Watery Sauces Oldies and Boldies

Newsletter No 109 **November 2025**

NEWSLETTER OF THE WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2025

In this last Newsletter for 2025 I would like to reflect on the Association's activities over this year and our early planning for next year.

This year we have been active with three technical presentations, a visit to the Rocklea Hydraulics Laboratory, participation in Sunwater's National Water Week event, six social events (including supporting the regional get-togethers in Toowoomba and Yeppoon), running our Planning Forum, and of course our Annual General Meeting in April. Some of these were reported in our last Newsletter, 108, and the rest are reported in this Newsletter.

We plan the technical sessions as an opportunity to learn about some current and significant water-related projects and programs, many of which can be linked to work done in the past by members and associates and continue to be of interest. In a different way the social events are one of the key reasons the Association started in 1985 and continues to this day. I encourage all members to join in these events as they are one of the main benefits of being a member of the Association. The Committee is keen to see this benefit available for all our members including those in regional areas of the State and so will continue to provide financial support and promotion of regional gatherings.

From the Editor's Chair

Another bumper issue – the biggest ever – brimful of reports on WRRA events. Unfortunately, this will be the only way most members know anything about them .

It would be very interesting to know what members would like the Association to do that would attract greater attendance at events. And indeed what our focus should be. Obviously, our primary interest is preserving the camaraderie generated during out working lives , so social events need to continue. But what else would members like? We need to find out.

Until next time, au reservoir.

Ian Pullar, Editor

A key activity this year has been developing options about the future direction of the Association. Following the Planning Forum on 30 June, as reported in Newsletter #108, the working group established at the Forum has developed a draft paper with options for the future directions of the Association. This paper has been circulated to all Planning Forum attendees for their feedback before an updated draft is made available early in the new year for all members to provide feedback. If any members would also like to read and give early feedback on the working group's draft paper please contact our Secretary Rob Ayre (contact details on the last page of the Newsletter) and he will send you a copy.

One consideration in the development of the Association's future direction is the fact that participation in our events in recent years has generally been disappointing except at the regional get-togethers. Given we have some 210 members across the State, I encourage all members to try to come along to at least one if not two events each year and we would also support other regional get-togethers for members in places like Bundaberg and north Queensland.

Our planning for 2026 includes , mid-year and end of year lunches/socials, more regular casual Friday social lunches at the Indooroopilly Hotel, at least two technical sessions, support for at least two regional get togethers, our annual golf day, a visit to a regional area (current thinking is Bjelke Petersen Dam and Kingaroy/Murgon area given we had to postpone this the trip this year), a visit to North Stradbroke Island, a further Planning Forum in February, and of course our AGM in April. I am also in conversation with Seqwater about some events or visits they may be prepared to host. More details on the 2026 events will be provided early next year. If anyone has further suggestions for arranging social events and visits to places and organisations the Committee would be pleased to hear from you, through our Secretary Rob Ayre.

Continued on page 2 ...

I would also like to thank all the Committee members for their support and contributions to our events and activities over the year and the planning we have for next year. Our Patron Glenn Stockton CEO of Sunwater provided strong support and input for our events and operations which is much appreciated. Our other Patron was Linda Dobe as Director General of the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers until she retired in the middle of the year. We have made initial contact with the office of the newly appointed Director General Bronwyn Blagoev to arrange a meeting early in the new year.

I would like to make special mention of the decision at the Annual General Meeting in April to elect both Lee Rogers and Gary Corbett as Honorary Life Members for their significant contributions to the Association, as described in the previous Newsletter. For both, a well-earned recognition of their contributions to the Association.

In conclusion I wish all members, friends and their families a wonderful happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing many of you at our activities next year.

New Members

WRRA welcomes **Narelle Hibberd** as a member.
In her application for membership she wrote *From 1958 to 2000, I have lived at following locations as child and in my years as an adult.*
Started at Walkimin, Coolmunda, Callide, Buckinbah Weir, Kajarabie, Maroon Dam, Glebe Weir, back to Kajarabie, Gooburrum camp in Bundaberg. As a married person then to Gin Gin, back to Bundaberg then to a weir at Pittsworth back to Woongarra Camp Bundaberg, from there to Clare Weir.

We also welcome **Alma Jahnke.** Alma started work with QWRC in 1983 as a wages employee, transferring to the Public Service in 1991. Apart from stints on higher duties in Head Office and Indooroopilly, she has spent her entire career in Toowoomba. She has served in Customer Service, Human Resources, Finance and Administration. She is currently Principal Finance Officer. She plans to retire in July 2026.

First Event for 2026

Following the success of our Get-Together at the Indooroopilly Hotel in June, the Committee has decided to repeat the event on 13 February 2026. Very simply, members will be asked to inform the Secretary of their intention to come along and Rob will very obligingly arrange for the hotel management to accommodate us.

Await the follow-up, but put the date in your diary as we'd love to meet everyone again. Parking at Indooroopilly Shopping Town or catch the train to Indooroopilly

Paradise Re-imagined

Greg Claydon

Eleven WRRA members in-person and online enjoyed a Technical Update from Sunwater about Paradise Dam on 09 September, 2025. This Update built on the technical session about the Paradise Dam Improvement Project, hosted by Sunwater in May, 2024.

The Update was presented by Mal Shepherd, Sunwater's Chief Development Officer, Infrastructure Development and Delivery, supported by Nick Wenzel from the Paradise Alliance (online from Adelaide). The event was facilitated by Rachael Thompson, Sunwater's Manager, Communications and introduced by Glenn Stockton, Sunwater's Chief Executive Officer.

Glenn's opening comments included Sunwater's commitment to learn from the past and the very important role that WRRA members could play in that. He repeated the invitation for WRRA members to participant in an event to that effect to be hosted by Sunwater during National Water Week on 24 October, 2025. (Further details about that event are elsewhere in this Newsletter.)

During their presentation, Mal and Nick outlined the establishment of the Paradise Alliance in January, 2024 as a "pain/gain incentive" contract (not a competitive design/construct alliance as used for the original development of Paradise Dam during 2003-2005). The Paradise Alliance consists of Sunwater as asset owner and leader of the Alliance, GHD as the ongoing design partner, and Georgiou with CPB Contractors as construction partners responsible for major construction delivery of the new Paradise Dam wall replacement project.

Mal Shepherd presenting with Tony Clarey "zoomed in".

Continued next page ...

Paradise Reimagined *continued ...*

They updated how Sunwater is progressing a detailed business case to build a replacement dam wall immediately downstream from the existing Paradise Dam. It follows expert recommendations that the existing structure is compromised and cannot be repaired or reinforced. These recommendations are based on results from a bespoke and world-first testing program. That program showed that the existing Paradise Dam's concrete will continue to lose strength over time and that no amount of improvement work will fix the existing dam wall due to the poor concrete mix and sub-standard construction techniques used in the original dam – completed in 2005 by the Burnett Water Alliance – which combined a large amount of clay with a small amount of cement content.. The recommendations also follow consideration of other issues with the existing dam, including those related to the bond between the layers of roller compacted concrete within the dam, the foundations under the secondary spillway, and the risk of erosion immediately downstream of the dam wall.

The new dam wall will restore the dam's full water supply and meet stringent safety criteria to reliably service the Bundaberg region.

While the detailed business case is being developed to secure necessary approvals, previously planned work is continuing for design and procurement, road upgrades, geotechnical and quarry investigations, environmental approvals and planning for the construction of a workers' accommodation village. The work conducted as part of the original improvement project has not been wasted, with findings from the previous business case helping inform the design and construction approach for the new dam wall.

The presentation included more details about the proposed fishway design (making adaptations of the design used for Rookwood Weir), the extensive geotechnical investigations underway (including for the onsite foundations and for additional quarry materials for an estimated 1.2 million cubic metres of concrete for the proposed roller compacted concrete wall), the approaches to the preliminary concrete-mix trials (including independent advice from international consultants), and concepts for the fine-screened outlet works with mechanical cleaning devices.

In addition, a 3-D physical hydraulic model of the proposed design is being built at the Manly Hydraulics Laboratory in Sydney (the available space at the Rocklea Hydraulics Laboratory is currently occupied by a 3-D model of Awoonga Dam), while the 2-D flume at Rocklea is being used to test the proposed unique ogee crest shape required due to the influence of the existing Paradise Dam wall upstream of the proposed new wall. (Further details about WRRA event to witness the hydraulic testing being done at Rocklea are elsewhere in this Newsletter.)

The Alliance has also developed an impressive visualisation of the proposed construction phase and this was included in the presentation. The Alliance is making extensive use of internal "challenge teams" and external independent expert review panels (including experts in roller compacted dams from the United States, Jordan and Iran) to refine the proposals and contribute to quality assurance.

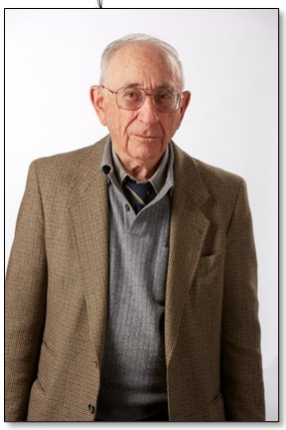
Costs and delivery timeframes for the new dam wall will be confirmed as part of the detailed business case process. The detailed business case is expected to be complete by early 2026 for government decision. Final detailed design and obtaining necessary environmental, cultural and other approvals will follow a favourable final investment decision. Should that decision be made in early 2026, and the necessary approvals obtained, construction works are anticipated to commence in 2027/2028 for a three-year construction phase.
stilling basin.

The event concluded with a sincere vote of thanks to Mal, Nick and Rachael for the very informative presentation, the open discussion and the delightful goodies, with a note to Glenn thanking him very much for his ongoing positive support of the WRRA. Members continued their socialising with lunch at the Jubilee Hotel nearby the Sunwater offices.

The participants. Photo by Rachael Thompson

Happy 100th Birthday

Rosario "Ben" Russo was born in Ingham, North Queensland, on 8 October 1925 and grew up on a cane farm near the Herbert River. He attended the University of Queensland from 1945 to 1948 where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering.



After graduating, Ben went on to work in the Hydraulics Section of the Coordinator General's Department (originally the Stanley River Works Board). During this time he was involved in the design of a number of projects, including Koombooloomba Dam, Eungella Dam, Somerset Dam Hydro-electric Power Station, Barron Falls Hydro-electric Project, Collinsville Power-station water supply and North Pine Dam.

During the late 1960s to early 1970s Ben also worked as a part-time lecturer in the school of Civil Engineering at the Queensland Institute of Technology. Ben also studied for his Masters Degree which he completed in 1966.

Ben then joined the Queensland Irrigation and Water Supply Commission and was an integral part of the design teams that worked on Wivenhoe Dam and Splityard Creek Dam, Burdekin Dam, Callide Dam and a number of weirs.

He officially retired in 1985 to assist in keeping the family cane farm afloat but he couldn't keep away from engineering and worked as a consultant for a number of years doing safety reviews and dam inspections.

He returned to SunWater's fold in the late 1990s and worked on the raising of Awoonga Dam. He has been involved in a large number of safety reviews and risk assessments. As a Senior Consultant Engineer, he worked on improving the stability of the spillways at Eungella Dam and Fairbairn Dam. This quiet, unassuming engineer is a consummate design engineer.

In 2015, at the time of Ben's 90th birthday, the ANCOLD Conference was held in Brisbane and the opportunity was taken to make an award to Ben for his outstanding contribution to dam engineering. The notes above were extracted from the speech made by Peter Allen on that occasion. Further tributes to Ben, along with lists of the many projects he contributed to, can be found on the WaterySauces website by clicking THIS LINK.

Central Queensland Get-Together

The annual social get-together was held this year 0n 8 October at the Capricorn Tavern, 52-72 Scenic Hwy, Yeppoon, commencing with drinks 1500, nibbles 1600, optional meal from 1800.

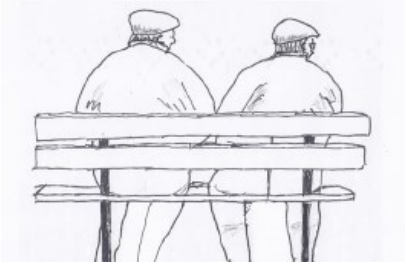
A very good turnout of 40 people came along for an afternoon of casual conversation, eating and drinking. Some stayed on for their evening meal. Whilst most were from the Rockhampton and Yeppoon area it was very pleasing to have some who travelled much further, from Brisbane, Toowoomba, the Burdekin, Mackay and west from Biloela and Emerald.

This was the second time at the Capricorn Tavern as the regular venue of the Yeppoon Sailing club has been demolished for redevelopment. The Tavern again turned out to be a very good venue and supplied excellent nibbles and service.

Everyone had a good time catching up with their former colleagues and friends and indicated they would be coming again next year. This annual get-together has been going for some 15 years and is a solid fixture in the CQ social calendar.

These notes were provided by Mike McKenna who has organised and hosted the CQ Get-Together from the start. Thank you Mike!

Of course, anyone from around the State who has a connection to the CQ area would be most welcome for the future events, the same as for events in other parts of the State such as those held in Toowoomba and Brisbane this year. The WRRA will continue to encourage and support the regional events through some funding and promotion to our members and friends.



"The nurse told me Henry's new medication has him sleeping like a baby. Wakes every two hours screaming...

Vale – Dorothy Elizabeth ('Dot') Byrnes
9–11–1935 to 13–6–2025

Dorothy Elizabeth ('Dot') Byrnes was born on 9 November 1935 at Tara Queensland. Dot was one of nine children and not long after she was born, her family moved to a farm they had bought at Brooloo, just outside of Imbil. Dot and her sisters started their school life by riding a horse to the local Imbil primary school. In 1950 the family moved into Imbil where her parents had purchased the local bakery. From there, Dot continued her schooling at the Gympie High School and completed year 10 in December 1951.

Dot moved to Brisbane in February 1952 when she got a job as a secretary with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission (IWSC) at the corner of Margaret and William Streets. She initially started working in the typing pool for 12 months before shifting to Accounts Branch. Dot worked here for a couple of years before seeking a bit of adventure, (and an urge to return closer to home), transferring to the Commission's Construction Division and a posting to Borumba Dam, (which is near Imbil), as a Clerk Typist.

Borumba Dam would see a massive change in her life when in early 1960 she meets a dashing young Hugh Robert ('Hughie') Byrnes (see Page 5 of Oldies and Boldies Issue 94 for Hughie's Vale story), and they were married that same year. Dot and Hughie quickly got into the swing of marriage and had their two children while working at Borumba Dam, John, in 1961, and Aileen in 1963.

For most of her working life, Dot and her family worked at various Construction Division work sites and lived in accommodation provided by the IWSC. As was the culture of those times, Dot and her family regularly moved from construction site to construction site, including: Callide Dam Stage 1 (1964), Coolmunda Dam (1965), Atkinson Dam (1968), Ross River Dam (1970) and finally, their last shift, Kinchant Dam (1974). During this time Dot worked with many well known IWSC stalwarts, Don Erickson and Bill Brannelly in Brisbane, Works Accountant Kev White and Works Clerk Mick Conlan at Borumba, Jim Brophy, Dave Dewar and Kev Kennedy at Coolmunda, Roger Callaghan and Kev Kennedy (again) at Atkinson, Mick Conlan (again) at Ross River, and Cec Dinsdale and Sam Elms (among too many others to mention) during her 16 years at Kinchant Dam.

In total, Dot worked for the IWSC and its progenies ('the Firm') for a total of 38 years. But this is not the sum of Dot's family's contribution to the Firm. Her husband Hughie commenced with the IWSC in 1954 and only retired in 2001 after his Parkinson condition proved too much, a total of 47 years, and in 1978 her son John also started with the Firm (at Kinchant Dam), only retiring last year, another 46 years. This is a grand total of 131 years of service that the Dorothy Byrnes family has provided to the Firm.

In her latter "retirement" years Dot's chief job was looking after Hughie who had developed Parkinson's disease. But before this she and Hughie found the time to be heavily involved with the Pioneer Valley Lions Club and the Probus Club. Dot also really enjoyed sewing, knitting and crocheting and you would often see her grandchildren wearing the colorful outfits she was constantly making.

After Hughie passed away in January 2021 Dot continued to live on her own in the family home at Maurene Court, Glenella, until late 2022 when she started to slow down a bit. As it was a very large home (with lots of room for her children and grandchildren that she loved very much to stay over), the upkeep was proving too much for her.

As she was in all things, Dot was very meticulous and practical when it came time to move out of the family home and transition to assisted care. Dot had done most of the planning required to move into Kerrisdale Gardens, which made the final organizing of the shift very easy for her children, John and Aileen

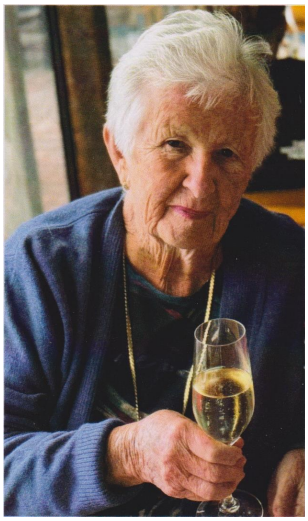
Dot had nothing but praise for the staff at Kerrisdale and she made some great friendships with other residents and staff. Her children her extremely impressed by how staff cared for Dot, especially over the last few weeks of her life when she was very unwell.

Dorothy Elizabeth Byrnes passed away on 13 June 2025. A memorial service was held for "Dot" at the Kerrisdale Gardens Chappel, and she was interred at the Walkerton Cemetery beside her beloved husband "Hughie".

This tribute was provided by the Byrnes Family (John & Debra and Aileen Des) through Gary Luck.

Correspondence

I had the following note in the mail—**Ed**



I'm Terry Foster, Des and Daree Foster's daughter.
I write to let you know that Mum passed away on August 15 in Warwick Hospital after a brief illness.
I had the privilege of holding her hand till she breathed her last and my brother Andrew and his sons, Jack and Sean, also travelled from far away to be with her.
Fifteen year old Daree Bang commenced at IWS St George Office in February 1951. Her official title was çlerk typist', however her role ranged from sweeping floors, making morning teas through to preparing the pays for workers on the Jack Taylor Bridge and the St George Weir – oh, and typing letters, reports & running the office when the boss was away.

She met my father Des in the St George Office and married him in April. Public Service rules at the time meant that she had to resign on marriage.

That rule went out the window when, as a new bride, she was dragooned into being the camp cook for his men in Jondaryan.

After many years until Dad retired as OIC in the Warwick Office in July 1987, Mum did lots of unofficial and unpaid IWS work.

DT & D – Old & Bold!

Vale Daree Foster.

We were informed by our Toowoomba colleagues that **Frank Donald Walker** passed away in September. Frank joined the Water Resources Commission from DLG and then spent a large part of his career in the regions (St George and Toowoomba most noticeably). Frank, amongst other roles served as District Engineer at St George where he had extensive involvement in marketing water in the scheme around Goondiwindi.

A funeral /celebration of life service was held for Frank on 30 September 2025 in Toowoomba.

Annual Golf Day

Ken Ward

The annual Golf outing was this year held at Wynnum Golf Club on Monday, 15 September.

The six starters who teed off were Peter McMahon, Terry Loos, Graham Young, Greg Claydon, Peter Simson and Ken Ward.

We played a Single Stableford over nine holes with Peter McMahon taking the honours with a masterful display. The weather was excellent and the course in pretty good condition. I'm sure we all enjoyed the day and hopefully will meet again next year.

South Burnett Excursion

Unfortunately the planned South Burnett excursion did not eventuate. Four couples had elected to join the expedition and had made bookings with some difficulty. But at virtually the last minute Tony Clarey ran into trouble with settlement for the purchase of his new house as well as suffering a minor accident. The other three couples decided not to proceed, but may reschedule at some future time. Others may also join.

St Barnabas Bulletin Board

Men wanted to sin with the ladies choir on Monday nights.

Sunwater Snippets

Julian Murphy
Julian is a Senior Media and Communications Adviser

Wet season preparedness

As Queensland heads into another wet season, Sunwater is taking proactive steps to ensure its people, systems and processes are ready to respond to extreme events.

In October, our teams conducted a three-day crisis simulation designed to test Sunwater's incident response and crisis management capabilities.

The exercise simulated catastrophic weather events impacting multiple aspects of our operations presenting participants with ever-changing challenges – just as they'd face during a real emergency event.
These critical exercises:

- Boosted confidence and capability across teams
- Tested our response systems under pressure
- Reinforced our commitment to safety and service continuity

New weirs for the Burnett

On-site investigative work is underway to deliver two proposed new weirs in the Burnett region.

In October, our staff started a range of activities required for design of the weirs, including geotechnical investigations, aerial and ground surveys, as well as hydrological, ecological and cultural heritage studies.

The Barlil and Cooranga weirs will enhance water reliability in the area, boosting agricultural output and potential investment opportunities.

Fred Haigh filter patch

At Fred Haigh Dam in the Burnett region, Sunwater recently completed installing filter patches to proactively reduce the risk of internal erosion of the dam wall.
These patches are made of sand, aggregate, rock and mesh and are installed over the existing concrete on both sides of the spillway – enabling us to complete maintenance without impacting our customers or the local water supply.

Board changes

In August, a new Chair and four new directors were appointed to the Sunwater Board. Chair Jeff Seeney and new directors John Cotter, Marjorie Daley, John Davis, Katy Steele and Dr Kayleen Walsh, bring a wealth of experience and insight to the business.

They will play a critical role in guiding our strategic direction and working closely with our executive team to ensure we continue to deliver safe, reliable and high-quality water services to our agricultural, urban and industrial customers.

Departmental News

As Departmental news is, in this issue, covered comprehensively in the notes on our visit to the Department (see pages 9 and 10, there will be no further coverage here.

Since the change of Government, the Minister or Local Government, Water and Volunteers (DLGVW) has been Ann Leahy. Ann was born in Stanthorpe, raised on the family farm, educated via Distance Education and boarding school and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Science. She has a keen interest in aviation.

Ann was elected in 2015 as the Member for Warrego and is the first female Member of Parliament to win the state seat of Warrego since Federation. Her electorate spans from the western parts of the Darling Downs to the South Australian border.

Bronwyn Blagoev is the newly appointed Director-General of the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers in Queensland. She began her role on September 29, 2025, and has over 20 years of experience in the Queensland public sector, including previous roles as the Independent Assessor for local government and as an executive in other government departments.

Originally from the Balonne Shire, Bronwyn is passionate about regional Queensland and has a particular interest in ensuring the sustainability of local communities, understanding the important role local government, water and volunteering plays in regional Queensland. Bronwyn is an active volunteer herself and brings this experience to the role of Director-General.

One of the roles of the Director-General of the Department responsible for water resource management has for the past 35 years has been to serve as Patron of the Water Resources Retirees Association. President Chris Robson has contacted her office to arrange a meeting with her, where he and Vice President Greg Claydon will invite her to succeed her predecessors in this role.

We certainly look forward to continuing our cordial and fruitful relationship with the Department and its officers.

Visit to Sunwater Hydraulics Laboratory

Ian Pullar

Sunwater had very generously invited members of WRRA to visit their Hydraulics Laboratory at Rocklea on 17 October. The response from members was disappointing, but fortunately the number of attendees was swelled by others, particularly from the Welders group.

The participants were greeted by quite a few Sunwater employees, led by Carlos Gonzales who, under a shaded area, gave us an illustrated account of the activities in modelling carried out on the premises.

One of the attendees was former Rocklea worker Alan Bartlett whose photograph of the 1974 flood at Rocklea was included in Carlos' presentation. Daryl Brigden just happened to have a framed print which was passed around.

We were then invited to view a large scale (I think 1:50) model of Awoonga Dam. The detail of the model is quite amazing; so amazing that photographs are not permitted! This was also an opportunity to catch up with fellow attendees.

I admit I sneaked a (rather poor) photograph of the flume modelling the flow pattern over the former and planned Paradise dams. When I confessed to Rachael Thompson (Sunwater Corporate Engagement Lead) she thought I might get away with it.

After some more chat, we were all invited to lunch at the Rocklea Pub. (This was a substitute for the barbecue originally advertised, but the barbecue area was under redevelopment.)

We are, of course, extremely grateful to Sunwater for their generous hospitality.

A more fulsome report (with photographs) can be found at the SunWater site

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Answers to Terry's Trivia (page 17)

1. (iv) Tourism Management. 2. (i) Helium.. 3. (iv) Kerry Boustead. 4. (iv) Gamma. 5. (i) Worcestershire; (ii) Tomato; (iii) Mayonnaise. 6. Other Peoples' opinions. 7. (v) 296. 8. (iv) 540 Billion. 9. (v) 700 10. (iv) Naples. 11. (i) Africa.

Solution to puzzle on page 16

A. As one man is known to lie, there are only three possible combinations of truth and lying:

If		Then		Possible?
Peter speaks	Paul speaks	Peter serves	Paul serves	
Truly	Falsely	Coles	Coles	No
Falsely	Truly	Woolworths	Woolworths	No
Falsely	Falsely	Woolworths	Coles	Yes

Both men can be seen to be lying. Therefore Peter is from Woolworths and Paul from Coles.

WRRA VISIT TO DLGWV 6 November 2025
Terry Loos

Seven ageing Water Resources Retirees were privileged to receive an excellent briefing from a team of senior DLGWV officers at the Departmental Office 1 William St. The theme was on the 2025 Machinery of Government changes and the Government's election commitments in relation to water.

Trevor Dann A/DDG, Water Infrastructure, Policy and Partnerships commenced proceedings by advising that the State's primary Water Department which was previously in the Dept of Regional Development Manufacturing and Water now is in the Dept of Local Government Water and Volunteers. The new DG (ex Linda Dobe) is Bronwyn Blagoev, who previously was a long-standing officer of the Local Government Department.

All the presentations from the five speakers were supported by excellent Powerpoint Presentations all of which have since been provided to the WRRA and can be accessed on our website.

In brief, the Election Commitments include:

i) A complete and urgent review of water sources for SEQ in particular with a comprehensive review of dam options, including attention towards flood mitigation for communities along the Brisbane River.
ii) No new Desalination or PRW plants for SEQ. (Note: The opposition to desalination is understood to primarily relate to the location of a plant in a residential area on the Sunshine Coast).
iii) No new dam in the Mary Valley. This excludes the proposed new Borumba Dam (and high level dam) proposed as part of a pumped hydro scheme. That project will be subject to its Business Case.
iv) Restoring Somerset, Wivenhoe and North Pine Dams to full FSL.
v) Expansion of the Tugun Desalination plant is OK, and more frequent use of this.
vi) A new WTP to connect Wyaralong Dam to the grid.
vii) The use of the existing PRW sources when the total Water Grid water storage capacity falls to 40%.
viii) Notwithstanding all these works a new additional source will be needed by the late 2030s. The Government's preference is that this ***be a new dam***. DLGWV is now investigating dam source options. Information sources such as the QWRC report of the 1990s (which identified SEQ 28 dam sites) has been a major input to this work.
ix) Deliver more clean water infrastructure in Indigenous communities.
x) Develop a water security plan for the entire State, including an analysis of all 23 regional water plans in this term of Government, with a focus on affordability for the end user.
xi) Review progress on all the water security enhancement projects across the State (to overcome any impediments)
xii) Progress the Government's WaterTight water plan with:

- five new or upgraded weirs to be built on Thomson River, Longreach
- a new weir on the Boyne River, Mundubbera
- a new weir on Barambah Creek, Murgon
- progress a business case for Scenic Rim Water for the Warrill Irrigation Project

Water Plan Reviews

Organisationally, the DLGWV has a North and a South Region.

North Region (Ingrid Formiatti Minnesma, ED North Region) is undertaking a review of the Water Plans for the: Whitsunday area; Pioneer; Burdekin; Gulf area; Georgina/Diamantina; Fitzroy/Boyne/Calliope; and Mitchell rivers.

A strategy titled, 'Unlocking Water' is looking at achieving fuller use of the unallocated water (UAW) in current water plans. Pilot plan areas for this are: Barron; Mitchell; Gulf; Wet Tropics. The work is aiming to better define unallocated water, review demands and provide a map of UAW supply and demand.

The questions they are looking at are: can another water product be put on the market – and are there customers for this? Regional water assessments are being undertaken for the: Gulf; Burdekin and CQ

So far, 17000ML/a of unsupplemented water has been found available in the Barron R system and they are working with potential customers on needs, including on trading. Expressions of Interest are being sought via the website.

They've found new demand in the Flinders system but are waiting until the modeling is undertaken.

The National Water Grid Authority is in the loop. The NWGA wants to build new infrastructure in the north.

The South Region is similarly reviewing the water plans for its area

Dam Safety: (Rob Fowden, Director Dam Safety)

Rob Fowden has been newly appointed to the role of head of this unit. Chris Neilsen has moved on to become the Department's Engineer – replacing Dave Murray who has semi-retired.

The Dam Safety unit has 13 engineers, 8 of whom are RPEQs. The unit has two specific Flood Engineers. They advise LGs on their Planning Schemes etc.

Chris Neilsen established their current practice of producing technical papers for publication in ANCOLD. Their biggest current workload is small farm dams.

The GAB (Hamish Butler ED South Region)

The GAB and other regional aquifers (GABORA) Water Plan was introduced in 2017 and expires in Sept 2027. It must be replaced prior to this. The Minister has decided to bring forward the updating of the plan. The matters for consideration are:

i) the protections of the GAB's groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and of the existing users (are they 'fit-for-purpose'?);
ii) allocations – trade and water security
iii) cultural values and climate change

Consultation has commenced and 63 submissions have been received.

Among the issues raised is the possible adverse impact of the water extracted in CSG extraction operations, and the effectiveness of make-good requirements.

WRRA VISIT TO DLGWV *continued*

The GAB Sustainability Initiative (GABSI) is now titled GABWASH: GABSI and other programs have successfully rehabilitated 759 flowing bores and converted 31,553 km of open bore drains to piped systems saving an estimated 235,640 ML of water every year and reducing pressure loss. About 170 bores remain to be repaired. Springs have been restored; old bore casings have ruptured under the rising pressure. Landholders contribute 10%.

Over the next 3-4 years, the budget for this work is $52 M. DLGWV has 5-6 FTEs working on this project.

The previous Queensland Government and the current one have banned carbon capture and storage in aquifers. By contrast SA supports this (Moomba)

Major Water Infrastructure Delivery (A/ED Louise Dunne, Water security, Infrastructure and Governance) updated the group on the well-known major projects: Paradise Dam replacement; (Raising Burdekin Dam is on pause); the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline is at the DBC stage; the Rookwood Weir to Gladstone pipeline should be completed in early 2026.

Weare very grateful to the Department for generously hosting this event.

Sunwater/WRRA National Water Week Event 24 October

Chris Robson

The Association was pleased to accept Sunwater's invitation to participate in a panel/networking event at Sunwater's office in Fortitude Valley during National Water Week (20 to 26 October).

The event on 24 October was a Q&A style panel celebrating the contributions of water retirees in our industry. The Association was invited to have four of its members on the panel. Kevin Devlin, Peter Gilbey, Geoff Eades and Colin Apelt agreed to be our panellists. The event was open for other interested members to attend, and Warren Hutton, Doug Flanders, Daryl Brigden and Chris Robson also attended.

The panel discussion was facilitated by Sunwater's General Manager Water Resources Michael Hughes. Some 60 Sunwater Brisbane employees came in person and 100 regional employees joined online.

The panellists were asked a wide range of questions about their careers, such as;

- Can you describe the technical tools you had to work with at the start of your careers and how they compare to current technology?
- What are your favourite and proudest memories?
- What were the main challenges you faced?
- What were the most surprising things that happened?
- What cultural heritage and sustainability policy changes have you seen over your working life?
- What do you see as the main challenges ahead in water resources?

The panel's stories described earlier working environment very different to compared to now, for example;

- identified such things as the availability, in the very early days, of good dam sites followed by the need to build dams at ever more difficult sites
- the restrictions of the available technology, such as slide rules, early handheld and bulky computational devices and time-sharing computers
- manual calculations etc meant people became more aware of the correct order of magnitude in calculations and so more readily aware of errors
- cars that went only 1000 miles between oil changes
- no instant communication, mobile phones, no GPS, risks with safety in remote area work, autonomy and flexibility for more local decision making
- era of large state-sponsored irrigation scheme development has passed
- consideration of resilience of our water supply systems in light of climate change and increasing climate variability was not a feature 40 to 50 years ago

The panel discussion ran for an hour, as Kevin, Peter, Geoff and Colin shared their knowledge while combining their wisdom with hilarious and entertaining anecdotes. Sunwater then provided morning tea, and the WRRA members mingled with Sunwater employees, with quite a few employees very interested in and discussing the professional knowledge and advice of our members.

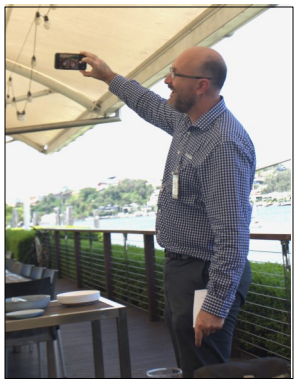
The feedback on the day was very positive, and this event may well become a regular annual event as part of National Water Week. As a National Water Week is an Australian Water Association (AWA) initiative, Sunwater also invited National Programs and Membership Manager Carlie Sargent to join the event. Sunwater has flagged further engagement opportunities with AWA and WRRA are planned to seek opportunities to bring the past and present together.

End of Year Get Together at Merthyr Bowls Club

It was a beautiful Summer day when 28 members and wives (Chris Robson and Terry Loos rang in sick) gathered at Merthyr Bowls Club on 20 November to celebrate the end of another year. What an idyllic venue, sitting overlooking the Brisbane River and the multi million dollar homes on the opposite side. And, of course, it was great to catch up again with former comrades in arms.

We were joined by Toby Rice who is the Sunwater Executive General manager Engineering and Water Resources.

Lunch of pre-barbecued steaks, sausages and chicken skewers, supplemented by potatoes, slaw and gravy was laid out for us to help ourselves.



After seconds of food, more drinks from the bar and more conversation, Vice President Greg Claydon (in the absence of President Chris Robson) welcomed everyone and particularly Toby Rice, who gave us a very interesting run-down on some of the activities of Sunwater.

Some highlights of Toby Rice's address

Operations

- In 2024-25, Sunwater delivered 1039 GL of water for irrigation, industrial and urban use.
- Most storages have healthy supplies in storage.
- Allocations will be healthy.

Wet season

- Sunwatrer successfully navigated the last wet season which included Cyclone Alfred and several big wets.
- 23 Emergency Action Plans were activated.

New Government

- Busy getting new government up to speed.
- Six new directors joined the Board.

Regions

- From November, Central Region will become two new regions – Pioneer Bowen Basin and Fitzroy.
- A new office will open in Cloncurry in February.

Dam Projects

- Planning continues on the Paradise Dam Replacement Project
- Planning is well advanced for two new weirs in the urnett, Barlil and Cooranga.
- Improvements are planned for Tinaroo Falls, Fairbairn and Kroombit dams

Once the meal was clearly over, the energetic participants took to the green. Those who were indisposed or indolent, abstained!

The **Results:**

On Rink1 : The Battle of the Sexes – Ladies v Gents

Kate Ayre, Susan Clarey, Therese James V Rob Ayre, Tony Clarey, Peter Butler and Phil James

A very close game resulting in a final end sudden death, the guys winning by one (very lucky) bowl.

On Rink 3

Bruno Corbett, Ross Walduck, Greg Claydon beat Greg Munck, Karin Walduck and Graham Young.

Photos by Phil James

‘VALOUR AND MATESHIP’

Gary Corbett

Leading up to the commemoration of Armistice Day this year, a short story called ‘Valour & Mateship’ was recently uploaded by Webmaster Jon to our website to mark almost 110 years to the day since a ‘water’ old-boy (Water Supply Dept [WSD] Engineer Charles Thom, first name on the above Roll of Honour) died in an unfolding tunnel tragedy at Gallipoli which also took the life of a WA engineer mate he tried to save, as well as the lives of three others.

Thom’s actions in trying to save his wartime mate in Tunnel C2 on 29 October 1915 were widely reported in newspapers of the day by Australia’s first War Correspondent Charles Bean, as was the regard in which Thom was held by his colleagues.

An added significance to this story is that research so far suggests that there is a one in three possibility that Thom could be the only one of ten on the Roll of Honour to not come home, as seven are known to have returned but the fate of the other two is not yet known. So the story at this stage is very much a tribute to Thom but will be updated should the fate of WSD Officers R Dawson and EE Edwards be established.

Essentially, the main body of the story is devoted to five mates, the first three being the first three on the Roll to enlist from the Department (WSD Engineers Charles Thom & George Croker; and WSD Stream Gauger Rupert Wragge); the fourth being a schoolmate of Thom’s from Maryborough Boys Grammar (Duncan Chapman, first Australian to set foot at Gallipoli but to die in August 1916 at Pozieres, France); and the fifth being the WA Engineer mate who Thom tried in vain to save at Gallipoli (Frederick Bowra).

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY The original intention was to put a few lines together about where the Roll of Honour now hangs, following a discovery that the Anzac Square people had it still hanging at the Lancentre (which was demolished in 2019). Following a tip-off from President Chris that the Roll could now possibly be hanging at the Eco Sciences Precinct at Boggo Road, John Ruffini subsequently confirmed this and Secretary Rob informed the Anzac Square people accordingly. End of story? Not quite!

Before too long and to feed some curiosity for this fellow Maryborough old-boy, a short snippet grew into a short story called ‘Valour and Mateship’, as this presented an opportunity too good to miss to record the fate of as many as possible of the ten WSD ‘water’ old-boys and workmates who went to war. The fate of eight of ten is recorded in the story (Source: Aust War Memorial) with Thom the only one of eight not to return. Despite our best efforts, the fate of the remaining two on the Roll remains unknown at this stage.

The story progressed with particular attention initially paid to the Queensland four of the five, those being Thom; Croker; Wragge and Chapman who had all enlisted within the space of one week in late August 1914. The four Queenslanders were among the large group of first-responders in the state to ‘The Call to Arms’ following declaration of war in early Aug 1914. And by late Sept 1914 all four had boarded three of thirty-eight ships of the First Convoy assembling in King George Sound near Albany in WA to sail for war.

As for their three ships, not one single ship returned. SS Geelong carrying Engineers Thom and Croker to war collided with SS *Bonvilston* in the Mediterranean and sank on 1 Jan 1916. SS *Rangatira* which carried Stream Gauger Wragge to war ran aground on Robben Island near the Cape of Good Hope on 1 March 1916 and was wrecked. And on 12 May 1918, SS *Omrah* which carried Thom's schoolmate Chapman to war was torpedoed by German submarine UB-52 and sank off the coast of Sardinia.

THE SEVEN ON THE ROLL WHO MADE IT BACK

Water Supply Department Officers Engineer George Croker; Stream Gauger Rupert Wragge; Draftsman Billy Kearton; Engineering Surveyors Aub Fowler and Hethersett Huntington; Surveyor Charles Ogilvie; and Artesian Well Borer Harold Preddy.

THE THREE MATES FEATURED IN THE STORY WHO DIED

(L) Charles Thom (Qld WSD Engineer)
(C) Thom's schoolmate (Duncan Chapman)
(R) Thom's mate from Tunnel C2 (WA Railways Engineer Frederick Bowra)

MORE READING

The full story of 'Valour and Mateship' can be found by clicking on the following:-

https://www.waterysauces.org.au/history/people/charlesthom.pdf

CUSTODIANS OF THE WATER SUPPLY DEPT ROLL OF HONOUR SINCE WW1

The following are considered as being its most likely custodians over the years:-

1919 to 1922 – Water Supply Department - WSD (Treasury Building)
1922 to 1926 – IWSC (163 Adelaide St., following amalgamation of WSD with the Irrigation Commission in late 1922)
1926 to 1950's – IWSC (fmr Stock Institute Bldg, College Road, Spring Hill)
1950's to 1979 - IWSC (fmr Courier Mail Bldg, William/Margaret Sts., CBD)
1979 to 2005 – QWRC; DNR / DNRM / DNRME (Mineral House, George St., CBD; then Resource Sciences Centre, Indooroopilly)
2005 to 2018 - DNRM; DNRMW; DERM; DNRM (Landcentre, Woolloongabba)
2018 to present day – DETSI (Ecosciences Centre, Boggo Road, Dutton Park)

Size Does Matter

Bob McDonald

Have you ever overlooked the Burdekin Falls Dam spillway and taken note of the distance to the other side? The reliable advice that I have is that the spillway is 503m wide, as built.

Would you believe that is exactly the same as the distance between the Sydney Harbour bridge main arch hinge supports on either side of the harbour from Dawes Point to Milsons Point.

Next time you see a picture of Sydney Harbour Bridge, try to visualise the Burdekin Falls Dam spillway under the full width of the arch.

During wet seasons, water has flowed over the spillway at greater than 7m deep. Imagine if a tsunami came through the Heads and maintained a height of 7m through to the bridge, and on to Parramatta for more than just one day.

The Tonle Sap – the river that flows two ways

Terry Malone

The Tonle Sap Lake, near the bottom of the basin, is the largest freshwater lake in Asia and is home to about 1.2 million people who live in floating villages and rely on fishing and tourism for a living.

From 2006 to 2016, I advised the Mekong River Commission (MRC) on flood forecasting during 15 in-country missions. Modelling the inflows, outflows and water level of the Tonle Sap Lake proved one of the many challenges during these missions.

At Phnom Penh, the Mekong River has a catchment area of about 653,000km^2. In the Tonle Sap catchment, there are about 8 local rivers which drain into the lake with a combined drainage area of 80,000km^2. The Tonle Sap River between Phnom Penh and the Tonle Sap River is about 200km long.

Interestingly, the medieval city at the centre of the Angkor or Khmer Empire from the ninth to 15th centuries, near modern day Siem Reap, had a population of nearly 1million at a time when it is thought that London may have had about 250,000. The ancient temple of Angkor Wat at the centre of the city was surrounded by a complex of ponds used for water supply and irrigation.

At the end of the dry season, typically in late April, the Tonle Sap Lake has an average depth of about 1m. As the monsoon rain begins in May, the water level of the main Mekong River begins to rise and, when the water level in the main river at Phnom Penh is higher than the water level in the lake, water flows up the Tonle Sap River and into the lake.

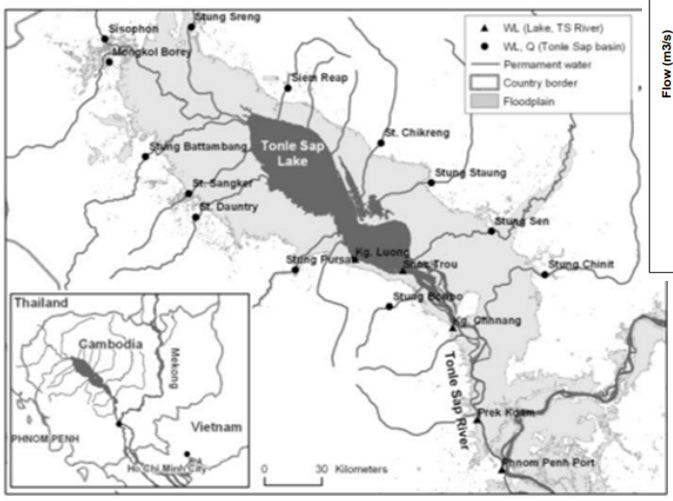
This process usually continues until the water level in the lake reaches the same level at Phnom Penh at which point there is no flow in the Tonle Sap River. The depth of Tonle Sap Lake can increase by up to 10m and the surface area by up to 8 times. At this point in time, typically late September/early October, a water festival is held in Phnom Penh to celebrate Naga, the water serpent, who supposedly begins to spit out water from the lake into the sea at the end of the rainy season.

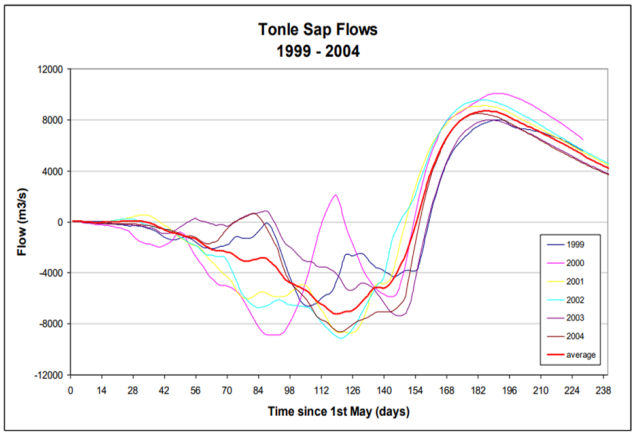
After Naga, the water level at Phnom Penh begins to fall and, as the water level in the lake is higher than the Mekong River, the flow of the Tonle Sap River then reverses to replenish the flow of the Mekong River.

Usually, the reversal of flows only occurs once per flood season, but the process is made more complex if there is heavy rainfall in the local tributaries of Tonle Sap Lake. In the diagram below, flow into the lake is shown as negative while out of the lake is shown as positive. In the 2000 flood season, early local heavy rain resulted in large inflows to the lake and water flowed down (positive) the Tonle Sap River for a few weeks but then reverted to its usual behaviour of flow into the lake (negative) until late September.

. In the 2000 flood season, early local heavy rain resulted in large inflows to the lake and water flowed down (positive) the Tonle Sap River for a few weeks but then reverted to its usual behaviour of flow into the lake (negative) until late September.

Many thanks, Terry, for this amazing article— **Ed.**





Chappos Big Lap Concluded

Jon Chapman

Leg 25 The trip home

A short trip up the road and we crossed the border back to Gods' country, although the roads by now were very ungodly. We had a stopover at Hebel, where Frank Deshon (one of those bloody St George cotton farmers) has rebuilt the town post COVID, buying the town basically and keeping it alive. Lots of history to old Hebel. A funny watery tale about a colleague of some of us, John Grabbe, who went on to become infamous via Cubbie Station. While still in the department when he was the man for water harvesting scheme designs in the south west, he was on the turps at the Hebel Hotel. After a few too many apparently Grabbs was telling anyone who would listen that Hebel was the best place in the world. The next morning, he found out he had bought four town blocks in Hebel for $40!!

Up the road we checked out Dirranbandi, including a drive out past the Cubbie Gin (massive complex) before a quick stop to see the wombat at Thallon and onto that place that was to be stop 1 on the Big Lap in April 2021; Nindigully.

Have to say been there done that, wasn't THE PLACE I had put in my mind. Enjoyed a beer and some live music etc but didn't overwhelm at all. Maybe the Pig Races weekend would be more like it!

From here an overnighter at Dalby and home on June 4, 2023.

A quirky thing happened on the last day. We had had a few minor things go awry with the van, but the MUX hadn't missed a beat in 36300 kms. Leaving Dalby and on a long hill climb north of Bell Max (the MUX) went into limp mode!! Got over the hill at about 5 kph, stopped and furiously reached for the user manual. Restarted and steadily drove to Kingaroy. RACQ serviceman said it's a turbo over boost issue but safe to drive home. MUX have a history with turbos, we are well out of warranty, so worrying times. At home my mechanic said hey, you've just done 40000 KMs and this is the first issue, don't panic. About two weeks later just driving around Gympie we were in limp mode again; my mechanics response; PANIC. Isuzu installed anew turbo at no cost to us!!

Final Notes

Anyone thinking of doing it, just do it! It is a vast land with so much to see.

Here's some stats:

430 days on the road (barely a day where we didn't go somewhere)
37800 kms
5030 litres of diesel
20.8MPG or 13.5 lph

The van was attached to the car for 62.5% of the trip.

Fuel Averages – Overall $2.13 litre
Queensland leaving (April 2022) $2.27
Northern Territory $2.18
Western Australia $2.22
South Australia $2.02
New South Wales $1.94
Queensland coming home (May 2023) $1.89

Cheapest
Queensland - Gympie $1.78
Northern Territory - Katherine $2.00
Western Australia – Jurien Bay $1.86
South Australia - Yunta $1.80
New South Wales – Broken Hill and Lightning Ridge $1.90

Dearest
Queensland - Camooweal $2.27
Northern Territory – Three Ways $2.45
Western Australia – Nanutarra and Caiguna $2.72
South Australia – Border Village $2.92
New South Wales – Wilcannia and Brewarrina $2.00

Our budget was $157 / day = my Super Income stream funny enough!
Add on rent from our house @ $550 / week.
Deducting the rent injection, we spent $151 /day.
The actual cost was $229 day.
The breakdown was like this:

Accommodation – 25% over budget at $35 / day.
Alcohol – 50% under budget at $7 day. (Don't drink much anymore)
Dining – A tad (5%) over budget at $21 day. Too many coffees and dim sims!
Entertainment – 7% under budget at $28 day. Did most of what we wanted to do; you could never do everything!
Gifts – 60% over budget at $5 day. Happy grandkids.
Groceries – Almost spot on budget at $25 day.
Health – 20% under budget at $20 day
House (which includes the van) – 100% over budget at $39 day. Bugger!
Motor Vehicle – 15% under budget at $13 day. All good until day 430!
Fuel – 12% under budget at $24 day.
Telecoms – 50% under budget at $5 day. Surprisingly good connection most of the time and I did it on a 30Gb per month plan. It got slow at times but never painful, except in Perth!

Here's some temperature stats:
136 days where the day started at less than 10^0.
Three abnormally high minimums ($25 – 30^0$*).*
Eight days where the maximum went above 39^0, 93 days over 29^0.

Many thanks, Jon, for this entertaining account of your journey (which has now been recorded over six editions of the Newsletter). Having been to some of the places, I could feel nostalgic and for others not visited, envious. – ***Ed.***

HEALTH *and beauty*

Armed to the Teeth

A healthy diet, regular exercise, not smoking and limiting alcohol intake are some of the best ways to reduce the chances of having a stroke.

But new research stresses the importance of another habit – regular tooth brushing. Forgetting to do it could lead to an 86% higher risk of stroke.

The research showed that people with cavities and gum disease had almost twice the risk of stroke than people with good oral health, even after controlling cardiovascular risk factors.

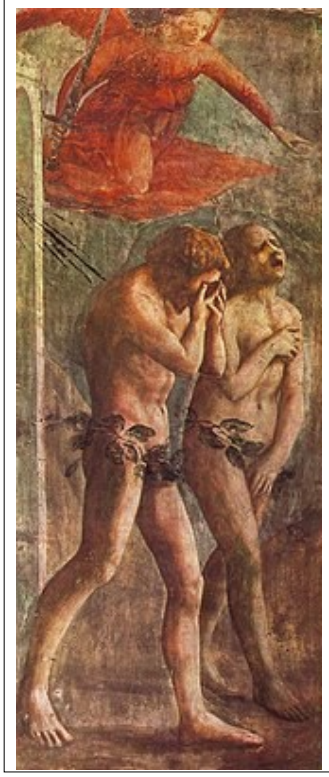
The fluoridation of drinking water has again become a controversial topic with some Councils electing to discontinue the practice.

I am no scientist, but can attest to some anecdotal evidence regarding its efficacy. When our children were young (and before water supplies were fluoridated), they were given fluoride tablets daily. Both girls dutifully took them but our son assiduously stuffed them down the chimney of the girls' dolls house; as we discovered years later when the dolls house was passed on to other children.

Not surprisingly, the girls reached adulthood with good teeth, while Stuart had numerous cavities. But there's no going back.

Mavis had plastic surgery. Her husband cut up all her credit cards.

Masaccio 1401 –1428
Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Eden



"We've been dudded! He told us if we misbehaved, He'd leave us with nothing but the clothes on our backs!"

Note: the modesty fig leaves were added in 1680 by order of Cosimo III de Medici

How Are You?

When the woman on the check-out (and aren't they becoming rarer?) asks, "How are you?" and I reply, "Well thank you. And you?" (Others often say, "Good. Yourself?"), neither is really interested in the other's health.

The story goes that to prove this is now just a token greeting, a man attended a wedding reception and shook hands with every member of the long reception line-up who asked, "How are you?" He replied, "My wife died this morning", which elicited no response.

The story is probably not true. But it could be!

Exercise those Brain Cells

Q. Farmer Brown is approached by two men both of whom want to buy his entire crop of carrots for a mere pittance which Farmer Brown is reluctant to accept so he threatens to contact the principal and demands to know who they represent. The first one says, "My name is Peter and I am from Coles." The second one says, "My name is Paul and I am from Woolworths." Farmer Smith, who lives next door, is sure that at least one of them is lying. How can Farmer Brown know who represents which store?

Answer on page 8

Searching

Hidden in the pages of these Newsletters are many gems and items of continuing interest. But how to find them? Trawling through the documents stored electronically on our website or my own personal computer or through printed text (with a memory of doubtful ability) is an unattractive task. So I asked our Webmaster, the inimitable Jon Henry, is it possible to search the old Newsletters for keywords. "You can use Google," he said.

Following his further advice, I tried it. I Googled

"Jack Pont" site: waterysauces.org.au/ newsletters

and up came articles in Newsletter 29 (editor Bernie Credlin), Newsletters 44 and 99 (Editor Ian Pullar). The use of the inverted commas for "Jack Pont" is to eliminate any random hits on only Jack or Pont.

I tried it for other key words, but the method is not infallible. According to Jon, it depends on whether google has indexed all the newsletters (it appears they haven't). But he is on the case and no doubt he will improve the situation.

Feel free to try it. I certainly will.

I note that Google is pretty good at searching the *People's History.*

Walking Through a Door

No doubt members have experienced the sensation of walking through a door and wondering why they came into the next room. Research suggests that this phenomenon occurs both at literal boundaries (e.g., moving from one room to another via a door) and metaphorical boundaries (e.g. imagining traversing a doorway, or even when moving from one desktop window to another on a computer).

Santa walked through a door

I've forgotten why I put this cartoon here – I don't even remember walking through a door.

I remember: it's to wish members

Happy Christmas and a great 2026

from the Committee of WRRA.

A homophonic limerick

Hamlet

When the icy winds howl from the nor-
east into old Elsinore,
the Prince can ignore
neither bitterness, nor
the guilt that continues to gnaw.

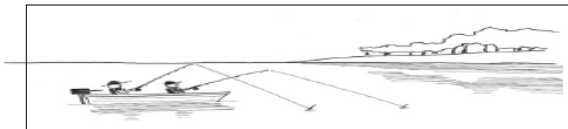
Sign of the Times

On a delicatessen window:

Our wurst is best.

Terry's Trivia (from the Indooroopilly luncheon. - Answers on page 10)

1. At the Hong Kong Polytechnic Jackie Chan teaches: (i) Martial Arts; (ii) Sports Medicine; (iii) Acting; (iv) Tourism Management**;** (v) Garden Design.
2. Which of the Noble Gases has the lowest atomic number: (i**)** Helium; (ii) Neon; (iii) Argon; (iv) Krypton; (v) Xenon.
3. Who scored the first State of Origin try for QLD in the first game (1980): (i) Wally Lewis; (ii) Mal Meninga; (iii) Chris Close; (iv) Kerry Boustead; (v) Johnny Lang.
4. What is the third letter of the Greek Alphabet? (i) Beta; (ii) Lambda; (iii) Theta; (iv) Gamma**;** (v) Epsilon.
5. Which THREE sauces go into a Prawn Cocktail: (i**)** Worcestershire; (ii) Tomato; (iii) Mayonnaise; (iv) BBQ; (v) Chili; (vi) Mustard; (vii) Soya; (viii) Pepper; (ix) Hollandaise
6. Allodoxaphobia is a fear of: (ii) Vaccinations; (ii) Shopping Centres; (iii) Public Speaking; (iv) Neighbours; (v) Other Peoples' opinions**;** (vi) Red Ties.
7. The Carolina Reaper chili is hotter than the Jalapeño chilli by a factor of (i) 6; (ii) 16; (iii) 60; (iv) 140; (v**)** 296.
8. Each year the world grows approximately how many apples: (i) 540 Million (ii) 540 x 10^7 (iii) 540 x 10^8 (iv) 540 Billion**.**
9. How many of the 2200 passengers on the Titanic survived? :(i) None; (ii) 100; (iii) 300; (iv) 500; (v) 700**;** (vi) 900
10. Mt Vesuvius is a few km east of (i) Rome; (ii) Milan; (iii) Florence; (iv) Naples; (v) Cadiz.
11. Which continent has the most countries (84): (i) Africa; (ii) Asia; (iii) Europe; (iv) South America; (v) Australia.



"Ï always take things with a pinch of salt.'
"That must be the reason you always have such a thirst."

Book Club

Thanks to the University of Queensland Bookfest, supplemented by the Ipswich Library, we binged on *The Clifton Chronicles* by Jeffrey Archer – all seven large volumes. He can certainly tell a story and is the master of the cliff-hanger ending. Not only does he leave you wondering at the end of a chapter, he does it at the end of a book so you are impelled to start the next one!

The Clifton Chronicles is a seven volume multi-generational saga over the course of the twentieth century, in which Archer explores themes of love, loss and betrayal as he takes the reader on a journey from the back alleys of Bristol to the teeming streets of New York City and the Gulags of Stalinist Russia. The plotting is extraordinary with multiple twists and turns in the narrative and plenty of complexity in the characterization.

In the books, the character Harry Clifton becomes a best-selling author through a series of crime novels featuring a policeman William Warwick. Archer's readers told him that they would love to read these novels, so Archer obliged and wrote them. The eighth and last, *End Game,* was due to be published this October.

Harry Clifton also won awards for his magnum opus, *Heads You Win*, so Archer wrote that too!

Ian Pullar

We have also been reading a series of crime fiction by Charles French, featuring a private detective named Charles Lenox. Set in and around London in the 1860s and '70s, they are redolent of the era and the social conditions with lots of historical facts as a bonus.

Charles Lenox, Victorian gentleman and armchair explorer, likes nothing more than to relax in his private study with a cup of tea, a roaring fire and a good book. But he can't pass up a good mystery, and this amateur sleuth is often called on to leave his comforts behind in the pursuit of clues. Follow him into the public houses, Mayfair mansions and servants' quarters of Victorian London, into the intrigues of Parliament and secrets of Oxford.

However, it is obvious that the author is an American and neither he nor his publisher has gone to the trouble of translating them into English. So there are constant clangs with "gray", "gotten", "roadside curb", "defense", "center" and the like, none of which would have been used in Victorian England. He even refers to Queen Elizabeth I who didn't exist until the advent of Elizabeth II in 1952. This rather spoils the mood of the 1860s and it would have been so easy to fix it.

Otherwise the books are good examples of the genre with good plotting and characterisation in an excellent portrayal of a class conscious society. They also give an insight into the social conditions that gradually, but inexorably led to the more egalitarian society of today.

Ian Pullar

By now, readers will have noticed that I read a lot of crime fiction. I can assure you that this is not because I am a closet murderer: it is the intricacy and cleverness of the plot that attracts me. One could say, it is the engineering of the piece, but each to his own! Most of my engineering friends are more down to earth! – **Ed,**

When I was passed over for the promotion, I asked my boss, "What did Jack have that I haven't got?" "The job".

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When it comes to knowing someone's intentions, a will is a dead give away.