

WATERY SAUCES OLDIES AND BOLDIES

SUMMER EDITION

1993

NEWSLETTER NO. 11 OCTOBER SUMMER EDITION 1993

We are light on with our news from the bush this edition. Country members particularly are most welcome to send items for inclusion in our three editions each year - March, July and October. Material should reach me in the preceding month.

REST IN PEACE

Joy Beattie passed away peacefully in the Holy Spirit Hospital on the 19th September, following operations and illness over the previous 22 months. Our condolences are offered to Don, Richard and Belinda and their families.

Arthur Seabrook a victim of several strokes, passed away suddenly at the Hopetoun Nursing Home on 25 July 1993 aged 87.

Arthur was born in London in 1905 and on completing his secondary education commenced his working career with the P & O Shipping Company in London. He trained as a shipping clerk and a ships purser.

Early in World War II Arthur enlisted in the RAF and on being commissioned served on the Queen Mary for two years as baggage officer. The "Mary" at this time was engaged in troop carrying on the North Atlantic run and was controlled by the RAF. In 1944 he was assigned to Cairo as senior freight officer for the Middle East, a position he retained until discharged from the RAF.

With the war over he resumed work with the P & O, however his war service left him with itchy feet. As a result of which, together with his wife they set sail for Australia in January 1948. They took up residence in the Northern Rivers Area NSW with an acquaintance Arthur met during the war. He began employment on a banana plantation but found the unaccustomed heavy work not his forte. In 1950 he moved to Brisbane and purchased a suburban grocery store and remained in business until joining the Commission in 1955.

He was appointed as an Hydrographic Assistant and assigned to Surface Water Resources Branch at Head Office. He was primarily involved with routine office duties and streamflow computation and remained with SWR until his retirement in 1971.

Arthur will be fondly remembered for his cheerful and helpful attitude in Head Office and an ability to engage in conversation on most topics of interest.

In spite of becoming severely handicapped after suffering a stroke in October 1984 he retained his sense of humour and cheerful approach to life. At the nursing home where he had resided for years he was generally regarded as the gentle gentleman.

Our sympathy is extended to Mrs Arthur Seabrook and Allen and family.

Mrs Ken Carmichael died on 23 July aged 88. Mrs Carmichael is the widow of Ken who passed away a year earlier. Our condolences are offered to Miss Jenny Carmichael and Mrs Helen Woolcock and family.

Frank Lennon passed away on 16 July 1993 in Bundaberg in his 80th year. Frank joined the then Irrigation and Water Supply Commission at Bonshaw Weir in the year 1949. The Engineer in Charge was G F O'Hanlon.

He was promoted to foreman at this site and then moved to the Whetstone Weir on Macintyre Brook in 1950. 1951 saw the construction of Mulgildie Weir near Monto, then a brief time at BenDor Weir near Yelarbon. In 1953 Frank was appointed District Officer at Goondiwindi. He was associated with the construction of more weirs in the Border Rivers Scheme, namely Cunningham, Glenarbron, Bonshaw Weir (Reconstruction 1956-58 after flood damage), and the Boomi Weir 1959-61.

In 1964 he was transferred back to construction at Coolmunda Dam. After completion of the dam, he was appointed Operations Supervisor and remained as such until his retirement in 1977 when he settled in Toowoomba.

He is survived by two sons and a daughter to whom sympathy is extended.

Thanks to son Barry for these notes.

Jim Prosser died on 17 July 1993 at Rockhampton in his 69th year. Jim was born in Abergavenny, Wales. He came to Australia as a child and commenced work in the Collie Coal mines Western Australia at 14. At 17 he joined the RAAF and served in New Guinea as a Sergeant Armourer.

After the war he commenced working his way around Australia.

In 1948 he reached Mundubbera and joined the Commission as a carpenter on the weir. On completion of the weir he transferred to the Burdekin and in 1958 to the Mareeba scheme. He was promoted steadily and reached Senior Works Supervisor in 1966. Apart from these works he served on the Burdekin Delta Recharge Works, on Fairbairn, Ross River, Boondooma and Awoonga Dams. He also worked on the Neville Hewitt Weir and had a short spell on the Gin-Gin Main Channel.

Jim retired in 1984 when Awoonga Dam was completed.

He subsequently reappeared employed by the consultant on Claude Wharton Weir at Gayndah.

Jim retired to Keppel Sands. He is survived by his wife, Ivy, whom he married at Mundubbera and by 4 children.

Jims main attributes during his 36 years service were his unswerving loyalty, his instinctive grasp of new and emerging construction methods, and his management abilities.

Jim had a good singing voice and many of his friends will remember with pleasure, his tendency to break into song at the slightest provocation.

Thanks Malcolm Pegg

Arthur Henry "Blokke" Streeter, passed away at the age of 77 years, in the Gin Gin District Hospital in July 1993.

Blokke was born and educated in Bullyard, a small township situated between Bundaberg and Gin Gin.

From 1941 to 1946 he served in the Army in Australia and overseas. After his discharge he bought his own cane farm in the Gin Gin District.

Blokke spent over 10 years working for the Commission at Fred Haigh Dam. He helped set up the camp and followed the project through to its completion, and in July 1980 he retired. He was well respected by his fellow workers and was well known for his honesty and reliability.

After his retirement he became a tireless worker for the Lions Club and the Gin Gin Bowling Club. Blokke was very well known and highly regarded by the residents of the Gin Gin District.

Thanks Roy Maxted

Norman J White, father of Norm, died on the 29th August aged 83 years. Our respect is offered to members of the family.

RESERVOIRS AND RETIREES

DAMS Alan Wickham continued his long association with the Australian National Committee on Large ~~Farms~~ when he and Joan attended the Ancold Annual Conference on Dams at Mackay in August, together with fellow retirees Malcolm Pegg and Ben Russo. The meeting was organised, efficiently as ever, by Water Resources, with Brian Shannon convening the organising committee and Bob Thwaite manning the computer as Conference Secretary.

The program was a good mix of conference session, field inspections (including Burton Gorge Roller Compacted Concrete Dam, Pioneer River weirs and Peter Faust Dam), social events (Large Dinners) and visits to such attractive places as Airlie Beach and Laguna Quays as well as Mackay itself. Such is the attraction of the North in winter the attendance set a new record of over 100 delegates and 21 ladies. Congratulations to Brian, Bob and Co for a great job of organisation.

On the drive to and from Mackay, Alan and Joan visited a number of places not recently seen including the Emu Park/Yeppoon coast, Eungella (in the rain and cloud), Mt Morgan, Cania Gorge and Dam and Fraser Island. Now back to the neglected computer.

Thanks Alan

RECUPERATIONS

Ron Afflick has contacted us after our last newsletter. Some of Ron's letter, as dictated to his wife, is reproduced here.

"Prior to my retirement I was hospitalised in Proserpine with what was thought to be a minor stroke. After retiring and following consultation with a neuro-surgeon it was discovered that I had a blocked left carotid artery and had developed a slight limp in my right leg.

After retiring my leg started to drag and I returned to the neuro-surgeon who diagnosed a protrusion between the 5th and 6th vertebrae that was pressing on a nerve in the spinal cord and was causing problems with my right leg. An operation was recommended, unfortunately during the operation the 6th vertebra was chipped and this caused a failure of nerves controlling part of my right arm and hand.

Two further operations were required to remove the chipped bone. These three operations took place over a period of two months. Twelve months later my condition had not improved and another operation was carried out to remove part of my cervical vertebrae from the back. This was done in April of this year.

I now have restricted use of my right hand and arm and have a spastic right leg. With the trauma of trying to get used to these problems I have not attended functions that I would normally attend.

One of the things I look forward to is reading the newsletter from the "Oldies" and the annual report from the Department.

Many of my good friends have phoned me during my convalescence and you can imagine how pleased I am to hear from them.

Since retiring, life has not been all gloom and doom, I have had three fishing trips to the Gulf and Peninsular and four trips to the Burdekin Delta each for a couple of weeks of great company and great fishing, invariably I get to see some ex-Commission people during each trip and perhaps a warning might be helpful for you.

When visiting Atherton - if Charlie Paolucci invites you around for five minutes take your watch, he thinks five minutes is 1½ hours - if Wally Russel asks you to go for a walk be prepared for about 20 kilometres.

Before I get too carried away thinking I am writing "Safety News" you might care to remind Bernie Credlin that he used to read the "News" only for any jokes I was able to dig up and I am waiting for him to put some in the newsletters.

Yours sincerely,

Ron Afflick"

(Thanks for the joke book Ron. Our magazine is a respectable family publication and unfortunately we cannot use half the jokes. We don't understand the other half. Ed)

Dave Wilmot has had major heart surgery in St Andrews Hospital and is making good progress. Get well soon Dave.

REORGANISATION AND REWARD

The following story is based on one doing the rounds in the UK. It seems to have a familiar ring to it:

Once upon a time a Government Department had an annual boat race with an Outside Organisation. Each year the Department was beaten by a great margin.

The Departmental Executives were very much upset by these yearly thrashings and set up a project team to investigate the problem and to recommend appropriate action.

The project team concluded the opposition had eight people rowing and one person steering. The Department's team had one rower and eight steerers.

Senior management immediately hired a consultant to study the team's structure. Many thousand dollars and several months later they concluded that too many people were steering and not enough were rowing.

The team structure was changed to four Steering Managers, three Senior Steering Managers and one Executive Steering Manager. A performance and appraisal system was set up to give the person rowing the boat more incentive to work harder and to become a key performer. "We must give him empowerment and job enrichment".

The next year the Outside Organisation won by an even bigger margin so the Department laid off the rower for poor performance, sold off the oars, cancelled all capital investment in new equipment, halted work on the design of a new shell, ^{gave} rewarded high performance awards to the consultants and distributed the money thus saved to senior management by way of higher salaries, cars for private use and improved superannuation.

REFLECTIONS ON MORE RAILROADS by Morris S. Ochert

Trains are always fascinating, so here's another talk about them. I am sure that all the vintage IWS personnel who worked on, or visited Tinaroo Dam rode up and down the crazy little line from Cairns to Kuranda. If you haven't, it's a treat in store for you. Watch for the huge, wooden, skew trestle which carried the train across a falling stream. In wet weather, the waterfall sometimes falls over the wagons! Never mind - it's only fresh water. The Kuranda Falls have been diminished since much of the water has been bypassed into the flume of a hydro-electric installation. When I saw it first, in full flow, during World War II, it was a great sight. Kuranda Station boasts the most beautiful platform in Queensland, with rain forest plants, orchids and palms.

In Victoria, Puffing "Billy" also crosses a spectacular curved trestle built of local logs. It runs up the Dandenong Range through forests and hills. It must be the only railway which encourages everyone to sit half out of the carriages. People drive up from miles around to make videos of it and wave as it passes. The sound of the steam engines in the steep range is really nostalgic. There's no better excuse to get out of Melbourne for a happy day! "Billy" also does night trips with wining and dining and a heavyweight cook. "Billy has a little brother called Peter Peckett", says the circular. "He runs from Gembrook ... following Billy's original track, giving superb long-distance views".

Closer to home is the fascinating model railway at Flaxton Barn on the Mapleton-Montville Road. A Brisbane Engineer has built a unique, working display, with trains, mountains, a wedding, shops and waterfalls. It includes an intricate European panorama with an entire miniature town with a superb light show and animated action sequences. Don't miss it!

While in Melbourne, see the historic shot tower. It is over a century old and is completely enclosed by the world's biggest glass cone - over 20 stories high! Inside the shot tower is a restaurant. The glass dome is incorporated into the huge Daimaru Complex which contains a vast ultra-modern shopping town.

Seiko provided a giant marionette fob-watch, over 3 metres in diameter, weighing two tonnes. On the hour, the base prolapses, revealing kookas, galahs and elves who perform to the music of "Waltzing Matilda". There are murals, a kinetic tower simulating the workings of the old shot tower, the Crystal Falls (3 storeys high), a vivarium of 500 live butterflies, a hot air balloon and a bi-plane and millions of visitors. In the first week, over two million people passed through the store. It's the largest shopping complex in the Southern Hemisphere.

In Melbourne, a well-known story circulates widely. A local visitor says to one of the many Japanese visitors to Daimaru ... "You people walk around as though you own this place". The answer was "We do".

Now why tell the story of Diamaru in this tale about Railways? Well ... the entire huge complex is built right over (and incorporates) one of Melbourne's busiest, multi-level underground railway stations, Museum (Melbourne Central). Imagine the problems of finding where to put down the foundations of this enormous structure! But that's another story.

ROBBO'S REVENGE

A disappointing turn up of only 12 attended the golf day on 26 August at St Lucia.

Stewie (Thunderbolt) Robinson playing off an astronomical handicap took out the major trophy. Another gang of bush-rangers led by Grahame Bertram rounded up the remainder of the prizes.

Stan Ross completed his first 18 holes of golf after two decades away from the links and showed enough of his old skills to suggest that he would have been the Ned Kelly of all golfers.

The poor attendance raises doubts as to the future of these golf days. A lot of work goes into organising them and unless they are better patronised perhaps these efforts will have to be redirected.

ROSS' ROLL-UP

On the 31st August, the Association's 'End of Winter Celebration' Bowls Day was held at the Aspley Memorial Bowls Club. Twenty-eight people gathered for lunch, and eighteen players battled out the games, where fifteen ends of triples were played in both morning and afternoon. Morning winning team was Eric Davis, Doris Robinson and Col Taggart, while afternoon winning team was Eric Davis, Edith Learmonth and Editha Taggart. Eric was later heard to comment "I should have been playing this game years ago."

From other comments it would appear a very pleasant day was had by all, and thanks go to Doris Robinson and Stan Ross for arranging it.

REPASTS

The dinner held at the College of Tourism and Hospitality South Brisbane on the night of 22 July was enjoyed by all those attended. The view from the fourth floor - across Southbank, the River and the City was outstanding.

The quality of the food and the service were very good and a credit to the students preparing and serving the meals and to their instructors.

The annual Christmas function for 1993 is to be held at the same venue. (See attached).

A special endeavour will be made this year to assist the widows of former members with transport to and from the function. If you live near the widow of a member and you can help with transport to any of our functions, particularly the Christmas function, you might care to advise the widow and/or Norm White.

RE-DIRECTIONS

Fellow oldies Noel Hopkins and Eric Davies offer gardening and handyman services.

Noel operates a complete gardening, landscaping, lawn mowing and handyman business under the name "Bees Knees" from 10 Arnold Street, Holland Park 4121, Phone 397 3758 or 018 781 832.

Eric specialises in small jobs and repairs including concreting, paving, bricklaying, tiling, carpentry, wall papering, painting, mowing, gardening etc. Eric can be contacted at 19 Mortland Street, Mt Gravatt 4122, Phone 349 6638.

(Other members who wish to draw our attention to the services they offer are welcome to do so by sending details to the Editor).

READING

Mrs Pauline Wright still has about 100 copies of Harry's book "Pathfinder Squadron" for sale at cost. Next year is the 50th anniversary of the Normandy landing and the beginning of the end of the war in Europe. The role of the Pathfinders in that terrible war was magnificent and Harry's own record, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Bar and the Distinguished Flying Medal, was an outstanding one.

This book is a story based on a real life Pathfinder crew, their hopes, fears and the dangers they faced.

Copies of the book can be purchased for \$12 from Pauline, 102 Peach Street, Greenslopes 4120, Phone 397 1723.

RUGBY

Alan and Gwen Vizer have warm inner glows partly due to the performances of nephew Wallaby David Wilson.

Mrs Bertha Johnson is delighted at the success of grandson David Giffin who has played for the Queensland and Australian under 21 sides. The late Garney would have been ecstatic.

RETORTS AND RIPOSTES IN SPORT

Boxing

"I can close any cut in the world in 50 seconds so long as it ain't a total beheading". Adolf Ritacco boxing corner-man banned for life for using illicit substances to repair injuries.

American Football

"I'm a light eater. As soon as it's light I start to eat", Art Donovan 140kg former Baltimore Colts footballer.

Cricket

"Botham couldn't bowl a hoop downhill" Fred Trueman before Botham went on to take 31 wickets in the 1985 series against Australia.

"Gower not only has to prove that he is worth a place as captain but as a batsman at Lords" Fred Trueman again. Gower went on to make 731 runs in that series.

Golf

"I owe a lot to my parents, especially my Mum and Dad" Greg Norman

"There are two things not long for this world - dogs that chase cars and pro golfers who chip for pars" Lee Trevino

English Soccer

"I've always said that there's a place for the Press but they haven't dug it yet' Tommy Docherty ex Manchester United Manager.

"Football hooligans? Well there are 92 club chairmen for a start" Brian Clough, Nottingham Forest Manager 1980.

Ice Hockey

"No I never broke my nose playing ice hockey; but eleven other guys did" Gordie Howe, American player.

Rugby Union

"Our rugby has gone bloody soft. In my days we wore our cuts and bruises and our cauliflower ears like war medals. You look at today's players and you cannot tell whether they play prop or ping pong. There's not a mark on 'em!" Ray Prosser, Pontypool Coach.

Cheers,
Bernie Credlin
Editor

Congratulations & best wishes are extended to our Editor and Sherry who are in Townsville celebrating the birth of their first grandchild.

**Norm White
Hon. Secretary**