



SORCERY WATERS OLÉS AND BOLÉS

NEWSLETTER NO.8
POST OLYMPIC EDITION

OCTOBER 1992

I hope you like the new Newsletter format. Thanks to Leanne White for the Art Work. Contributions are still being sought for future editions, particularly from country members.

RETIREMENTS

Only one retirement is reported since June, that of Jim Ole who is now one of our members.

REST IN PEACE

Ken Carmichael passed away in mid July after a long illness. He is survived by Mrs Carmichael and daughters Miss Jenny Carmichael and Mrs Helen Woolcock.

Ken was born in Warwick in 1906. Much of his education was at Toowoomba Grammar School where he was Dux of the school in 1925, Senior Prefect 1924-25 and obtained an open scholarship to the University of Queensland.

He graduated with first class honours in Civil Engineering in 1930.

Ken was an outstanding athlete and sportsman. He represented Queensland against New South Wales in Rugby Union in 1930.

From 1941 to 1946 he served with the **AIF** rising to the rank of Major in the **Royal Australian Engineers** and saw extensive service in Australia and New Guinea.

In civilian life Ken worked with **M.R. Hornibrook Pty Ltd** and **Toowoomba Foundry Pty Ltd** before joining the Farm Water Supplies section of the (then) **Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission** of NSW (1950-1955) and then as Senior and Chief Engineer in the River and Streams Branch of the **Irrigation and Water Supply Commission** (1956-1971).

His work with I&WSC saw the Rivers and Stream branch greatly increase the volume and quality of work to provide assistance to develop and utilise on-farm water supplies. At the same time the branch oversaw major increases in the number and scope of River Improvement Trusts.

After his retirement from I&WSC in August 1971, Ken served five years as Chairman of the **Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission**. It was during this period that Glenlyon Dam was completed.

Ken also provided consultancy services to Ullman and Nolan Consulting Engineers in the area of river improvement.

The Water Research Foundation was another organisation to benefit from Ken's knowledge, experience and energy. He was a foundation member on its formation in 1955 and in 1976 was honoured with Honorary Life Fellowship.

Ken Carmichael made a notable contribution to the development and management of water resources in Queensland and New South Wales. He set high standards of competency, industry and integrity for his staff, but the standards he set for himself, and achieved, were much higher.

During his long career and during his illness Ken was greatly encouraged and helped by the unobtrusive support of his beloved wife Freda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Barbour, Headmaster of Toowoomba Grammar.

Adolfs Anzons died in May at Townsville. When he told us of Adolfs' death, Cec Christensen began his letter with "Many of our retired officers knew, worked with and respected, a thorough gentleman, namely Adolfs Anzons".

I knew Adolfs at Clare in 1952-53 and fully agree with Cec's words. Adolfs later worked on the Mareeba-Dimbulah project.

Many will remember this Latvian with the goatee beard who made the cutting and bending of reinforcing steel an art form. It was rumoured that Adolfs taught civil engineering before fleeing his homeland. His ability to transform complex drawings to neat bundles of steel tended to confirm that rumour. (Thanks Cec Christensen)

Alban (Alan) Sticklen died on 20th July aged 69. Alan and his wife were to attend the Bundaberg/Brisbane reunion on 18th July but were late withdrawals.

Alan was born in Laidley, he served in the A.I.F. and after the war joined the C.I.B. in Toowoomba before going into the Bellevue Hotel at Childers. He later worked with the Isis Shire Council before joining the Commission as a foreman in the Bundaberg Irrigation Area in 1972. He retired at Bundaberg in 1988.

Our sympathy is extended to Alan's family. (Thanks Roy Maxted)

The death occurred on 13th October in Cairns, after a long illness, of Henry Hannam.

Henry was born in Cairns in 1911 to a family with extensive engineering connections. His father Willoughby (Arthur) and grandfather, also Willoughby, were closely associated with railway surveys and construction in central and northern Queensland. The present Kuranda line route was recommended by grandfather Willoughby. It was only natural that Henry followed them into this profession.

He was educated at All Souls School in Charters Towers where he became School Captain. He then obtained a cadetship with the Main Roads Department in Townsville. During his time he was involved in surveys and construction on many roads and bridges including the road to Mt Spee and the Cook Highway. During this time he obtained his engineering qualifications.

In 1935 Henry married Lottie May Nell who survives him with daughter Rae and sons Arthur and Richard.

Henry worked on the Kuranda Range Road construction from the beginning before entering the Army School of Engineering at Liverpool, N.S.W in 1941. He served in the 11th Field Company Royal Australian Engineers with the rank of lieutenant. He was badly wounded by an enemy shell in New Guinea and returned to Australia.

After the war Henry returned to the Main Roads at Townsville, Cairns and Barcaldine before becoming Shire Engineer with the Eacham Shire. He also worked with the Gatton and Pioneer Shires before joining the old Irrigation Commission as its District Engineer at Mareeba in 1955.

Henry had responsibility for most of the irrigation works, investigation, design and construction in the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area and with subsequent management of the area until his retirement in 1976.

At the community level Henry provided active leadership and support to Rotary, Legacy, RSL and the Queensland Cancer Council.

During his service at Mareeba, Henry was respected for the consultative nature of his management style and his willingness to delegate responsibility. But at all times he knew what was going on.

However, in the minds of the many officers and their wives who served at Mareeba, their strongest memories are of the ways in which Henry and Lottie warmly welcomed them to the area, helped them settle into the community and provided advice and assistance when needed.

Their kindness and consideration to many Commission people over more than 20 years will long be remembered with gratitude and affection.

We extend our sympathy to Lottie, Rae, Arthur and Richard.

(Thanks to Jack Pont for the material used in the above).

Our condolences are also extended to **Maureen McMahon** whose mother died in August.

REMINISCENCES

A couple of months ago I saw **Harry Rowland** at Hervey Bay. Harry and his wife still enjoy reasonable health and live at Torquay.

Harry retired from the old Groundwater Branch in 1973 after having served with the Commission at St George, Roma and Head Office. Harry's working life also included stints at school teaching, diamond drilling at Mt Isa and artesian drilling in the Charleville district.

Harry still sees **Hughie Vallance** who also retired to Hervey Bay. Hughie is also reported to be in good health. Many of our members, particularly those in the country will remember the courteous and speedy help that Hughie would give them from the old Mechanical Branch in Brisbane. Nothing was a bother to him. Hughie retired in 1972.

Another old Mechanical Branch identity seen recently was **Les Rice**. Les was in charge of the motor vehicle repair and maintenance section at Rocklea. Les still lives at Camp Hill and is reasonably mobile thanks to hip operations. One of his retirement activities has included work for "Meals on Wheels".

Also seen at the Aspley Bowls Club was **Doug Taylor**, Works Accountant at Tinaroo in the mid 1950's. Doug now lives at Aspley and is a regular on the green.

RECOVERIES

Eye to Eye. **Bill Sharp** and **Dick Hurn** have had eye surgery. Bill is now able to see football teams additional to Brothers and St George. Dick's vision is also much better although it is still not quite as good as in his cattle droving days when he could follow the tracks of St Peter and the other Apostles through a thunder cloud.

Mike McEniery was at the recent "smoko" (oops "drinks and smokes function") and is looking well and sounding cheerful.

Ron Afflick has been laid low and has undergone surgery. We all hope he will be back on the golf course in a short time.

George Beran has been in Brisbane from Innes Park for his regular check up and is in good form.

Arthur Payne is making a good recovery at home after major surgery at Greenslopes Hospital in late September.

I also had a short stay in hospital in Townsville about the same time.

REQUESTS FOR HELP

Bill Kitson is setting up a Museum of Land Mapping and Surveying within the Lands Department at Woolloongabba. The Museum is interested in Hydrologic (Hydraulic?) Surveys of the Great Artesian Basin from 1880's to the 1940's. He is particularly seeking photographic material of Surveyors Camps, levelling parties, vehicles etc. Anybody who is able to help should contact Bill, Curator of Lands Mapping and Surveying Museum, PO Box 40, Woolloongabba Qld 4102, Phone (07) 896 3000.

REBUTTALS

The following notice appeared in the "Personal" column of the Courier Mail a couple of months ago:

"**Male**, uncouth, hairy, no dress sense, no ambition, loves garlic, snores like truck going downhill, once had pet dog but it died after fetching slippers, only interests are watching footy, listening to crows singing, and reading old job vacancies in bed ... desperately seeking stunning natural blonde 30-35 or redhead or brunette with bedroom eyes. No outings, with view to marriage. Must be willing to travel when the fridge gets low on grog. Own car or strong legs would help. Cooking, washing, ironing skills welcome. Status reviewed after qualifying period. Reply confidentiality tossed around for approval".

From the clues above, even a "Trident" sleuth would deduce that Stan James, Alan Vizer and Gordon Wilson could not have inserted the advertisement on tonsorial grounds but Barry Fawcett might be fingered.

Don Beattie has not had a dog for many years and I never did like dogs so we are cleared. Likewise Stan Ross because he does not watch TV (except for his "Jack High" sedative).

Investigations are continuing as they say.

REGIONAL NEWS

Mareeba

Keith Turner has kindly provided the following news from Mareeba. Thanks Keith.

"On 21st July, 30 Mareeba members and their wives met for lunch at the Dunlops Hotel in Mareeba to farewell Len and Kay Ritchings who have gone south to settle in Scarness. Two new members were signed up, Joe Willis and Bruno Schuman.

The ladies decided to have their own luncheon on September 17th at the Homestead Restaurant in Tolga, and as they had such a good time, the surroundings being so pleasant, and the food so scrumptious, it was decided to have the Christmas party there too. This has been booked for Thursday, December 3 at 7.00 p.m. It will be a full smorgasbord with hot and cold dishes and seafoods, soups, sweets and coffee/tea for \$25.00 per head.

Any member who cannot attend is asked to contact Keith Turner on (070) 921 485, at least a week beforehand.

Keith enclosed a group photograph of 30 happy Mareeba members".

Back to Bundaberg

Nearly 20 Brisbane members and wives drove to Bundaberg to join local Commission employees past and present for a reunion during the 18-19th July weekend.

The functions were organised by Roy and Iris Maxted and they did a fine job. Thanks Roy and Iris.

Highlights of the weekend began with after - work drinks with Bill Souter and his staff. Much of Saturday was taken up with a tour of the Irrigation Area and places of general interest and a barbeque at Fred Haigh Dam. On Saturday Night a dinner function for some 120 was held at the "Across the Waves" Club.

The visit was a great success and it is hoped that it is the forerunner of similar activities in the future.

A more detailed account of the visit will appear in the next issue of "Aqueduct".

ROSS REPORT

Executive Committee Notes

"Since the July Newsletter, your Executive has met on 2nd September and 30th September at Mineral House.

1. The successful "Bundaberg Reunion" has been written up elsewhere, but additionally we do have to report that 13 new members from that area have joined our Association.

2. Further to the proposal for an "Award for Excellence" similar to, or as a continuation of the Graham Jobling Award, we have had further contributions from members, and discussion with the Commission, etc. resulting in a decision to no longer pursue the proposal, for a number of reasons, e.g.:
- (a) The future of the Commission is uncertain, the boundaries between it and DPI appear to be diminishing, and we could be funding a DPI award.
 - (b) Our credit balance is the result of generous patronage from the Commission with considerable assistance with our correspondence and information circular type of costs. A change in this could see all our annual income being needed for current services to members.
 - (c) It is arguable that our Constitution permits us to fund such an Award, which is outside the stated objects of the Association. It has been suggested that any accumulation of funds should best be used for the benefit of needy members if such need arises.
 - (d) As the likely recruits to the Association, i.e. members of the "Old Commission" get scarcer, and current members reach "fully paid up" status, income could be tighter and we would be struggling to fund an award, etc.
 - (e) The Commission has recently indicated they may carry on the "Excellence" award anyway, so that should be taken care of without our assistance. Our proposal may have helped to bring this about.

Christmas Lunch

Please reserve **Thursday, 26 November** for our end of year lunch at the **Terrace House Restaurant** (next door to last year's venue), with drinks at 11.30 a.m. and sit down at 12 noon. Sorry if that is a bit early for you, but it should avoid the main rush. Preliminary details are:

1. Complimentary drink on arrival in garden area.
2. Three course meal (2 choices per course) plus coffee, etc.
3. Additional drinks at your own cost.
4. Cost is \$20.00 per person.

Please make a special effort to be there, and remember any guests are welcome. We would love to see a record attendance this year".

Our next Newsletter will contain "Bizet and Ballast" by Maurice Ochert. We did not have space this time. Sorry Maurice.

"There are two times in a man's life when he gets into bad company - when he is dead broke, and when he is rich". O. Henry

Cheers,

for carol a. Davison

Bernie Credlin
EDITOR