



WATERY SAUCES OLDIES AND BOLDIES

Newsletter No 98

June 2022

NEWSLETTER OF THE WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL EDITION

This year, 2022, marks the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the *Irrigation Act of 1922* which resulted in the establishment of the *Irrigation and Water Supply Department*. Although the State of Queensland had been involved in water management for many years prior to that, this was a recognition by Government of the importance of the resource. This Department was, of course, the predecessor of one of the instrumentalities in which all the members of WRRRA were employed.



Not only does the WRRRA Committee believe that this significant milestone is worthy of recognition and celebration, it gives us an excuse to reconnect with former colleagues who, because of the tyranny of distance, are unable to meet on a frequent basis.

To enable this to happen, a Sub-Committee was established to explore options for getting members and other past employees together. In particular, Bruce Pearce and Gary Corbett have devoted considerable effort to contact people in all regions to measure the level of potential support for reunions of various types. As a result, they have developed a programme of rolling reunions, culminating in a dinner in Brisbane (which is the centre for the vast majority of our members).

We sincerely hope that our members will take advantage of the opportunities and also encourage other members and contacts to participate. There is much more information in the body of this Special Edition Newsletter and of course you can contact Bruce for more information or to offer advice on (07)3289 6297 or brucepearce@bigpond.com

Daryl Bridgen

From the Editor's Chair

As the President has pointed out, the bulk of the work for the Milestone Celebrations has been undertaken by Bruce and Gary. So it is entirely appropriate for them to be given the credit directly for providing the material in this edition. I am delighted to appoint them as Honorary Editors for this SPECIAL EDITION.

Until next time, au reservoir.

Ian Pullar, Editor

Upcoming Events

ANNUAL GOLF DAY 12 August at
Keperra Golf Course

A separate notice for the above event will be issued with more details.

REUNIONS

Reunions will be occurring in August at Mareeba; and in October at Theodore, Yeppoon, Bundaberg, Toowoomba and Brisbane. Event specific invitations will be sent to all whose contact details we have.

See P6 for more details



Marking a Milestone, 100 years on

(100th Anniversary in 2022, of the passage of the *Irrigation Act of 1922*)

IT'S TIME!

You will be pleased to know that since Newsletter 97, the Committee has been able to throw off the shackles of Covid and have a face-to-face meeting to finalise the Reunions Calendar as detailed on P6 in this supplement.

So to set the tone, the Committee has dug deep to pull together some light reading on some of our proud and past history - and we haven't really touched the surface! So we will have to leave it up to our community to fill in the gaps at these Reunions which have been 100 years in the making – and which kick off with the very first in Mareeba on Mon 22 Aug 2022.

TIME TO GET INTO 'THE ACT'!

An Act to make Provision for the Construction, Maintenance, and Management of Works for the Storage and Supply of Water for the purposes of Irrigation, and for other purposes.

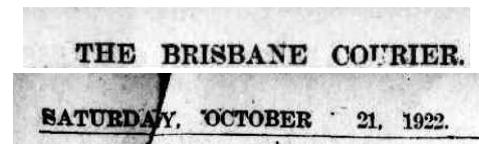
[ASSENTED TO 18TH OCTOBER, 1922.]

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as "*The Irrigation Act of 1922.*"

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the meanings respectively assigned to them, that is to say:—

- "Authorised," when used with respect to persons—
An employee of the Commissioner authorised by him either generally or for any particular purpose under this Act; when used with respect to machinery fittings and other matters—
Authorised by this Act or by the Commissioner;
- "Channel"—Any ditch, channel, race, aqueduct, trench, conduit, tunnel, sluice, fluming, or line of pipes;
- "Commissioner"—The Commissioner of Irrigation appointed under this Act;



COMMISSIONER APPOINTED.

Mr. A. F. Partridge, who some months ago was engaged by the Government to control the Dawson River irrigation scheme, was, at Thursday's meeting of the Executive Council, appointed Commissioner of Irrigation under the Irrigation Act of 1922, which has just received the Governor's assent.

Mr. Partridge's experience in the construction and administration of large irrigation and water conservation undertakings has extended over a long period.

MR. A. F. PARTRIDGE.

His Australian career includes 10 years on the Murray River irrigation schemes. He was for several years Chief Engineer and General Manager of the Mildura Irrigation Trust (Victoria), controlling the premier irrigation undertaking in Australia; occupying similar positions on the Tresco (Victoria) irrigation areas, and the Palmdale Estates (New South Wales).

The organisation of staff and equipment for the first sections of the new scheme is proceeding rapidly. Mr. Partridge hopes to be able to commence active operations on the Dawson River scheme in the near future.

IWSC (1)

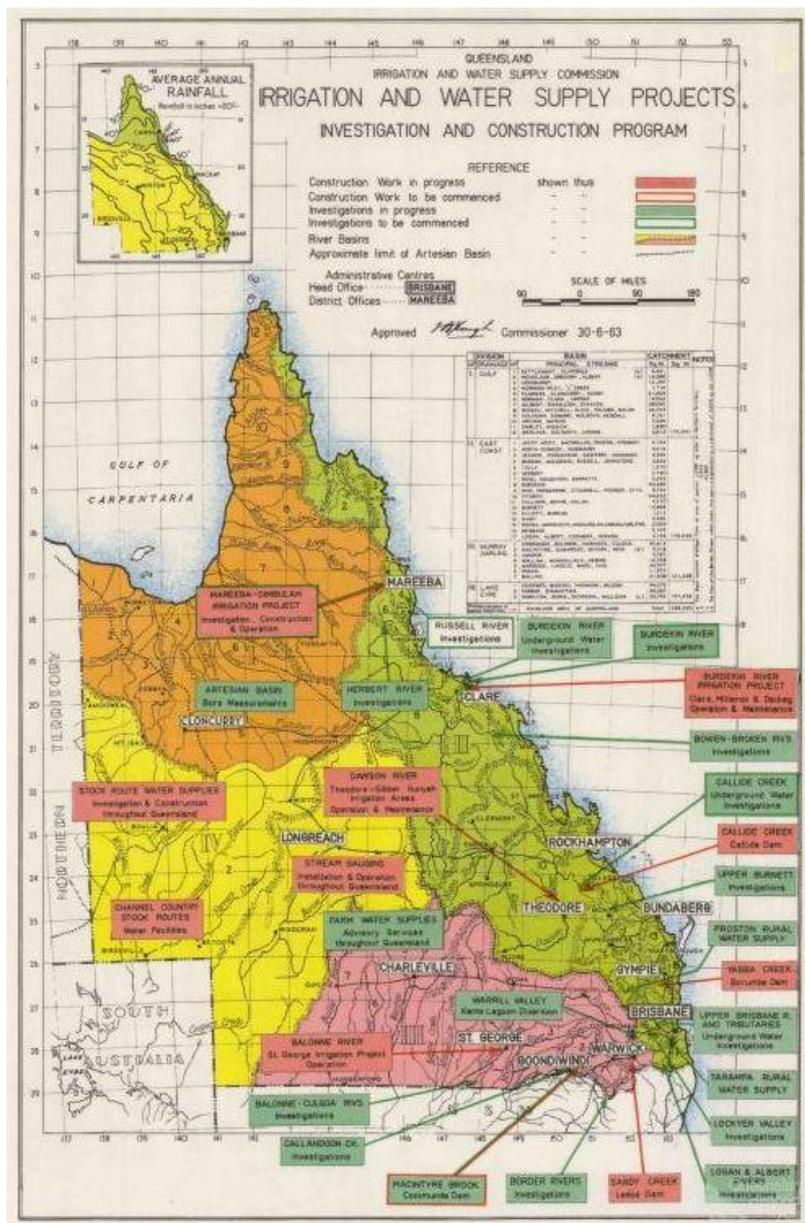
TIME TO REFLECT!



- On when we did 'everything'

This 1963 report map came from a day-and-age when our IWS community could justifiably claim to be doing 'everything'. There is a fair chance that the map was produced in the branch affectionately known as PP (*Project Planning*) and was overseen by Supervising Draftsman 'Tommy' Thomas. It is from the 1963 Annual Report as presented to parliament by then Commissioner Fred Haigh.

Amongst its many highlights are progress of construction at Callide and Borumba Dams (*Construction Branch*); operation and maintenance of the Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Project (*Operations Branch*). On the investigations side the 'Burdekin River' gets a mention (*Project Planning Branch*), at a time when the Burdekin Scheme consisted only of Clare; Millaroo and Dalbeg; then there are Stream Gauging Installations (*Rivers and Streams Branch*); Stock Route Water Supplies Investigation and Construction; Underground Water Investigations & Artesian Basin Monitoring (*Groundwater Branch*); Farm Water Supplies Advisory Services (*Farm Water Supplies Branch*); Rural Water Supplies (*Irrigation Branch*). Reporting of civil design progress including hydraulic modelling and materials testing (*Designs Branch*), as well as progress on the mechanical and electrical side (*Mechanical and Electrical Branch*) featured in another section of the Annual Report. Last but not least there was administration (*Admin Branch*) which oversaw offices at:- Mareeba; Clare; Cloncurry; Longreach; Rockhampton; Theodore; Bundaberg; Charleville; Gympie; St George; Warwick; and Goondiwindi



- On who we are

We have tried to reflect on the culture of our community and 'who we are' by the following symbolism in the Q100 logo:-

OUR TEAM Linking of arms signifies sense of camaraderie; teamwork and packing down for the scrum – all playing for the same side & code (and for the best part of the last 100 years, under the same roof!)

OUR LIFE OUTSIDE WORK Linking of arms also signifies socialising and making friends through work

OUR OLDER SIDE The 2 players on the outside – still standing but supported by a walking stick on one side and on the other by the two younger members of our community in the middle - the propping up reflects that a good percentage of the side is made up of ageing old players (ie over 50% of WRRRA is over 75).

OUR YOUNGER SIDE The 2 players in the middle – standing on their own two feet but still leaning in some shape or form on the older 2 players on the outside, no doubt for the occasional bit of wisdom or advice. Also representing the ‘new breed’ emerging over the past 25 years or so (ie the post- COAG water reform era) – the new branches to our ‘family tree’!

OUR OWN IDENTITY



Over the past 100 years, our community has served many ‘masters’, one of the first being the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission (IWSC). Since its founding in the 1980’s, the Association has played a pivotal role in keeping retirees in touch, with its WRRRA logo styled around our masters Water Resources Commission logo of the day. So the ‘blue tadpole’ lives on through incorporation in the logo specifically designed for the celebrations.

OUR SECOND LANGUAGE In the past ten years or so, ‘Q100’ has become almost our second language as we once again talk in terms of Average Recurrence Interval or Annual Exceedance Probability and of something unheard of in 1922 - climate change. Q100 in terms of our celebrations links in with something big; something state-wide; and something that has been 100 years in the making.

OUR NOMADIC SIDE Short of somehow weaving graphics of camels and canvas tents into the logo, we could not think of anything reflecting the nomadic nature of our community as it went from project-to-project during the heyday of dam and irrigation area development. So we have left it to our Memorabilia to reflect this side, as we have for our own sense of humour.

- On any number of one-offs from our colourful past

THE COMMISSION HOTEL The Commission built the Hotel Theodore in the mid 1920’s so it is arguably the first of our many watering holes/wet canteens. Working on site can be thirsty work so what started out as a Settlers Accommodation House run by Miss K Shean quickly turned into our own pub via an Order-In-Council in 1929. Miss Shean was to later run the hotel at Thangool, while Mrs Fairfield is credited as being the first Licensee of our Hotel. When ownership slipped out of our hands in 1954, anyone who likes a drink could have been excused for thinking that it was yet another hard Act to follow.

An Act Relating to the Sale of the Hotel situated at Theodore in the Dawson Valley Irrigation Area and known as the Hotel Theodore.

[ASSENTED TO 27TH APRIL, 1954.]

BE it enacted by the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as “*The Hotel Theodore Sale Act of 1954.*”

2. Section seven of **“The Hotel Theodore Lease Enabling Act of 1934”* is repealed.

3. Subject to this Act, The Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply under and within the meaning of †*“The Irrigation and Water Supply Commission Acts, 1946 to 1949,”* may sell to the Hotel Theodore Co-operative Association Limited, a society formed and registered under ‡*“The Co-operative Societies Acts, 1946 to 1951,”* the licensed premises under and within the meaning of §*“The Liquor Acts, 1912 to 1952,”* known as the Hotel Theodore



Hotel Theodore - 1938

Whichever way you look at it, the strong sense of community that we had in owning a hotel prevailed when its ownership passed from our community to that of the township of Theodore - this Hotel continues to be the only one in Queensland owned and operated by a Co-operative, and where its profits go back into the local community.

And we will be celebrating at our first watering hole once again at a Centenary Luncheon on Tuesday 4 October.



TIME TO CELEBRATE!

- What does our Reunions Calendar look like?

Location	Mareeba	Theodore	Yeppoon	Bundaberg	Toowoomba	Brisbane
Date	Mon 22 Aug	Tues 4 Oct	Thurs 6 Oct	Mon 10 Oct	Wed 12 Oct	Wed 19 Oct
Venue	Mareeba Leagues Club	Theodore Hotel	Keppel Bay Sailing Club	Brothers Sports Club	Royal Hotel	The Ship Inn, Southbank
Kick-off	12 noon	11am for 12noon	3pm	3pm	12 noon	11.30am for 12.00noon
Cost	Free	To be advised	Free			To be advised
Function Format	Smaller Informal	Formal Luncheon	Larger Informal	Smaller Informal		Formal Grand Finale Luncheon
Food	Finger food	Sit-down meal	Finger food			Sit-down meal
Drinks	At your cost					
Comment			Coincides with annual CQ event.			
Travel / Accom	All attendees make their own travel and accomodation arrangements					

- Do I need to register to attend?

Yes, it will assist us greatly if you do. The Committee will be sending out event-specific invites to all those whose contact details we have. However, should you happen not to receive a formal invite and have a past or present association with IWSC or its many successors, **CONSIDER YOURSELF INVITED** and contact Bruce Pearce well in advance on (07) 3289 6297 (or better still, e-mail Bruce on brucepearce@bigpond.com) and advise him which event you will be attending – remember, these celebrations are for members and non-members alike, and whether they are retired or not. RSVP's will give us some surety on numbers and enable catering arrangements to be tied down. A timely RSVP to each event will greatly assist us but **as a reminder, you could pencil into your diary the dates as shown in our Reunions Calendar.** Seating allocation for places at some venues may be first-in-best-dressed as numbers may have to be limited.

RSVP by e-mail is preferable but if you don't have an e-mail address, then a quick call to Bruce Pearce on (07) 3289 6297 should do the job. Should you have received this Newsletter by surface-mail and you do happen to have an e-mail address, chances are we don't have it. So it would be appreciated if you could send a quick e-mail to our Secretary as it is the most preferred, quickest and cheapest method of communicating with members.

- What about Memorabilia?

Q100 'COLLECTORS EDITION' COOLERS For those of us in our youth who used to pick up 'patches' of town emblems to sew on our denim jackets, these celebrations could already have your name on them - Stubby Cooler Memorabilia it is this time around! What could look better than some (or all) of the trophies below sitting on the shelf behind your bar.

There are four stubby cooler designs, three being event-specific at anticipated larger events (ie Theodore Dinner; Annual Yeppoon Get-together; Brisbane Dinner) while the fourth covers events at the other three centres (ie Mareeba; Bundaberg; Toowoomba). It's a case of first-in-best-dressed so hopefully, there will be enough to go around – but best of all, they are free!

1922 – THEODORE – 2022



PROUD TO HAVE PLAYED OUR PART

IRRIGATION ACT of 1922



a COLDIE or 2 with an OLDIE or 2



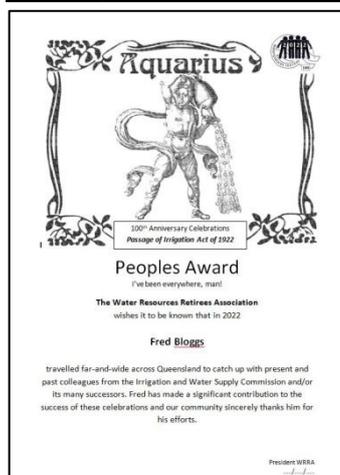
PROUD OF OUR ASSOCIATION



a COLDIE or 2 with an OLDIE or 2

- Is it worthwhile doing the rounds?

THE AQUARIUS PEOPLES AWARD



It's your call but its certainly worth thinking about - these opportunities to catch up this way don't come up all that often.

Anyone who attends a majority of Reunions should have a good chance of picking up the lions share of the different designs in the Q100 Collectors Edition coolers but more importantly, catch up with a good number of people who they may not have seen for many years. And into the bargain at the end of the year pick up an AQUARIUS 'Peoples Award' from our President, to complement the Q100 cooler collection behind the bar. Its awarding bestows bragging rights to the holder and entitles he or she to boast '*I've been everywhere, man!*' from that day forward.

As some of us will know, AQUARIUS is Latin for 'water bearer' and '*I've been everywhere, man!*' is the title of a chart-topping song in 1962 popularized by Lucky Starr and Hank Snow. The song contained the rhyming names of so many towns across Australia that it is not funny. For us, there are many places our community could boast about as well in

a past life eg *Theodore; Beardmore; Borumba; Coolmunda; Wuruma; Boondooma etc.*

For the benefit of anyone whose working life within our community commenced after the late 1970's and who may not be aware of the significance of AQUARIUS to us, AQUARIUS was the name of a popular staff magazine long remembered as being full of satire and organic content, long before political correctness got legs. So the awarding of an AQUARIUS PEOPLES AWARD, whilst acknowledging that the holder has travelled far and wide to catch up with colleagues past and present, is also a bit symbolic for a nomadic community which went from site-to-site over many years - and which brought water and prosperity to so many communities!

The sense of ownership of AQUARIUS by the people back then was such that if it were to today print a boast like '*I've been everywhere, man!*', you could bet your life that there would be a subsequent follow-up from 'anonymous' with a cover title like '*They go anywhere, man!*' - complete with rhyme-and-verse on the legendary off-road versatility of a QG Commodore! (As it so happens, we have managed to track down 'anonymous' at his retirement hideaway and he has managed to put together a verse and happy to share his work with you, but you will have to wait until the release of the 100th Edition of the Waterysauces Newsletter around Christmas time to see it – but worst still, he still does not wish to blow his cover and insists on retaining his anonymity unfortunately.)

Some of the material in Aquarius could be a bit close to home but the staff loved it – it was a true 'peoples magazine'.

- What if I can't make it along?

WHY NOT GET INVOLVED BY DOING THE COMMISSIONERS CROSSWORD? You don't have to be an IWSC history buff to enter and it's open to all our community, particularly those unable to attend any celebrations but seeking to be involved. It may serve to keep you involved as well as refresh your memories on just a little bit of history. A little bit because it only contains 100 or so letters to cover 100 years – so it is spread pretty thin on the ground but there are plenty of clues! Anyone can enter, WRRRA member or not - so long as you have an association with the IWSC and/or its many successors.

HOW DO I ENTER?

Just fill out the Crossword using the clues below, and send off your entry by e-mail to brucepearce@bigpond.com, no later than 12 October. If you happen not to be a WRRRA member and your correct entry is drawn from the barrel, a few words about your association with our community will have you \$100 better off. And should you ever wish to join our association, all you have to do is go to either of these links to apply:-

<http://www.waterysauces.org.au/navigation/membershipapplication.htm>

(On-line)

<http://www.waterysauces.org.au/membership/applicationform.pdf>

(Printable version)



TIME TO PLAY!

GOT TIME TO PLAY?

If you can find the time, it could be worth your while as the prize is **100 Dollars**. All correct entries received will be placed into a barrel, and the winner drawn at the Q100 Grand Finale Luncheon in Brisbane on Wed 19 October.

And the winners name, as well as the correctly completed crossword, will be published in the 100th Edition of our 'Waterysauces' Newsletter due to come out at the end of our 100th Anniversary Year.

Remember, you have to be in it to win it!



The Commissioners Crossword

Archibald Partridge		Tom Lang		Bill Nimmo		Fred Haigh	Frank Learmonth
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Don Beattie

Tom Fenwick

Peter Bevin

14 An Act to make Provision for the Construction, Maintenance, and Management of Works for the Storage and Supply of Water for the purposes of Irrigation, and for other purposes.
[ASSENTED TO 18TH OCTOBER, 1922.]

15 "Commissioner"—The Commissioner of Irrigation appointed under this Act :

Best Contact Details. **Entered by** **DATE**/...../.....

And if not a WRRRA member, just a few words please on your past association with IWSC and/or its many successors:-

.....

.....



DOWN	CLUE
1	One of three distribution systems in the Bundaberg scheme. Has a Balancing Storage by the same name, starts with the letter G. http://waterysauces.org.au/history/design/pullarbook/irrigation.pdf (P 238)
2	The number of the year we are in, following on from passage of <i>Irrigation Act of 1922</i> . https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hundredth
3	The surname of the first Irrigation Commissioner appointed under the <i>Irrigation Act of 1922</i> . Also the name of a medium sized ground-dwelling bird http://waterysauces.org.au/history/commencement/pullarbook/iws.pdf (P 17)
4	The name of the irrigation scheme served by two dams, one of which is Paradise. Some would even go as far as to say it could be a good name for a rum. https://www.bundabergrum.com.au/
5	First part of a hyphenated scheme name. Once supported the tobacco industry on a Tableland in Far North Qld. Aboriginal name of first part translated means ‘meeting of the waters’ http://waterysauces.org.au/history/commencement/pullarbook/iws.pdf (P 27)
6	The initials of the government department which is one of our valued Co-Patrons. https://www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/
7	The name of a large river in North Queensland. Also in the name of a dam built on the same river. https://www.sunwater.com.au/dams/burdekin-falls-dam/
8	Named after a North Qld sugar mill built in 1884. And along with two others, this one rolls off the tongue last when early Burdekin irrigation developments are talked about. http://waterysauces.org.au/history/administration/pullarbook/administration.pdf (P291)
ACROSS	CLUE
9	The name of a large dam in CQ whose lake has an Aboriginal name which when translated means ‘where the black ducks fly’. It is also the name of a former RAAF base. http://waterysauces.org.au/history/construction/pullarbook/construction.pdf (P 213)
10	The name of a road at Ayr where we once had an office. It’s also how you can end up if you spin around too quickly. http://waterysauces.org.au/history/design/pullarbook/irrigation.pdf (P 250)
11	Second part of the hyphenated name of a scheme which once supported the tobacco industry in Far North Qld. An Aboriginal name whose second part when translated means ‘long waterhole’.
12	‘The town that water built’. The IWSC-built town named after Premier ‘Red Ted’ http://waterysauces.org.au/history/commencement/pullarbook/iws.pdf (P 19)
13	One of our successors - a Government Owned Corporation. Valued Co-Patron of WRRRA. https://www.sunwater.com.au/
14	Name of a dam whose impoundment is Lake Kajarabie. https://www.sunwater.com.au/dams/beardmore-dam/
15	A geological feature within which often lies a good site for a dam. One such feature exists on the Dawson River at the site where Governor Nathan first visited with Premier ‘Red Ted’ in 1922. http://waterysauces.org.au/history/commencement/pullarbook/iws.pdf (P 20)
16	Surname of a past Commissioner with an MBE and after whom a dam near Gin Gin was named. http://waterysauces.org.au/history/consolidation/pullarbook/fbh.pdf (P 41)

- Should I keep water up to ‘the grapevine’?

That would certainly help. Even at this stage, we are keen to keep ‘the grapevine’ growing. There could still be any number of colleagues who you know of (retired or still working) and who you may not have seen for years, and who could be blissfully unaware that we as a community are all getting together around the state, who could be left with some regrets for having not been aware of the reunions.

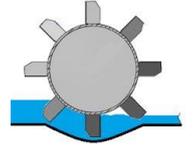
As we have been a little late off the mark due to Covid, we are in somewhat of a catch-up mode, so for anyone you know of who may not yet be ‘in-the-know’, there is one simple message – **THE REUNIONS ARE NOT TO BE MISSED!**

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: We are honoured by Editor Ian’s gesture of appointing us as Honorary Editors of this Special Edition. We have sought to produce something to capture this special anniversary - something light, coupled with just a touch of history and a little nostalgia. The task has been made easy through access to the most valuable record available about our community - Ian and his daughter Dr Margaret Cook’s ‘*Watery Sauces – A Peoples History of the Water Resources Commission and its Predecessors 1881 – 1995*’ www.waterysauces.org.au/navigation/history.htm Without it, we would not have known where to start. We have also been able to source graphics and so forth from other sources (eg Trove digitised newspapers; Qld Govt websites; Pughs Almanacs [1859 to 1927]). So Ian, we sincerely thank you for this opportunity and to all your loyal readers, we sincerely hope that there is some fun as well as some light reading here for you. But better still, we hope to catch up with you at one of the reunions.

Bruce Pearce and Gary Corbett

WRRRA - THE SOCIAL SIDE OF 'WATER'

One 'Water' Body - Two 'Water' Arms
(cradling 'Our IWS Community')



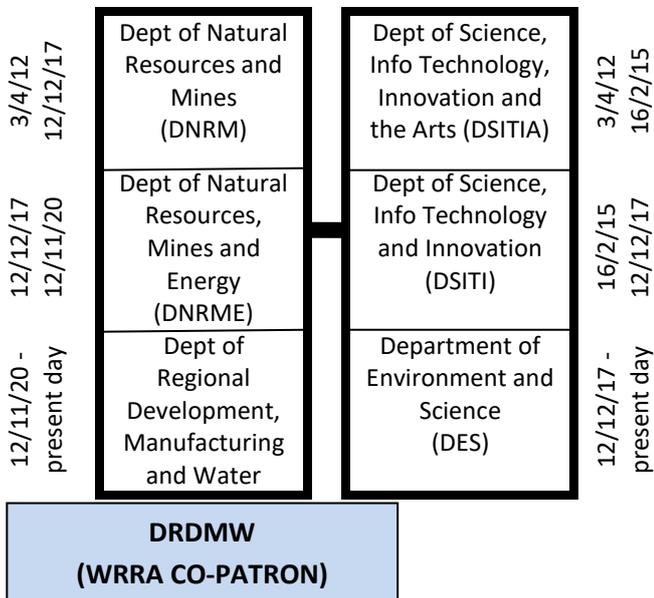
'WATER DEPARTMENTS' ARM

Before 1881, 'Water' was in the **Harbours & Rivers Dept** (Treasury - Waterworks Branch – EIC Consulting Engineer John Baillie Henderson)

18/10/1881 **Hydraulic Engineer's Dept** (later WS Dept)
to (1st Hydraulic Engineer John Baillie Henderson)
18/10/1922 A Dept under the wing of the Colonial Treasurer
Irrigation Act of 1922

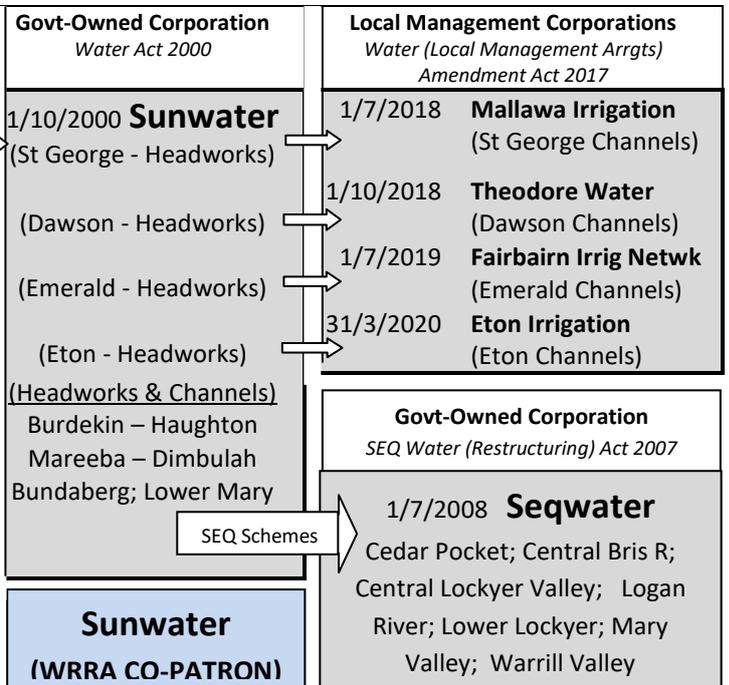
18/10/1922	15/2/1932	Irrig & Water Supply Comm
15/2/1932	1/8/1947	IWS sub-Dept (of Lands Dept)
<i>Irrigation and Water Supply Commission Act of 1946</i>		
1/8/1947	12/3/1979	Irrig & Water Supply Comm
12/3/1979	31/12/1992	Qld Water Res Comm (QWRC)
31/12/1992	26/2/1996	Water Resources Comm (WRC)
1/7/1997	1/10/2000	State Water Projects (DNR) Corporatisation
26/2/1996	22/2/2001	Dept of Natural Resources (DNR)
22/2/2001	12/2/2004	Dept of Natural Resources & Mines (DNRM)
12/2/2004	25/8/2004	Dept of Natural Resources, Mines & Energy (DNRME)
25/8/2004	2/2/2006	Dept of Natural Resources & Mines (DNRM)
2/2/2006	13/9/2006	Dept of Natural Resources, Mines & Water (DNRMW)
13/9/2006	26/3/2009	Dept of Natural Resources & Water (DNRW)
26/3/2009	3/4/2012	Dept of Environment & Resource Mgt (DERM)

Machinery of Government (MOG) Changes wrt 'WATER' (2012)

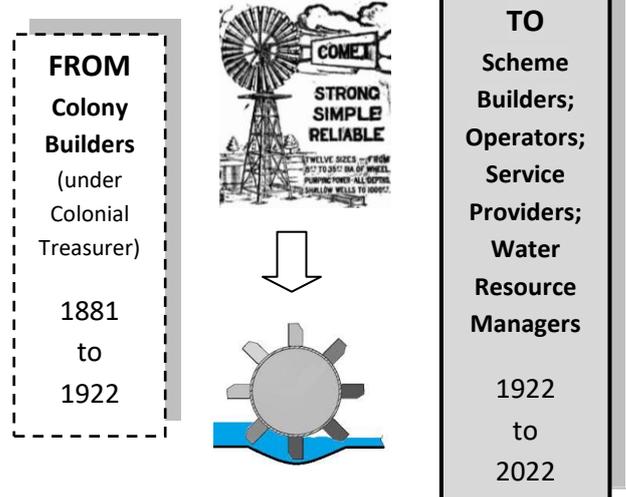


WRRRA GETS INTO THE ACT. The WRRRA was formed in 1985 and is a 'Small Incorporated Association' (*under Assoc Incorporation Act 1981*).

'WATER CORPORATIONS' ARM



GROWTH OF OUR IWS COMMUNITY



The pre-1922 IWS LANDSCAPE

HYDRAULIC ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

Hydraulic Engineer : J. B. Henderson, M. Inst. C.E., and Mem. Inst. Mech. Eng. Accountant : F. C. Lea. Correspondence Clerk : E. Irving Dickson. Clerk : W. Hamilton. Junior Clerk : W. M. Bryce. Draftsmen : F. Weber. Overseer in charge of American Boring Machinery : J. D. Arnold. Overseers of Districts : W. M. Mackinnon, J. Hargreaves, and J. M. Haig. Overseer of Boring : William Carter. Surveyor : F. G. Renon. Overseer in charge Steam Scoops : J. Ball, and D. Raby. Clerk Western District : James Orr.

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GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

DESTRUCTION OF RABBITS.

Superintendent Rabbit Proof Fence : A. Donaldson. [redacted] -Head Office : W. O'Shea. Overseers : A. A. Kemmis, R. A. Smith, and J. S. Avery. Ten line repairers and three Government rabbiters.

IRRIGATION.

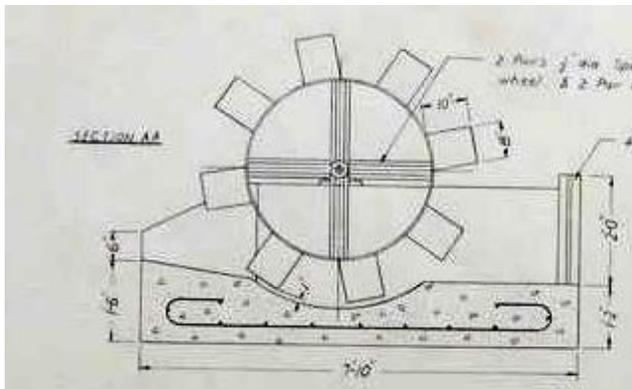
Engineers : R. A. Rigby, A.M.I.C.E., and W. L. MacKinnon, A.M.I.C.E.

FOREST NURSERIES.

Frazer's Island : Nurseryman, A. Mitchell.

NATIVE BIRDS PROTECTION.

Ranger of Reserve, Parish Boonara : G. H. Jones.



WATER SUPPLY BRANCH.

Hydraulic Engineer—J. B. Henderson, M.I.C.E., M. Am. Soc. Engrs, evs.
 Engineer—J. Hargreaves, M. Soc., Engrs., London.
 Assistant Engineers—P. C. Tibbits, and H. E. A. Eklund.
 Engineering Surveyor—C. E. Deshon, L.S.M., Soc., Engrs., London.
 Engineering Surveyors and Stream Gaugers—A. Morrison, B. E., and G. N. Croker.
 Steam Gauge Compiler, Computer, Engr. in charge of Local Govt. proposals, Etc.—R. M. Gale.

WATER SUPPLY BRANCH.

Hydraulic Engineer—John Hargreaves, M. Soc., Engrs., London.
 Engineer—C. E. Deshon, M. Soc., Engrs., London, M.Q.I.S., L.S.
 Assistant Engineers—P. C. Tibbits, M.Q.I.E., B. E. Shaw, M.Q.I.E., R. M. Gale, M.I.C.E.
 Chief Clerk—George Chapman.
 District Engineers—A. E. Carter, F. W. Hemmy (acting).
 Mechanical Engineer—C. Douglas. Assistant Mechanical Engineer—C. Fairley.
 Inkerman Irrigation Scheme—Executive Engineer : H. Eklund, M.Q.I.E.
 Surveyors : R. Graff, H. H. Lauder, O. H. V. Browne, J. S. Tolley Electrical Engineer : J. P. Szalla. Draftsman : W. C. R. Brown.
 Structural Draftsman and General Engineering Assistant—W. W. Bond, A.M.I.C.E.
 Hydraulic Surveyors, Bore Drain Surveyors, and Levellers—J. B. Fidler, A. W. Conroy, G. D. Brown.
 Engineering Surveyors and Steam Gaugers—F. J. Calvert, B.E., M.Q.I.E., R. H. Rattray.
 Draftsmen—F. Weber, E. R. Taylor, W. H. Patterson, F. J. Patterson.
 Inspectors of Works—G. Irons, A. Lamb.

Late 1800's

Qld – Hydraulic Engineer's Department

This Department was set up by the states first Hydraulic Engineer **JB Henderson**, following his appointment in 1883. In the late 1880's, Henderson commissioned the Department of Public Lands to undertake the very first investigations into the potential for irrigation development across Qld. That department was responsible for progressing a broad portfolio of initiatives for our developing young colony, one of which was 'Irrigation'. Progression of this initiative rested solely with civil engineers **Rigby and MacKinnon**. These two are possibly amongst the earliest pioneers of our irrigation community in Queensland.

Early 1900's

Victoria - State Water Supply Commission

Engineer **John Stewart Dethridge** (Victorian Commissioner) designed the revolutionary Dethridge Meter Wheel in 1910.

The wheel was the first ever implement to measure water supplied from state-owned irrigation channels to on-farm subsidiaries. Volume was metered relative to number of wheel rotations. First used in the Murray / Murrumbidgee area in NSW/Vic & not long after in the Dawson in Queensland.

Qld – Water Supply Department

By 1913, Swedish-born and NSW-qualified engineer **Hugo Eklund** had been engaged by Hydraulic Engineer John Baillie Henderson as an Assistant Engineer in the Water Supply Dept., a branch within the Treasury Dept. In Nov 1916, Eklund was appointed as an Executive Engineer in charge of developing the Inkerman Irrigation Scheme, and served under Hydraulic Engineer **John Hargreaves**. In Feb 1920, Eklund became the states' 3rd Hydraulic Engineer, filling the position vacated by Hargreaves. His widely publicised December 1920 bulletin dealing with irrigation activities during 1919 / 1920 (page 13) is reported as foreshadowing the eventual passage of the *Irrigation Act of 1922*. However, by April 1921, Eklund had been appointed manager of Walter Humes' pipe factory at Loveday in South Australia, turning out the revolutionary new centrifugally-spun concrete pipes to serve the reticulation side of the 9000 acre Loveday Irrigation Scheme.

Qld – Irrigation Commission

On 18 October 1922, the *Irrigation Act of 1922* received assent and the very next day, **Archibald Frederick Partridge** was appointed Queensland's first Irrigation Commissioner.

TRIVIA

Q. Which of our early Irrigation Engineers left his own signature 'watermark' above the high banks of the Brisbane River?

A. Hugo Eklund. By the late 1920's, ex-departmental Hydraulic Engineer Hugo Eklund had returned to Queensland to manage Humes Pipes factory at West End in Brisbane. Under his watchful eye, Hugo's staff centrifugally cast all of the 'concrete-bowling-pin' balusters within the handrail panels of the now heritage-listed William Jolly Bridge. It was to be quite a family effort as Hugo had also engaged his artistic daughter Karma to design and fabricate the moulds for the bridges' grotesques.

Irrigation Works for Queensland.

The following is a digest of the reports "on irrigation and conservation of water in this district by Mr. A. Rigby, C.E."

LOGAN AND ALBERT DISTRICT.

In making an examination of this district I have endeavored to meet with suitable localities for the storage of water in the valleys adjoining the highest reaches of the two rivers, and by taking advantage of the natural fall of the country to conduct the water from such reservoirs by canals or otherwise on the irrigable areas of land situated lower down. It is possible that by accurate survey such suitable sites for reservoirs may be found, but there are objections to them, principally on account of their liability to damage by the heavy floods to which this district is liable, and the

1890 – LOGAN WITNESS
A. Rigby (Irrigation Engineer
– Dept of Public Lands)

BOARD OF TRADE AND ARBITRATION.

Before Mr. President Webb, Messrs. W. N. Gillies, and W. E. J. Dunstan.

IRRIGATION COMMISSIONER'S EMPLOYEES.

An application for an award for the employees of the Commissioner for Irrigation came up for hearing.

Mr. H. Bond appeared for the Professional Officers' Association; Mr. G. Chairman the Commissioner for Irrigation; Mr. L. J. Feenaghy (assistant secretary, Main Roads Board), the Main Roads Board; Mr. W. E. Sampson the Australian Union of Architects, Engineers, and Surveyors; and Mr. P. K. Copley the State Service Union.

Mr. Bond announced that a series of conferences had taken place between the

1926 – BRISBANE COURIER
G. Chapman (Chief Clerk, IWSC)

DEPARTMENT OF IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY, QUEENSLAND.

SUB-BORES—URANDANGIE-DAJARRA STOCK ROUTES.

TENDERS addressed to the Secretary, Department of Irrigation and Water Supply, Executive Building, George Street, Brisbane, and closing at noon on the 15th January, 1945, are invited for the sinking, casing, and testing of one 300 ft sub bore each at Job No. 308 "Harewood," Job No. 307 "Oban," and Job No. 1020 "Cookswell."

Specifications may be inspected or purchased for £1/1/- each at the Office of the Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply, Brisbane, or inspected at the Office of Clerks of Petty Sessions, Cloncurry and Hughenden, the District Engineer, Winton, and the Shire Clerk, Boulia.

A preliminary deposit of 1 per cent to accompany each tender. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

D. F. ERICKSON,
Authorised Officer of the Commissioner for Irrigation and Water Supply,
Executive Building, Brisbane,
7th December, 1944.

1944 – CENTRAL QUEENSLAND HERALD
D. Erickson (Authorised Officer of Commissioner of IWS)

SOME EARLY IWS PRESS

WORKS COMPLETE.

WARWICK WATER SUPPLY.

CONTROL HANDED TO COUNCIL.

WARWICK, January 31.

For some time, ever since the sale of buildings and plant on the job at Silverwood, it was known that at any time the Irrigation Commissioner, in whose hands the construction of the new water supply scheme for Warwick has been, would decide to hand over the works to the Town Council. Yesterday, Mr. A. F. Partridge (Commissioner), Mr. C. E. Deshon (engineer), and Mr. J. Grant Thompson (secretary to the Commissioner) arrived from Brisbane. They called upon the Town Clerk, and later, in company with Mr. Shaw (supervising engineer), and Aldermen Sterne and Aliman, motored out to the dam. The officials made a close inspection of the scheme, and the Commissioner assured himself that everything was entirely satisfactory. At the meter house it was noted that the town consumption was running at about 143,000 gallons per day, though on Tuesday it went up to 156,000. The indicator showed that

1929 – BRISBANE COURIER
A. Partridge (Commissioner);
C. Deshon (Engineer); J. Grant-Thompson (Secretary) IWS

IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY

Sixty-six Projects in Hand

Employment for 622 Men

Report of Engineer

The report of the Engineer-in-Charge of the Sub-Department of Irrigation and Water Supply (C. E. Parkinson) to the Minister for Lands shows that the Department's activities during the month of October had been instrumental in giving direct employment to 622 men and helping many local authorities to provide amenities and production facilities to communities in many parts of the State.

1936 – THE WORKER
C. Parkinson (Engineer-in-Charge IWS sub-Dept., Lands Dept)

APPOINTMENTS.

QUEENSLAND STATE PUBLIC SERVICE SUPERVISING DRAFTSMAN, SENIOR DRAFTSMEN, DEPARTMENT OF IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY.

APPLICATIONS are invited from qualified persons for appointment to the following positions in the Department of Irrigation and Water Supply:—**SUPERVISING DRAFTSMAN, IRRIGATION AND RURAL WATER SUPPLY**, with Classification Minimum £650, Maximum £775; and **SENIOR DRAFTSMEN**, with Classification Minimum £600, Maximum £715.

The minimum and maximum salaries quoted are inclusive of present basic wage adjustments and subject to any further such adjustments and to any general variation in Public Service salary rates. Salary in excess of the minimum may be paid according to the qualifications and experience of the appointee.

QUALIFICATIONS: Sound knowledge of modern drawing practice; extensive experience in engineering drafting and drawing office practice; ability to carry out routine investigations and designs, and prepare engineering drawings, graphs, maps, survey plans, etc., for irrigation and water supply projects.

Applications should contain particulars of full name, age, and full details of qualifications and experience, and should be addressed—The Secretary, Public Service Commissioner's Department, Box 488H, G.P.O., Brisbane, from whom any further information required may be obtained.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE—27/1/50.

1950 – SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
Irrigation Draftsmen (Positions Vacant) Queensland Dept of IWS

IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION, QUEENSLAND "CASHMERE" JOB No. 549

Endorsed tenders addressed to the Secretary, Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, Executive Building, George Street, Brisbane, and closing at noon on the 28th February, 1949, are invited for the supply, delivery, and erection of Windmill, Pumping Equipment, G.I. Tanks and Troughing at the above bore, situated about 33 miles from St. George on the St. George-Mitchell Stock Route.

Specifications may be inspected or purchased for £1/1/- each at the office of the Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply, Brisbane, or inspected at the offices of the Balonne Shire Council, St. George, the Clerk of Petty Sessions, Toowoomba, and the District Engineer, Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, St. George.

A preliminary deposit of 1 per cent is to accompany each tender. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

H. BUCKLE,
Secretary to the Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply,
Executive Building, Brisbane,
23rd December, 1948.

1949 – THE WORKER
H. Buckle (Secretary IWSC)

Efficient Water Use CONSERVATION ON FARMS Points in Dam Construction

MAN could not influence to any significant degree the main factors in the hydrologic cycle of water, but he could use available water more efficiently, said Mr. G. E. McDowell, Senior Irrigation Engineer of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, in an address to Queensland branch of the Australian Society of Animal Production.

The hydrologic cycle covered the operation in which water was evaporated from the ocean, precipitated over land, and then returned to the ocean by evaporation—rain-falls—or by direct flow on the surface or underground.

The Queensland Government removed by adding certain material was very much common chemicals. After dealing with the making the utmost use of local sources of a water the State's water resources, supply, Mr. McDowell said and was proceeding with many farms had an area where the slope down the

1954 – QLD COUNTRY LIFE
G. McDowell (Senior Irrigation Engineer, IWSC)

IRRIGATION.

POSSIBILITIES IN QUEENSLAND.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION FORESHADOWED.

The Hydraulic Engineer (Mr. H. Eklund) has prepared a bulletin dealing with irrigation activities during 1919-20. It was made available yesterday by the Treasurer (Mr. Fihelly). Mr. Eklund says that, as an insurance against drought, there was scope in certain coastal areas for small proposals for watering up to 10,000 acres, but the national policy appeared to lie in inland settlement, where the land was still unalienated from the Crown, and the scientific use of water could produce living conditions equalling, and, perhaps surpassing, those provided by nature in the coastal regions. Irrigation in certain localities, from which residents engaged in pastoral pursuits could hope to obtain fodder at reasonable cost in times of drought to save their stock, should be an important consideration.

After dealing with the inception of the Inkerman irrigation scheme, he states that the cost of machinery and labour had gone up greatly since the works were commenced, and, owing to the war, much delay occurred in obtaining machinery. This, however, would be discounted by the increased price of sugar, and though those interested might, in the early stages, suffer some hardship through the cost of the scheme exceeding the estimate, after a few years of systematic and intelligent irrigation the results obtained would undoubtedly cause surprise. Irrigation proposals to a certain extent were long distance events, and could not be expected to pay at once; therefore such works should come under a special Act, and before any scheme of a national character was instituted an irrigation Act, on similar lines to those of New South Wales and Victoria, was advisable. Such a Bill was now being drafted. Stream-gauging was the foundation of all irrigation work, and any engineer undertaking water conservation work in Queensland would be seriously handicapped, because stream-gauging did not commence till 1909, when it should have been the first work to which a water supply department turned its attention. The only remedy was to get as many gauging stations as were likely to be required ready for duty at short notice, and steps were now being taken to push on with the work. At present there were 50 stations, and all were attended to by local gauge-readers, and fairly full information was now available for at least a few years on some of the principal streams. The bulletin then examines various irrigation schemes.

INKERMAN.

The first report on the scheme recommended, among other things, that the supply should be investigated by test wells, and four test wells were put down towards the end of 1915 and the beginning of 1916. The tests having demonstrated that ample water existed, the rate of pumping being approximately 1000 gallons per minute for 14 days, a further report and estimate was obtained in 1916, when, on then ruling prices, the scheme was estimated to cost £131,000. The scheme provided for a central

should not take long. The area included in the operations of the scheme at present was in the neighbourhood of 22,000 acres. All this land had been taken up, and much of it was under cultivation. Future extensions were possible up to probably 50,000 acres on the southern side of the river, and, if necessary, the scheme could be further extended to benefit the northern side. About 170 farms were at present included, their areas ranging from 80 to over 300 acres. The amount expended to date was £130,000.

MOUNT EDWARDS.

This scheme, though small, was a very sound one. The natural storage was good, as was also the take-off. The irrigable areas adjoined a railway within easy access of the Brisbane markets, and a preliminary estimate of the cost of the works came out at £175,000—£30 an acre for 6000 acres. The distribution of water by gravitation presented no serious engineering difficulties, although the fall was such that the canals would require numerous drops to obtain a safe velocity. There would appear to be very little danger of serious seepage losses in the canals, and by small pumping plants the farmers had already proved the suitability of the soil for irrigation.

THREE MOON CREEK.

A dam 110ft. high would impound 49,000 acre feet, and submerge 1400 acres, so the catchment was 146 square miles. No reliable information as to the average annual run off was as yet available, but 20,000 acre feet was an approximation. The depth of foundation would increase the cost of the dam to such an extent that a concrete structure was estimated to cost £1,200,000. Canals and structures were estimated to cost £95,000. Owing to the uncertainty regarding run off only 5000 acres would be safely irrigated, thus bringing the cost of the works to £86 per acre.

GONDAMINE RIVER.

The Killarney dam site catchment was 30 square miles, and a dam 50ft. high would impound 6000 acre feet, sufficient to irrigate 2000 acres of the rich river flats adjacent to Killarney. This was only a small scheme, and promised well till the foundations were tested and found unsuitable. Another site 5½ miles above Killarney had solid rock foundations, but would hold only 3000 acre feet, and cost £101,000. Only 1000 acres could be watered, and, therefore, this proposal was financially unsound. The Elbow Valley dam site had a catchment of 125 square miles. A dam 60ft. high would impound 66,500 acre feet, and submerge 3000 acres of freehold land, approximately 800 to 1000 acres river flats of good quality, the remainder ridgy grazing land. A basalt rock dyke formed the foundation, which a gang was now employed in testing, the work to date proving it to be so shattered and disturbed that one of the Government geologists was being requested to visit and determine if anything solid could be expected at greater depth than the excavations had reached. Until the foundation question was settled, an estimate of cost for this proposal could not be supplied. With regard to a proposal for a series of weirs between Dalby and St. George, estimated to conserve sufficient water to irrigate 50,000 acres, the survey had been carried down the river to Kurrowah station, between the Milmerran branch railway line and Dalby.

SEVERN RIVER.

This stream formed the boundary between New South Wales and Queensland. A dam site had been surveyed at Mingoola, 39 miles from Tennerfield. The total catchment area above the dam site was 1970 square miles. A dam 100ft. high would impound 200,000 acre feet, and one of 110ft. in height 330,000 acre feet, which would irrigate 100,000 acres, and supply 50,000 acre feet for the holders of riparian rights. A joint inspection of the irrigable areas was made last month by officers for New South Wales and Queensland. Sufficient areas of suitable land were found on the Queensland side, reasonably accessible to the Warwick-Durrumbidgee railway line, to justify the statement that, if an economical type of dam could be selected which would enable construction to be effected at a cost which was not excessive, the proposal was undoubtedly a good one.

DAWSON RIVER.

A survey was commenced in May last on this scheme, the largest proposal in Queensland to date. Two survey parties were engaged, one above and the other below the dam site, situated 30 miles below Taroom by road, and approximately 50 miles following the river. The catchment area above the dam site was 9000 square miles, and an average annual run off of 300,000 acre feet appeared to be assured. This would be sufficient to irrigate 100,000 acres. The irrigable areas commenced at Delusion Creek, about 25 miles below the dam site. Water for irrigation purposes would

be passed down the river, and probably diverted at a point above Delusion Creek. A flying inspection was made of the irrigable areas along the right bank of the Dawson River, as far down as Harcourt station, a distance of 9½ miles by river, and soil samples were taken and analysed by the agricultural chemist. It was estimated that 90,000 acres were available on this side, and a nearly equal area on the other. The analyses were very satisfactory. The survey of the irrigable areas was not sufficiently advanced to say whether irrigation should be confined to one side, or if it would be better to concentrate on the lands nearest to the existing railway at Baralaba. The following points, however, had been determined: (1) the dam site was favourable if foundations proved satisfactory, and if sufficient storage could be obtained without going to an unnecessary height; (2) the submerged land was leasehold, and the larger proportion of it was of poor quality; (3) the river flats were very even, with sufficient fall for flooding efficiently, whilst the grading of the land, which at present was alienated, would not be expensive.

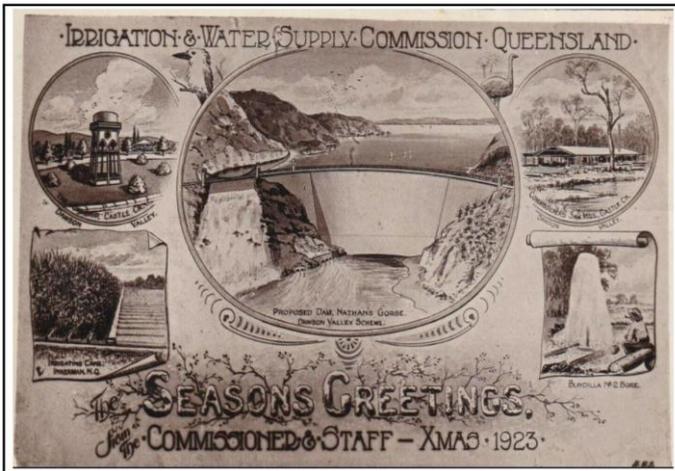
CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, Mr. Eklund points out that, at present, there is no adequate legal machinery for irrigation proposals unless settlers are willing to pay the costs. He quotes remarks made by Dr. Elwood Mead after his return to the United States from Victoria, the following being an extract:—"The absence of adequate financial help for settlers during the first five years is the main cause for the stagnation in irrigation development in the United States. One only needs to put himself in the place of the settler to realise what a costly and serious venture it is to attempt to transform unimproved land into an irrigated farm, and how much danger there is to the man of small capital that the attempt will prove a disaster. Before the settler can have any return from his land, a house must be built, ditches dug, land cleared and graded, seed sown, and the somewhat difficult art of irrigation mastered under untried conditions. While this is being done there is no income. His scanty capital is being swallowed up in living expenses. Often there is much hardship for himself and his family. Many a poor settler's wife has aged 10 years in 10 months."

1920 - BRISBANE COURIER Hugo Eklund (Hydraulic Engineer, Water Supply Department) FORESHADOWING of IRRIG ACT of 1922

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20467248/1607302>

SOME EARLY IWS PHOTOS



Christmas Day 1923 – Castle Ck

‘Seasons Greetings’ to his Irrigation Settlers from the ‘Mayor’ of the then Township of Castle Creek (1st Irrigation Commissioner Archibald Frederick Partridge):-

LHS – The Township of Castle Creek;

- Irrigating Cane (Inkerman NQ);

CENTRE – Proposed Dam (Nathan Gorge);

RHS – Commissioners Sawmill (Castle Ck);

- Bundilla #2 Bore (Thargomindah)



Australia Day 1953 – Queen St

Sign on the side of the truck reads as follows:-

TODAY 23 Government weirs store 9,000 Million Gallons (34,000 ML)

WORKS IN HAND will add 94,000 Million Gallons (356,000 ML)

(Photos of a number of weirs are also proudly on show)

Opening Day 1959

Tinaroo Falls Dam – Barron R

116,000 Million Gallons (438,000 ML)

This is possibly the only Opening Day / Commemorative Plaque in Queensland which has recorded the names of a past; a present; and a future **Irrigation Commissioner** at any one time – reads as follows:-

1953 - 1959

Commissioners of Irrigation and Water Supply

WHR Nimmo and **FB Haigh**

Assistant Commissioners of Irrigation and Water Supply

WH Hiley and H Buckle

Chief Design Engineer

NJ Butler

Resident Engineer

FM Learmonth

