lodged half under Mr Hegarty's plate, leaving a tell-tale gravy skid mark back to me. It all happened so quickly, Mr Hegarty's mouth was still wide open well after I had retrieved my indiscretion. A quick glance at Ted and I knew who would be doing the washing up that night.

Around the time of the skid mark incident, Ted and his best mate Doug Bacon the Stock Inspector, formed the total complement of DPI in Mareeba. These two worked flexi time long before it was invented. In later years they were known to 'occasionally' prop up the back bar of the Graham Hotel in the beer garden. More sophisticated WRC employees, mainly in short pants and long white socks, drank in the air-conditioned comfort of the Purple Bar. (Appropriate people can pencil their names in here for the record .....). The good old days.

Many thanks, Bob, for this contribution - Ed.



*"When I was a kid, my mother told me if I poked faces at my sister, the wind would change and my face would stay that way."  
"That explains it then."*

### Answers to Terry's Trivia (page 11)

1. (iv) 5M 2. (i) KL-Singapore
3. (iii) a stationary object;
4. (iv) Blaa 5. (i) Purple
6. (iii) 1969 7. (iv) 32 500
8. (ii) 460 9. (iii) 123456
10. (i) Emmental
11. Well?

## RedR Australia

### Michael Marley

*Michael and I have been very close friends since 1959 when we first met at boarding school. We both won scholarships with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission to study Civil Engineering at UQ. We joined IWSC where I spent my entire career. But in 1979 Michael left the Commission to enter the world of Consultants, specialising in geotechnical projects. He also undertook numerous other related activities including the one that I asked him to write about because I found it so interesting - Ed..*

RedR Australia was established in 1992 by Engineers Australia with Consult Australia (originally ACEA), the Institute of Public Works Engineers Australia (IPWEA), and Professionals Australia (originally APESMA), when engineer Jeff Dobell sought support for his vision for Australian engineers applying their skills to disaster relief.

This followed the founding in Britain of RedR UK in 1980 as the Register for Engineers for Disaster Relief. One of RedR UK's first challenges was the advent of the Ethiopian famine and many on the register joined relief efforts both in Ethiopia and Sudan to help the many millions of famine victims.

Here the impetus of the Rwandan genocide in 1994 saw RedR Australia sign a partnership agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to deploy engineers into international emergencies. Initially the range of skills profiles represented on the register was strongly engineering oriented with technical specialties in water, sanitation and health and building and construction (for provision of shelter).

But over time the range of skills profiles has been expanded to include almost 80 technical specialties, with significant focus now on non-engineering skills including Child Protection, Food Security, Sexual and Gender-based Violence and Supply Chain Logistics.

The Roster now numbers some 700 experienced personnel.

In addition, RedR Australia has established a training service that offers internationally recognised humanitarian training to its own experts and the wider humanitarian sector. Training courses focus on preparing aspiring aid workers for life in the field, helping experienced humanitarians develop their skills further and preparing non-humanitarians for travel to volatile or hostile locations. Undertaking appropriate training is a pre-requisite for people seeking to join the RedR Australia roster for deployment on United Nations and other field missions responding to both natural disasters and conflict.

Courses developed specifically for the needs of the humanitarian aid sector include:

Essentials of Humanitarian Practice; and

Hostile Environment Awareness Training (which includes integrated Tactical Emergency Casualty Care

Training by Real Response delivering a combination of theory and practical based emergency medical training, giving participants the skills and knowledge to manage ballistic, penetrating and blast trauma).

Over the last year RedR Australia has continued to provide design, preparation and delivery of simulation exercises for Humanitarian Emergency Response Training and Crisis Response Training for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Additional services were also facilitated including Child Protection in Emergencies and Sexual and Reproductive Health in Emergencies.

Training courses are undertaken not only at locations in Australia but recently also in Honiara—Solomon Islands, Manila -- Philippines and Port Moresby – PNG.

RedR Australia is funded through Australia's DFAT, the Government of the United Kingdom through their Department of International Development and further supported by a number of Corporate Partners and public donations.

Eleven United Nations Offices, Agencies, Funds, Related Organisations and Other Entities call on Australia to supply skilled personnel to prepare for and respond to areas of international humanitarian need. As the only United Nations Standby Partner in the Asia Pacific Region (and in fact in the entire southern hemisphere) RedR Australia helps boost their capacity before, during and after crises and conflict. Personnel are also deployed to support their efforts in providing disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, recovery and stabilisation activities in disaster-prone countries.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), in 2018 more than 134 million people across the world need humanitarian assistance and protection. RedR Australia's ability to respond quickly, effectively and efficiently to provide assistance to the increasing number of complex conflicts and natural disasters helps augment the limited and stretched humanitarian resources endeavouring to meet this burgeoning demand.

RedR deployees have been closely involved in the building of the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan which, since 2012 has grown to be the largest camp for Syrian refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria. Currently Za'atari houses about 80 000 refugees.

And more recently RedR deployees have been involved in the establishment of the largest solar power generating plant to be built in a refugee camp at Za'tari. It provides families with between 12 and 14 hours of electricity each day --- significantly longer than previously.

Since 2000, additional RedR organisations have been established in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia, which, combined with the UK and Australian organisations, now form an international RedR network of accredited organisations, all sharing a common vision and mission.

## RedR Australia continued

RedR Australia is also the sole delivery partner of the Australian Government's humanitarian deployment programme, Australia Assists. This enables RedR to mobilise at every stage of the disaster cycle. RedR is a leading international humanitarian response NGO that selects, trains and deploys technical specialists.

In 2017, RedR Australia, in partnership with DFAT, worked to co-design the integrated deployment civilian capability programme. The programme seeks to:

- Reduce disaster risks, build resilience, and contribute to conflict mitigation;
- Prepare for and respond to disaster, fragility and conflict;
- Stabilise, aid in recovery and rebuilding following disaster, fragility and conflict.

Funded by the Australian Government and implemented by RedR Australia, RedR Australia has also opened two regional offices since the programme's inception: The Middle Eastern Regional Office in Amman, Jordan in January 2018; and The Pacific Regional Office in Suva, Fiji in May 2018.

These regional offices allow RedR Australia to maintain a permanent regional presence which, through closer contact with the Australian local diplomatic posts and local National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs), allows closer monitoring of the emergence and development of potential crisis situations and evaluation of appropriate responses.

The value of the Australia Assists partnership was evident in responding to the deteriorating conditions in the Rohingya refugee settlements in Bangladesh. The situation in these settlements from late 2017 was described by all of RedR Australia's partners as a major protection crisis. Protection is a key focus of the programme and remains an important priority for RedR Australia.

Since August 2017, RedR Australia prioritised requests from its UN partners to strengthen the Rohingya response with as many partners as possible, resulting in more than forty humanitarian deployments via the Australia Assists programme to support the response in both Myanmar and Bangladesh. Whether preparing for monsoon season by building bridges,

carrying out excavations; advocating for children's rights; introducing new monitoring technologies or undertaking drone mapping for Kutapalong Camp (one of two refugee camps in the Cox's Bazaar area housing about one million refugees) to assist in planning enlargement of the camp, RedR Australia's specialists have been at the forefront of introducing innovative "firsts".



Since joining the Board of RedR Australia in 2008, I have seen the organisation grow from a relatively modest contributor to the relief of suffering in the wake of mostly natural disasters to its current status as an integrated part of Australia's International aid contribution.

*What wonderful work! Many thanks Michael - Ed.*

### Gericault. Liberty leading the people.



*"Death to all men who try to enslave women by making us wear bras!"*

### Jean-Louis Andre Theodore Gericault

was born in Rouen, France in 1791 and died in 1824. Even though he died young, he was one of the pioneers of the Romantic movement in art.

His paintings (like the one on this page) usually display large numbers of people in action.

His most famous painting is *The Raft of the Medusa*.



The following is a very brief summary of the address by Gordon Delaney, Manager Environment, to the AGM.

The Brisbane office has relocated to Green Square Fortitude Valley (cost savings \$1m pa). There is a new logo (see above).

The principal focus is on commercial activities and safety with a rollout of 'Switch On Safety' workshops. Some of the major projects are:

**Fairbairn Dam Improvement Program.** Construction work continues for Stage 2 and also Stage 3 for gravity sidewalls

**Burdekin Falls Dam.** Preliminary Business Case for Dam Improvement Program (DIP) is progressing with hydrology studies given large catchment and different options to consider potential impacts of raising by 2 m or more. A joint study with Stanwell is in progress for hydro installation.

**Paradise Dam Improvement Program.** Detailed Business Case commenced based on two recommended options; full upgrade and lowering spillway

**Nullinga Dam** Detailed Business Case in progress for potential construction of the dam

**Leslie & Teemurra DIPs.** Studies are progressing for completion of a Preliminary Business Case

Sunwater is Construction Authority. Water Marketer and will be the operator of the Rookwood Weir and ownership is being finalised given funding jointly from the Commonwealth and the State

Paradise Dam Expression of Interest (EOI) for sale of surplus water has been conducted with significantly lower upfront water charges given only 11% of the water has been sold

Burdekin Falls Dam surplus water allocation EOI sale process will commence in mid 2019

Paradise Dam weed control with weevils and Tinaroo Dam hyacinth management with Biosecurity Queensland, Tablelands Regional Council and local stakeholders

A Burnett River Lungfish working group has been formed with Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Seqwater to work with environment groups to determine priorities in how we can assist with maintaining and improving if possible, lungfish populations.

#### **Local Management Arrangements (LMA)**

- St George transitioned 30 June 2018 and
- Theodore transitioned on 30 September 2018
- Emerald will transition on 30 June 2019
- Eton progressing and likely to transition – vote mid-2019, transition late 2019.
- Lower Mary and Bundaberg schemes will not proceed with LMA (their choice)
- Burdekin and Mareeba will not transfer at this stage

## **Department of Natural Resources Mines & Energy**

The following highlights some issues from the address delivered by Dan Harris, Director Innovation, Science & Water Policy Programs. His full address can be found on our website.

### **Rural Water Management Program**

Areas of focus include strengthened metering and measurements, transparent water information, appropriate regulatory frameworks and robust compliance. The Murray-Darling Basin is considered a priority for this work to occur.

Over the last 12 months significant strides forward have included:

- Regulatory amendments
- Water measurement policy proposals developed
- Updating of metering standards to align more clearly to the Australian Standard.
- Investigating using alternative technologies for capturing water use data
- Building a water accounting prototype

### **Water Planning**

New Queensland Murray-Darling Basin Plans commenced in February this year providing for management of all surface water, overland flow and groundwater in accordance with the sustainability requirements of the Basin Plan, including sustainable diversion limits.

We are nearing finalisation of another two planning projects with an amendment to the Burdekin plan and a first generation plan for Cape York.

Next year we plan to finalise the Moreton targeted amendment to incorporate the Central Lockyer Water Supply Scheme into the planning framework.

### **Legislation Changes**

The Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Act was debated and passed in late October 2018. Another piece of legislation that is currently moving through the house is the Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill or NROLA which amends 18 separate pieces of legislation and contains miscellaneous urban and rural water related amendments.

### **Regional Water Supply Security Assessments**

The Regional Water Supply Security Assessment program is a partnership, providing a shared understanding of the potential water supply security risks for prioritised communities. In all, the department has completed 18 regional water supply security assessments and has partnered with 15 Councils.

### **SEQ Water Security**

SEQ strategic water supply dam levels have reached 70%. When the levels reach 60% the Gold Coast Desalination Plant will go into to full production and the recommissioning of the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme will commence.

# HEALTH *and beauty*

## Place your orders

“Beer before wine, and you’ll feel fine, wine before beer and you’ll feel queer” is often offered as advice to avoid hangovers. Similarly “grape or grain, but never the twain”.

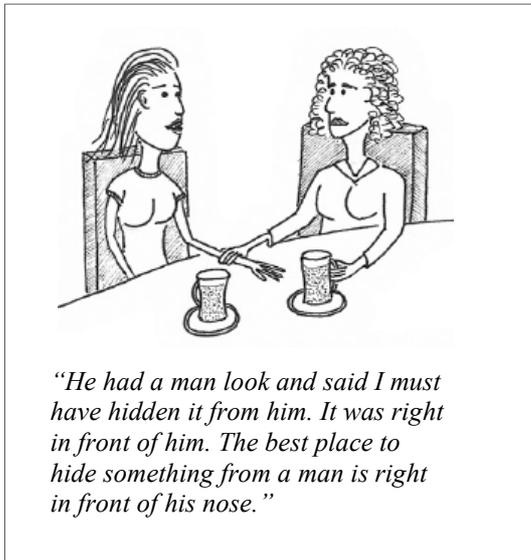
But a study has found that the hangover is much the same regardless of the order or nature of the drinks.

Researchers from Cambridge and Witten/Herdecke University in Germany asked 90 participants to try different drinks combinations over two evenings. Some switched from drinking wine before beer and beer before wine, while another group consumed one alcohol type one evening and the other the second.

The day after each test the group reported back on their hangovers, ranking systems including tiredness, headache strength, nausea and dizziness. But the adages are simply wrong. The hangovers were comparable.

Unsurprisingly the researchers concluded that it is the quantity of alcohol and not the type which determines the severity of the hangover.

*I’m not aware of any of our legendary drinkers being involved in the study. - Ed*



*“He had a man look and said I must have hidden it from him. It was right in front of him. The best place to hide something from a man is right in front of his nose.”*

## Exercise those Brain Cells

Q. You are challenged to a competition. You and an opponent face 11 tokens on a table between you. You take turns removing tokens, being allowed to remove one, two or three tokens at a time. The player removing the last token is declared the loser. If you go first, how many tokens should you remove to ensure that you win?



## A different solution

*On the subject of choice of alcoholic beverages, this traveller’s tale appeals to me. - Ed.*

Charlemagne, King of France from 800, was very fond of red Burgundy wine; in his wife’s opinion excessively fond. She tried to persuade him to abstinence or at least moderation by pointing out that regular spillage was staining his luxurious beard. He responded by persuading his favourite vintner to produce a white wine!

## Fresh air and sleep

If you struggle to get a good night’s sleep, you could open your window. That helps the air to circulate at night, leading to a better night’s sleep, a study has found. Sleepers are less likely to toss and turn under an open window.

It is believed poor ventilation leads to a build-up of carbon dioxide resulting from respiration.

An open window is better than an open door – unless it is noisy outside!

## Gobbledegook

Excerpt from, “The Professional Writing Guide” by Petelin and Durham

The EMPTI Guide to Swollen Prose created by social psychologists Peter Madden and Lloyd Engdahl (Engdahl-Madden Psychological Terms Inventory) provides three columns of words. A writer could select randomly a word from each column to produce a phrase that sounds impressive but is meaningless.

Examples:

Integrated	Management	Options
Total	Organisation	Flexibility
Systematised	Monitored	Capability
Parallel	Reciprocal	Mobility
Functional	Digital	Programming
Responsive	Logistical	Concept
Optimal	Transitional	Time-phase
Synchronised	Incremental	Projection
Compatible	Third-generation	Hardware
Balanced	Policy	Contingency
Undifferentiated	Synergistic	Integration
Extrinsic	Developmental	Equilibrium

*Is this a text book for some bureaucrats? - Ed*

## Answer to last Issue’s Teaser

A. The chef lights one wick at both ends and another at one end. After 30 minutes the double-lit wick will be burnt out. At this point he lights the second end of the other wick which will then, by burning from both ends, last a further 15 minutes.

## On Second Thought... Maybe I was wrong

Ross Stewart sent me these little beauties - Ed.

“How Sir, would you make a ship sail against the wind and the currents by lighting a fire under her decks? I pray you, excuse me, I have not the time to listen to such nonsense.” Napoleon Bonaparte, when told of Robert Fulton’s steamboat, 1800s.

“Rail travel at speed is not possible because passengers, unable to breathe, would die of asphyxia.” Dr Dionysius Lardner, 1830

“When the Paris Exhibition [of 1878] closes, electric light will close with it and no more will be heard of it.” Oxford professor Erasmus Wilson.

“The Americans may have need of the telephone, but we do not. We have plenty of messenger boys.” Sir William Preece, Chief Engineer, British Post Office, 1878.

“Everyone acquainted with the subject will recognize it as a conspicuous failure.” Henry Morton, President of the Stevens Institute of Technology on Edison’s light bulb, 1880.

“No, it will make war impossible.” Hiram Maxim, inventor of the machine gun in response to the question “Will not this gun make war more terrible?” from Havelock Ellis, an English scientist, 1893.

“The horse is here to stay, but the automobile is only a novelty – a fad.” The President of the Michigan Savings Bank advising Henry Ford’s lawyer not to invest in the Ford Motor Co., 1903.

“A rocket will never be able to leave the earth’s atmosphere.” New York Times 1936.

“I think there is world market for perhaps five computers.” Thomas Watson, Chairman of IBM, 1943.

“If excessive smoking plays a role in lung cancer, it seems to be a minor one.” WC Heuper, National Cancer Institute, 1954

“It’ll be gone by June.” Variety Magazine on Rock ‘n’ Roll, 1955

“We don’t like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out.” Decca Recording Company in declining to sign the Beatles, 1962.

### A Sure-fire Prophecy

Ouija boards and crystal balls  
and animals’ entrails  
and tarot cards and gallup polls  
the fortune teller hails  
as constituting sure-fire tools.  
But sadly, each one fails.

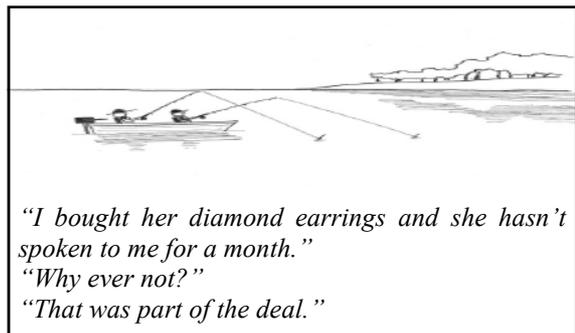
### A Sign of the Times

On a (large) T-Shirt

**I’m fat but I identify as thin  
I’m trans-slender**

**Terry’s Trivia** - from the 2018 mid-year lunch  
Answers on page 6.

1. The number of people who call Queensland home is (i) 2M; (ii) 3M; (iii) 4M; (iv) 5M; (v) 6M.
2. The world’s busiest international air route (Feb 2018) is: (i) KL-Singapore; (ii) New York-Toronto; (iii) Dubai-Kuwait; (vi) Hong Kong-Shanghai; (v) Seoul-Osaka.
3. An ‘allision’ is a marine accident of a vessel with: (i) another vessel; (ii) a whale; (iii) a stationary object; (iv) an aircraft; (v) an UFO.
4. A soft white bun that has been a Waterford (Ireland) staple for centuries is known as a: (i) Craic; (ii) Stook; (iii) Zonk; (iv) Blaa; (v) Divvy.
5. What colour were the first carrots: (i) Purple; (ii) Red; (iii) Orange; (iv) Green; (v) Blue.
6. Australia’s first gas pipeline (Roma to Brisbane) was constructed in (i) 1949; (ii) 1959; (iii) 1969; (iv) 1979; (v) 1989.
7. The number of water supply bores in the Surat Basin CMA is: (i) 2500; (ii) 12 500; (iii) 22 500; (iv) 32 500; (v) 42 500; (vi) 52 500.
8. The number that OGIA predicts will be affected over the life of the P&G industry is: (i) 46; (ii) 460; (iii) 4 600; (iv) 46 000.
9. The most commonly used password is: (i) password; (ii) 111111; (iii) 123456; (iv) abc123; (v) incorrect.
10. Kim Jong-un’s favourite cheese is: (i) Emmental; (ii) Blue; (iii) Colby (iv) Brie; (v) Bra
11. Can you lick your elbow?: (i) Yes; (ii) No; (iii) Never tried, until now.



## Book Club

*The True Story of Maddie Bright* by Mary Rose MacColl is a most enjoyable tale of friendship, love and loyalty.

In 1920, seventeen-year-old Maddie Bright is thrilled to take a job as a serving girl on the royal tour of Australia by Edward, Prince of Wales. She makes friends with Helen Burns, the prince's vivacious press secretary, and Rupert Waters, his loyal man, and is in awe of Edward himself, the boy prince.

For Maddie, who longs to be a journalist like Helen, what starts as a desire to help her family after the devastation of war becomes a chance to work on something that matters.

Decades later, Maddie Bright is living in a ramshackle house in Paddington, Brisbane. She has Ed, her devoted neighbour, to talk to, the television news to shout at, and door-knocker religions to join. But when London journalist Victoria Byrd gets the sniff of a story that might lead to the true identity of a famously reclusive writer, she tackles Maddie to learn the truth.

Set at key moments in 20<sup>th</sup> century history – 1920, 1981 and 1997 – the strands twist across the seas and over two continents, to build a compelling story of love and fame, motherhood and friendship.

**Ian Pullar**

*Footnote: By pure coincidence, we were developing a play script concerning the 1920 visit of the Prince of Wales to the Soldier Settlements of the Granite Belt at the same time as we read this book - Ed.*



*Now the screwtop has replaced the cork, restaurants can no longer charge outrageous corkage. They've switched to even more outrageous screwage.*

*The Rosie Result* is the third book in the *Rosie* trilogy by outstanding author Graeme Simson. If you haven't read the other two, I recommend you do before embarking on this highly amusing yet thought-provoking latest contribution.

I certainly laughed out loud at Don Tillman's project to teach his ten year old son Hudson the skills he needs for life. Hudson is struggling to fit in and the school authorities keep recommending that he be tested to determine if he is autistic. While there is a pressing need for Hudson to 'fit in', there is a realisation that innovation is not created by strict conformity.

As a geneticist, and a very idiosyncratic man, Don is keen to explore where his son acquired his strengths and weaknesses – from him, his mother (Rosie) or the previous generation. They could even be environmental.

Following an outrage at a genetics lecture delivered by Don, he decides that as well as spending more time on the Hudson project, he could profitably venture into the commercial world by creating the world's best cocktail bar. This leads to complicated interactions with a significant cast of characters and inevitably conflicts that have to be resolved.

In the end, Don concludes "I would never have the intuitive sense of others' emotions that supposedly is needed to deal with interpersonal problems, but I had done my best using rationality, experience and hard-won learning about human behaviour, and those skills had been sufficient.

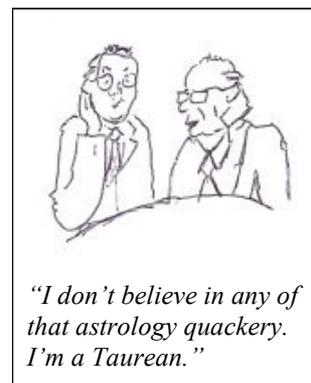
"I was reasonably certain that my son would be proud of me."

**Ian Pullar**

*I would welcome contributions from other readers. Helen belongs to a book club which does not study a set book. Each member simply talks about something she has read over the past month. This has led us to books beyond our ken.*

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*"I don't believe in any of that astrology quackery. I'm a Taurean."*