



WATERY SAUCES [] AND BOLDIES

POLITICALLY CORRECT EDITION

NEWSLETTER NO 12 MARCH 1994

REST IN PEACE

Paquita Hitchcock passed away on 10th February. The large number of mourners at Albany Creek Crematorium was indicative of their regard for the Hitchcocks and Paquita's very wide range of interests in the community. Our sympathy is extended to Bob and Matt and Leith and their families.

Angus Ole died during the latter part of last year. Angus was very well known through many parts of Queensland where he served as Clerk of Petty Sessions and Magistrate. He retired in Bowen where he took an active part in community affairs. We ask Jim to accept our condolences.

Keith Boon, retired Water Officer of Theodore passed away on 7th November 1993. Keith was born in Longreach in 1922. He enlisted at the age of 16 and served in 2/25th Battalion of the 7th Division in the Middle East and New Guinea where he was wounded.

After the war, Keith had an earth-moving business in the Central West where he built a reputation for the quality of his work. He joined the old IWS in Theodore in 1971 becoming a well respected officer and a good townsman. His thoroughness was legendary. So too was his modest driving. It was said by the locals that Keith needed a rear 'roo bar as protection from overtaking kangaroos.

Keith retired in 1986 and married his second wife, Gloria the following year.

In retirement he maintained a deep interest in the "Commission" and in public and national affairs. He was President of the Theodore Sub Branch of the RSL for 11 years and was awarded life membership in 1991.

Our sympathy is extended to Gloria and to his children Sandra and Robin.

A tribute to Keith from Theodore concludes with the words:- (He) was a great bloke, a true friend, a good soldier, and a loyal and proud man.

Gladys Maxted, mother of Roy died on 7th January. Roy and Iris have our sympathy.

Ted McDonald formerly of DPI Mareeba passed away recently. Ted was well regarded by WRC people for his close involvement in the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area. We extend our condolences to son Bob with Water Resources in Brisbane.

Maurice Keith (Morrie) Standen died on 5th March aged 63 years. He is survived by wife Val, two daughters and several grand and great grandchildren. His funeral service was very well attended by Commission and other friends and relatives. Morrie worked for 35 years with the Commission. We offer our sympathy to Val and family.

REGIONAL NEWS

Bundaberg, John and Germaine Kennedy have recently returned from a holiday in Tasmania where they renewed acquaintances with WRC retiree **Alan Ely** and his wife **Grace**. Alan worked in the Bundaberg District Office.

Congratulations to Germaine on the publication of her book. May it be a best seller.

George Beran sends this copy of a hydrographer's report of 1979. It fits into our theme:-

"TRIP REPORT TO LOWER BARRON

18/04/79

G.S. 110001(C) - The Integrated digital time-phase of the recorder was found to be synchronised third-generation hardware on arrival. However on checking we found optional transitional programming on the transistor card and a functional digital projection on the motor tray. We then agreed on the systematised incremental concept on changing the chart but due to the responsive monitored capability on the drive chain we could only parallel policy projection. (This accounts for the huge loss of balanced logistical options on the recorder chart). We then immediately synchronised reciprocal mobility of the gas bubble rate and balanced incremental flexibility of the gas bottle. This optional monitored contingency helped us to repair the entire compatible logistical programming of the G.E. recorder.

Credits should be given to the responsive third-generation options of Assistant Hydrographer V. Manley who fearlessly integrated organisational programming of the recorder chart and the ink bottle."

Thanks Roy Maxted

Mareeba The Christmas Get-together for the local retirees was held at the "Homestead" at Tolga on 29th November where 30 mature youngsters chatted happily over lunch in beautiful surroundings. Photographs of last years reunion were passed around and after lunch more pictures taken. The lucky door prize was won by Joan Clark.

Thanks Keith Turner

REMINISCENCES

Rough to Royal and Ancient

Des Foster was pressured into supplying the following paragraphs:

It hardly seems nearly seven years since I "pulled the pin" and wonder of wonders I still miss my work!! However, a great deal of my time has been spent in golf administration.

I am afraid my forty years of golf involvement must be attributed to (or blamed on) just two oldies, namely Len Redmond and Bernie Credlin.

It all goes back to the Clare days of early 1950's, when the "Clare boys" were invited by the Ayr Golf Club to be their guests for the day. I recall spending a great deal of my time in the long grass looking for my ball - it cost three shillings - that the upshot was I found fifteen other balls. Yes, they had stopped rolling; and I thought I may as well join the club and utilise my finds.

The years rolled past and my interest in the game became more profound - the bug had really bitten - and I became very involved in Committee doings. I joined various clubs at centres where Project Planning duties deemed I should go. In fact it was at golf at St George where Bernie Credlin's typiste, Daree, caught my eye.

In 1975 I was elected as President of the Darling Downs and South West Golf Association and the many visits to clubs from Warwick to Cunnamulla will always bring back fond memories. I'm sure many Oldies will understand if I cover these events by saying "western hospitality was up to par".

By a stroke of good fortune I was asked to stand for election to the Queensland Golf Union Executive and against all betting odds, nudged out the Brisbane nominee, who later become a very good friend.

As time went on I became President of the Queensland Golf Union and in 1990 President of the Australian Golf Union.

Both these positions as well may be imagined demanded a great deal of travelling, visits and certainly a fair share of hospitality. I was able to visit many of my old clubs and I am sure you can understand that the Ayr Golf Club was on the itinerary. By now the Club had gone from a nine hole sand-green club to an 18 hole beautiful grass green course with a new club house to boot. An interesting feature also now being that the fairways were lined with 400 Bowen Special mango trees that were harvested by the club and the proceeds of their sale helped to balance the budget.

Looking back I guess that my official visit to St Andrews for the 1990 British Open - known locally as The Open was certainly a highlight.

Daree and I were accommodated in the R and A Captain's residence that overlooked the 18th green.

Next, was to have morning tea with the Secretary in the "holiest of holies" the Clubhouse, - sans Daree as ladies are not admitted. To a golfer I guess this was the ultimate, but more was to follow!

On the Saturday morning of the tournament I received a phone call from the Captain (a twelve month appointment taken from the U.K. Clubs). Would Daree and I "do him a Favour" and be prepared to meet Princess Anne?

My dumbfounded reply "wait till I ask my wife". I have never been let forget those infamous words. Of course you would know that Daree's worry would be "what'll I wear"?

My personal highlight came on the last day of The Open when I was asked by the Secretary if I would like to accompany the second last group as an Observer - golfers get out your rule books and see the Definition of an Observer. Certainly a once in a lifetime experience for any Australian - let alone one "from the bush".

To anyone, golfer or non golfer, who has had the opportunity to visit the town of St Andrews I am sure the very history of the area can be actually felt in the bones.

Whilst we were there I attended, along with 200 delegates from 45 countries, the First World Congress of the Science of Golf. I promise not to relate all the subjects covered.

Our accommodation for the congress was at St Salvatores at St Andrew's University, built in 1450. We had twin beds that Daree swears were purchased second hand for the opening. A wooden study table was carved with countless names and initials in every possible space. The view out the window overlooked St Andrew's Bay which seemed to be the home of 1000 more times the number of seagulls that haunt the Southport Broadwater or Adelaide Oval.

Whilst a member of the Australian Golf Union Executive I was also most fortunate to be selected as non-Playing Captain/Manager of an Australian team to New Zealand. They may forgive the "underarm incident" but they will never forget it.

I also took a team to Canada to play in the Canadian Amateur Championship. However, that's another story that I'll keep for later ...

Thanks Des

David Wilmott is back at his word processor after a bit of a setback to his recovery from heart surgery last year. He sent this account of some of his experiences in the Mareeba-Dimbulah area:-

Early Days!

In this age of the 'politically correct' one has to be careful of the terminology employed. Frankly, it is a modern aberration I abhor! ... So I shall, in this anecdotal accounting, comfortably refer to the 'pioneering' days in Mareeba.

In the days before Tinaroo Dam and the channel systems, my primary role throughout the tobacco growing season was operation and control of water releases from the weirs within the area viz; Emerald Creek Weir; Tinaroo Creek Weir, Granite Creek Weir; and Bruce and Leafgold Weirs on the Walsh River.

As those familiar with requirements for such releases will be aware, the major point for consideration was, apart from the amount to be released on each occasion, definition of the economic distance water could be allowed to traverse. One of the determinants, especially for the Walsh River, was the width of the river, and the amount of sand in the river. A considerable amount of water could be uselessly squandered if care was not taken to select the best of channels available, and ensure the channel was maintained free of obstruction.

To assist with marshalling and control, generally, a committee of growers from the benefited area was elected for each weir, with myself as Chairman. These groups met at appointed times throughout the growing season to deal with problems arising but, their most important function, particularly on the Bruce Weir stretch, was to keep the selected channel free from obstruction.

As tobacco was a highly lucrative crop at that time, every grower was anxious to ensure that he received the full benefit of his entitlement. This was achieved by having volunteers from the committee patrol the channel before, and during, a release. Until as, early in our first year, one unscrupulous grower, having increased his crop area, shovelled sand across the channel, checking the flow so that he could grab off extra water for his additional pump - illegally installed.

The immediate, and vociferous protest brought me to visit the offender and order his illegal pump from the stream, and to advise that permission had been given for any future 'dams' to be removed. His immediate response - one often encountered - was that he couldn't understand. This was overcome by bringing along an interpreter ... However, at the committee meeting, shortly after, two of my members resigned - the reason, fear of this aggressive grower! When the water stopped flowing, they had shouldered their shovels and went to break out the dam ... They were met by the grower and his men, who produced knives and told my two stalwarts "you come this way again - you no go home!" Feeling that the authority they had been given was somewhat inadequate in the face of this form of confrontation, they left the dam intact and retired, determined to resign and let me sort out the problem! ... A volunteer grower, fearless, tough as teak, and built like the side of a house, said: "Don't worry! Leave this b----- to me!" It worked! The dams never appeared again - and I was careful never to ask the methods by which my huge volunteer convinced the water-grabber he shouldn't build another dam.

The language factor did often intrude as a very real problem. Some growers had little, or no, English, and explaining the purpose and intention of controlled releases introduced some difficulties ... It also contained some humorous possibilities ... One day, driving along Emerald Creek to check on the progress of water from a release, a visibly irate grower, jumped in front of my vehicle, waving his arms frantically. As I stopped, he came up and growled: "You spik-a my daughter!" ... I was a bit taken aback as I knew the man only by name, and certainly knew none of his daughters. Not certain of what I was to be accused of doing with, or to, his daughter, I was relieved when a fourteen year old girl joined her father and explained that he could not speak English but wanted me to know that a grower upstream was 'blocking' the water, and could I do something about it!

Advisory work in the multi-lingual, multi-cultural environment that was Mareeba in those first days, contained elements of the unexpected and unusual that proved infinitely fascinating for a 'new chum from the south!'

In my first week there I was required to visit a farm, but was stopped by the police as I approached the house. The man I was to see had just stabbed his wife, and was being taken into custody.

As is often remarked: "Those were the days!"

Thanks David

Mick Moore Some of our members will remember Mick who had an Engineering Scholarship in 1951-4. After graduation Mick worked at St George, Head Office, Theodore and the Burdekin Irrigation Area. Mick then attended the Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore obtaining his Ph.D. He taught for a while at the Baltimore Polytechnic and then moved to the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology where he is now Senior Lecturer in Civil Engineering.

He and wife Genevieve live with their three children at Parkdale, Victoria.

Col Hazel has put together an account of the life of Walter Peak from notes prepared by Walter some years ago. A shortened version appeared in our April 1992 Newsletter. Members who would like a copy of Col's booklet should contact Col, Principal Engineer (Assessment) Water Resources Division, Department of Primary Industries, GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Qld 4001, Telephone (07) 224 7387.

RACIAL RECTITUDE

Political correctness apparently does not extend to references to the people of the British Isles, hence Poms and Paddies and the following:

The Welsh pray (prey) on their knees and their neighbours,
The Scots keep the Sabbath and anything else they lay their hands on,
The English are self-made and continually worship their Creator,
The Irish are a fair people, they never speak well of one another.

RATS, RESEARCH AND RUMPOLES

Q. Why are U.S. scientists using lawyers for their experiments in place of rats?

A. There are three reasons:

1. There are more lawyers than rats.
2. Lawyers will do things that even rats wont, and
3. Scientists become more emotionally attached to rats than to lawyers.

RATTLES AND TATTLES

Pat McMahon has been dragging his feet, well at least one foot. The foot has been reshod and Pat hopes to be soon back on the golf course.

Jim Walls our Honorary Treasurer and Charlie have been holidaying in New Zealand. Jim spent a few days in hospital before Christmas.

David Morwood has provided the following list of occupants of country positions in the Water Resources Division.

Regional and District Managers

Members may be interested in an up-to-date list of Water Resources District and Regional Managers. Some of you may not even be aware of some of the Districts on the list below, but they are all fair dinkum as at February 1994.

North Region	Regional Manager	Peter Gilbey
Mareeba	District Manager	Grant Sadler
Innisfail	District Manager	Bruce Gaydon
Ayr	District Manager	Ed Donohue
Mackay	District Manager	John Palmer
Central Region	Regional Manager	Mike McKenna
Rockhampton	District Manager	Maurice Clewley
Biloela	District Manager	Rob Keogh
Emerald	District Manager	Jim Cook
West Region	Regional Manager	Richard West (yes)
Longreach	District Manager	Bill Steen
Charleville	District Manager	Ged Brennan
South East Region	Regional Manager	Chris Robson
Bundaberg	District Manager	Bill Souter
Gympie	District Manager	Edwin Miller
Mundubbera	Acting D/Manager	Bob Herd
Brisbane	District Manager	Allan Murray
Gatton	District Manager	Steve Moller
South Region	Regional Manager	Greg Claydon
Toowoomba	District Manager	Ross Krebs
Warwick	District Manager	Greg Murphy
Roma	District Manager	Dennis Russell
Goondiwindi	District Manager	Frank Walker
St George	District Manager	Tom Wallwork

Also, two ex-WRC people are Regional Directors of the Department of Primary Industries. They are:-

- Tim Smith, South East Region; and
- Frank van Schagen, South Region

Technical Officers, in charge at some of the more popularly known dams are:

Tinaroo	Howard Bloomfield	Fred Haigh	John Bockabella
Burdekin Falls	Snow Engstrom	Borumba	John Kropp
Kinchant/Eton	Ross Wheeler	Atkinson's	Graham Bayliss
Fairbairn	Doug Grigg	Moogerah	Ray Schluter
Peter Faust	Brett Schulz	Maroon	Rob Titmarsh
Callide	Mick Patterson	Glenlyon	Les Raymond
Wuruma	Alan Potter	Coolmunda	Steve Pett
Bjelke-Petersen	Bob Brown	Leslie	Alan Chalk
Boondooma	John Leyden	Beardmore	Roy Aldridge

Thanks David Morwood

Christmas Function This was excellent. The venue, the College of Tourism and Hospitality at South Brisbane was superb, the meal was good and the service was most satisfactory.

A record attendance of 76 was very satisfying to Norm and the committee. It was good to see spouses of deceased members attend.

Social Ship Inn, 2nd March

The postponed February social was held at the Ship Inn because the usual venue at Mineral House is no longer available. Considering the short notice the attendance of twenty eight was good.

Drinks and savouries were enjoyed on the upstairs verandah in a comfortable and relaxed environment.

These functions are an important part of our calendar, providing opportunities to renew friendships. It would be rewarding if more members and partners could attend.

Thanks Norm

Annual General Meeting

Don't forget this meeting at 11.00 on Thursday 14th April at the Ship Inn Hotel. The hotel is just outside the south eastern end of Southbank and has easy access to Vulture Street Railway station and buses and is close to Southbank parking.

Norm White would like it known that the Annual Subscription is currently \$5.00 for city members and \$2.50 for those from the country. The A.G.M. may of course change these.

Cheers

Carol A. Davidson
for Bernie Credlin
EDITOR