

WATERY SAUCES OLDIES AND BOLDIES

JIM OLE 60th BIRTHDAY EDITION 1995

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REST IN PEACE

Harold Buckle died on 9th September at the grand old age of 98. He was born in Bundaberg and educated at Caboolture, Nundah and the Central Technical College. In 1913 he began work with the Queensland Public Service in the State Children's Department before transferring to the Auditor General's Department. He audited Government accounts in many towns in Queensland and carried out the first audit in Mount Isa. He sometimes spoke of the rough and ready life in the new town.

As a senior Inspector he audited the accounts of the Main Roads Department in 1943 and so impressed the Commissioner (Sir John Kemp, later Coordinator General) with his meticulous work that he appointed him Chief Accountant with instructions "to fix up all the faults he found during the audit." The Department was heavily engaged in the building of defence roads and airstrips for the Allies in addition to its normal activities and Harold was obliged to work very long hours, so long in fact that his children saw him at weekends only because he left for work before they woke and returned after 11pm.

In 1947 he was appointed Secretary to the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission and then Assistant Commissioner (Admin.) in 1949. He retired in 1963.

He was extremely proud of the Public Service and most of its officers and demanded, and got, high standards of work and conduct.

Harold was an outstanding sportsman excelling in golf (he played off a handicap of 6), tennis and cricket (he represented Queensland in Interstate Public Service competitions) and bowls. He was a founding member of the Virginia Golf Club.

He is survived by Norris Buckle, Nancy Ford, Garth and Harvey Buckle and Stella Fraser. His wife predeceased him in 1972.

Thanks George

Warren White died suddenly in hospital on 8th September. Warren was born in Maryborough on 15th December 1936 and educated at the local Christian Brothers College. He joined the Public Service when he was 16 and retired in December 1991. Warren worked his way through the clerical ranks serving as (Clerk Cash Credit Accounts), Clerk (Records), Clerk (Construction), Clerk (Admin), Senior Clerk Property Branch, Administration Officer Personnel Branch and Divisional Administration Officer (Personnel). His time in Property Branch

coincided with the construction boom and involved land acquisition programs for Wivenhoe and other Dams, weirs, channels and drains.

Warren was a life member of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia having served as it's Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

In a tribute to Warren the Society said that "he was one of life's true gentlemen, ever willing to lend a helping hand with a sympathetic ear and a cheery smile." His colleagues in the Commission certainly shared those sentiments.

Warren was also actively interested in philately and travel.

Our sympathy is extended to Warren's parents. He was an only child and did not marry. (Some of our members will remember his father Eric who was a storeman at Rocklea until his retirement in the '70's)

Peter Gosse passed away on 30th September. He was born at the beginning of 1902 to a wealthy family south of St Petersburg in Russia. He received an excellent education with the aid of tutors and was able to speak and correspond in four languages. With the rise of the Bolsheviks the family was dispossessed and Peter was left with a horse and cart. He lived in Russia working on a drilling team locating and developing groundwater until after the German invasion in 1942. He was taken back to Germany in 1944 and came to Australia in 1949 with his wife and son Kerry.

Peter came to Brisbane in 1952 and began hydrological work with the Irrigation Commission. One of his earlier tasks was to help study groundwater on Stradbroke Island. He then became involved in hydrological work to help upgrade the Townsville to Mount Isa, the hydrology of Coolmunda and Maroon Dams and several south-east river systems. He retired in 1968 and worked for some years with Ford, Bacon and Davis, and Munro and Johnson.

Peter was well respected for his work as a hydrologist and for his energetic defence of his own principles.

Our condolences are extended to Mrs Gosse and to Kerry and his family.

Cyril Young died in September. Cyril will be remembered as driver to the late Commissioner Haigh. Those of us who worked in the bush during Cyril's time will recall his kindness in delivering us some of city's goodies when he brought "the boss". We often wondered how he managed to hide all the various cartons etc. in the boot of the Fairlane. He was also active in the old C.M.F. as a Staff Sergeant in the 34th Water Transport Unit. His funeral service was held at Holland Park on 28th September. Sympathy is offered to Cyril's family.

Raleigh Gipps will be remembered by many of our members in his capacity of Chief Construction Engineer of the Coordinator General's Department. Raleigh died last June. He was responsible for orchestrating the construction of some of the most important water projects in Queensland from the late 40's to the early 80's. Some examples are Somerset Dam,

Koombooloomba Dam, the Tully and Barron Hydro schemes and Eungella Dam. He also played a leading part in looking after the COG's interests in the design and construction of Wivenhoe Dam. At the end of every project, Raleigh was noted for his efforts to place redundant employees in suitable positions.

Raleigh was born in 1914 and was educated at Brisbane Grammar and the University of Queensland. He began work as a cadet with the Main Roads Department. World War II interrupted his engineering career. He served in the RAAF with Squadrons 10 and 461 in Coastal Command in Britain. He was severely wounded in action and was Mentioned in Despatches.

He is survived by his wife Joan, daughters Jennifer Ireland and Annette McEvoy, sons John and Howard and eight grandchildren.

We also express our condolences to Mrs Carol Davison whose mother, **Mrs Sarah Pickett** died recently.

WHY I AM PROUD TO BE AN AUSTRALIAN

This is an edited and somewhat shortened account of an address given by Sir David Smith on Australia Day 1995. With acknowledgments to Sir David :-

'Later today I will attend a citizen ceremony at which people who have come from all over the world will become Australian citizens. They will pledge their loyalty to Australia, but I wonder how many of them, and of us will know what that means? The first thing we need to remember is that we are all either immigrants or the descendants of immigrants. Some of our ancestors migrated here at least 40,000 years ago, some a little over 200 years ago, and mine came less than 70 years ago. The one experience which they all shared is that they all came to this continent from somewhere else, and their descendants are Australians.

The fact is that those who are about to become new citizens, as did those before them, will inherit our language and our literature, our Constitution and our system of parliamentary government, our laws and our legal system, our traditions and our customs, our culture. The fact remains that all these aspects of our Australian way of life are of British origin. To be sure, even at the beginning of white settlement, they incorporated aspects that were peculiar to this continent, and of course they have been further modified and enriched by successive waves of immigrants from all over the world, but they will always be of British origin; we cannot alter our history, no matter how hard or how often some of us try to do so.

Morris West recently said that one of his most famous books had been inspired by the words of Pope John XXIII; *"Let us seek that which unites us and not that which divides"*.

More recently at an ecumenical service in a local Wesley Uniting Church, the hymn "For Australia" contained these words "People of the ancient Dreamtime, they who found this country first, ask with those, the late comers, will our dream be blest or cursed?" These two sets

of words contain powerful messages of unity for all Australians, yet today we are using language to separate and divide us. Let me give just two examples.

My first example is the use of the word "indigenous" to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. It is true that we have treated many of this country's earlier inhabitants shamefully, and as a caring and compassionate society, there is much still to be done to redress the balance, but money and politically correct language alone will not do it. We need to seek that which unites us and not that which divides.

The word "indigenous" has a much wider meaning than is currently being given to it, and to reserve it for only some of us is to discriminate against the rest of us and to deny us our birthright as native-born Australians.

My second example of the misuse of language to separate and divide us is the word "multiculturalism". We have invented and used the word in an attempt to label the process of taking-in and absorbing people of many cultures. We appear to have lost sight of the fact that, long before the coming of the Europeans, this continent had experienced successive waves of Aboriginal immigrants when it was part of the land mass of Asia. So this place has been home to a multicultural society for at least 40,000 years.

From the time of the first fleet our colonial culture differed from that of Britain, for it immediately became modified by the circumstances of its relocation and the harshness of the land. Furthermore, it has been continually adapted and moulded ever since, to produce a distinctively Australian culture, as new arrivals were asked to accept what they found here, to adopt it as their own, and then if they wished to add something to it. This they gladly did, as my family did, less than 70 years ago, and as generations before and since have done, in the process adding richness and variety to our Australian heritage.

But there is also another side to this story. Somewhere along the line we have turned new Australians into ethnic Australians. They are told that they have the right to develop their cultures and languages, and that is how it should be. But where is the corresponding emphasis on duties, obligations and responsibilities? The Ethnic Communities Councils and their multicultural bureaucracies set up to help our immigrants also have a vested interest in emphasising and perpetuating ethnic differences. Today our population of 18 million people is made up of people born in 240 separate countries, speaking 70 languages. This represents an unsurpassed rate of absorption of immigrants. If ever a nation needed to heed the words of Pope John XXIII, to seek that which unites and not that which divides, it is us.

I am a first generation Australian, born in Melbourne. My parents were non-English speaking migrants from Poland. My wife is also a first generation Australia. Her parents came from Britain. Neither set of parents had any difficulty in becoming loyal and patriotic Australians, so I know that the immigrants who came to this country prior to World War II, and immediately after it, had no difficulty in accepting the way of life - the culture - which they found here. They brought with them their own languages and customs and traditions and some they chose to hold

on to. But they all became Australians and adopted Australian customs, while making their own contributions to what they found here, so that resultant mixture became all the richer.

My father before his death literally thanked his God that He had brought him to this country. He expressed his gratitude for the peace and contentment he had known here for the last 55 years of his life. He also expressed amazement that having stepped ashore at Port Melbourne at the age of 24, with ten shillings in his pocket and only the few words of English he had learned on the ship coming over, 25 years later would see his son appointed Private Secretary to a Federal Minister, and 40 years after his arrival he had seen his son appointed Official Secretary to the Governor-General.

My father knew that, had I been born in his country, where I could have traced my ancestry back for many generations, I could not have aspired to such a career - I would have been of the wrong religion to have been allowed to serve my country in such a way. Indeed if you or I were to migrate today to many of the countries from which our immigrants come, we would be denied all kinds of rights and privileges which this country so rightly confers on all who come here. We would face discrimination on the grounds of our race, or our religion, or the colour of our skin or simply because we were foreign born, so we certainly have no reason to be apologetic about what the immigrant finds in this country.

If we are indeed the most tolerant country in the world, then it's our own particular set of values which has made it so; which has made it so attractive to migrants in the first place. That being the case, we have no business using multiculturalism to divide ourselves into ethnic groups, to declare ourselves a cultural BYO - bring and retain your culture because we haven't one to offer you. There certainly is an Australian culture, contrary to what some would have us believe, and it must be nurtured and defended. Its British origins, and the enrichment's which have been added by successive generations of immigrants, must equally be nurtured. We must continue to welcome and encourage such enrichment, but we must not forget or apologise for the basic culture.

BOATING ON THE BAY

Eight hardy venturers joined the people from the Australian Water Transport Association on board the "Cat-o-Nine Tails" on a fine sunny Sunday morning on 10th September. Leaving Scarborough at 10:30 am we enjoyed a pleasant but sometimes boisterous passage across to Bulwer on the northern end of Moreton Island where we hove to for lunch on board.

Afterwards we made our way northwards with the intention of checking out the whales that were reported to be waiting for us near Cape Moreton but as the "Cat-0-Nine Tails" left the shelter of Comboyuro Point and headed into Freeman Channel the sea became very choppy and the obviously fair weather sailors on board decided to turn back rather than risk the retention of their lunches.

Having turned back we sailed southward along the western coastline of Moreton Island past Cowan Cowan (where George Pearce spent part of WWII and the concrete gun emplacements that were originally built some distance inland but are now falling into the Bay) until we reached Tangalooma. A slow passage past the resort enabled those on board to examine the artificial

reef formed by sunken vessels and the development that has taken place at the resort in recent times.

From Tangalooma the "Cat-0-Nine Tails" headed into the setting sun and arrived back at Scarborough at 5pm.

Although no whales were watched (a couple of dolphins were observed and one or two larger turtles noticed) all the Oldies and Boldies on board voted it a most pleasant and enjoyable way to spend what otherwise would have been a boring day.

Thanks Barrie Fitzpatrick Fawcett

REPERCUSSIONS FROM "RELAXING ON THE RIVER"

Mr Alan Viser has requested that we publish the following:

'I refer to the last paragraph of the article "Relaxing on the River" in Newsletter 16 of July 1995. I take exception to the last sentence: "All in all it was a stunning day although one southside man-about town became more stunned than the rest." I categorically deny the rumours that I am the said "southside man-about-town" and that I became more stunned than the rest. Your correspondent should know that one of my party, a resident of the southside, prides himself on being a "man-about-town" and that he, not I, is the subject of the unfortunate observation. I trust that you will publish this denial.'

And another reader wrote under the headline "Veteran Yachtie Misses Boat".

'You all know who it was, so no names. It was widely conjectured that he had pranged his car on the way, that he had forgotten, or that mistakenly, he had gone to Newstead Wharf. Others asked why he wanted a tug-boat trip when he had his own boat.

Well, it was about 52 years ago when Forceful nudged the USS Harry L. Bridges III, a Liberty Ship scandalously overcrowded with 1500 Yanks, a few Aussies me included, scores of trucks and tons of petrol away from Newstead Wharf bound for the South-west Pacific, there to trudge the swamps, mountains, and jungles of New Guinea and the Solomon's for the next two years. This establishes a prior interest in Forceful. My failure to board Forceful was the fault of two young policemen who were chatting up several nubile female athletes instead of stopping people like me driving into Grey Street. Once in Grey Street I was confronted by a throng (multitude?), which totally impeded further progress. Finally more police, and unsympathetic athletics officials ushered me slowly to the far end of Grey Street, by which time it was too late to look for parking space and get back to the Maritime Museum for embarkation on Forceful. Unbelievable as it is, that is the essence of this true story.

Thanks Ian Ripley

ROSS, ROBINSON AND ROSSI ROLLUP

A small but convivial group of 13 bowlers took to the Aspley Bowls Club green on the morning of 13th October. Four members came for lunch. Ten diehards played into the afternoon.

The overall winner was the Jindalee Juggernaut (Allen Seabrook). Other trophies for the lucky draw were "drawn" from the hat.

I think the bowling day timing might be wrong because October seems to be the middle of the touring season; ten of our regulars were on trips. If it is decided to continue with these bowls days a date in July might increase our numbers.

Thanks to the members who supported the day, we just covered costs. Our thanks to Stan for these notes and thanks to him and his co-organisers.

RECOVERIES

Stewie Robinson is recovering from a spur in the left foot. Draftsmen who trained under Stewie would be surprised that he has any spurs remaining. They believe he was on their backs so often that his spurs were worn away. None the less we all wish him a complete recovery. **Jim Walls** had surgery to a leg to remove sun cancers. We hope you are better soon Jim.

Dick Hurn spent two spells in Hospital to overcome a chest infection. He is back home again and would welcome chats with old mates. **Bill Day** is another who has been poorly. However a change in medication is bringing about significant improvement and Bill is getting back to normal.

Wally Batur has also been through a few rough patches but is now on the mend. **David** and **Mrs Phyllis Coles** have both undergone surgery and had to miss out on the Christmas lunch. They are progressing well and look forward to our 1996 activities. The Coles' wish us all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Col Taggart and **Stan Ross** are back on the bowling greens after illness and weight lifting injuries respectively.

The White's wallet is recovering from car induced anorexia during their trip around Australia.

RELOCATION

David and **Mrs June Wilmott** have moved from Carindale to the North Coast. Their new address is 14/39-41 Memorial Avenue, Maroochydore, 4552.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our warmest congratulations and best wishes for the future go to **Don Beattie** and **Mrs Shirley Humphries** who celebrated their marriage on 23rd September.

REMEMBER?

Ed Penny. Ed worked in Construction Branch in 1954-8 and in addition to being a competent and innovative Engineer, was possessed of ("possessed by") a devilish sense of humour. Ed moved to the Hobart marine Board on Wharf construction and then to the Hydro Electricity

Commission of Tasmania where he made significant contributions to the construction of Rowallan and other dams in the Mersey Forth area and to the Gordon and Pieman schemes.

He retired in 1987 and now spends much time wood turning while wife Merle plays golf. They wish to be remembered to Queensland friends.

Roy MacArthur sent his subscription with a covering letter in which he tells us how busy he is in his unpaid job of supervising bridge construction across Tallabudgera Creek, surfing and golfing. If and when time is available he looks after the palm Beach Neighbourhood Watch. June and Roy would be thrilled to see old QWRC friends who might pass that way.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

Golf Balls needed. Third or fourth hand. Any colour except white. Phone Stan on (07) 32636886.

THANK YOU

Mr Angus J Ole wishes to thank his countless friends who sent gifts and messages of congratulations on the occasion of his 60th birthday on 10th October. To those who made the time to join him in feasting and revelry on this memorable day, he is even more indebted.

Jim had intended to acknowledge, individually, each message but this is proving to be an impossible task. He therefore asks you all take this ad as a personal *"Thank You"*. His disappointment at not being able to write to each of you is tempered by the knowledge that a large area of forest has been saved from the newsprint manufacturers.

REGIONAL NEWS

MAREEBA

Twenty four retirees attended a lunch at the homestead on 7th July. It was **Bill and Pat Fossett's 44th wedding anniversary**, and the day before had been **Kees and Althea Kalf's 38th**. Other wedding anniversaries about this time are **Jack and Marcia Pont (40th)** and **Smiler and Mary Della Vecchia (41st)**.

Everyone was in the best of spirits despite plenty of "flu" bugs doing the rounds. **Bruno and Elizabeth Schumann** have returned from an enjoyable trip to Germany, and the **KalFs**, have been tripping around Western Queensland including Longreach where they visited the Hall of Fame and the Pastoral College which they said was well and truly worth a visit.

The **Della Vecchas** won a holiday at the plush new resort on Green Island through Mary's singing efforts at a Senior Citizen's "do" held at the Paradise Palms resort.

Keith and Sheila Turner are back from their trip to England which included end of the war celebrations at Portsmouth. ... Thanks Keith and we hope you will tell us more about your trip.

Your Editor received a delightful and nostalgic letter from Mrs Lottie Hannam. The main purpose of the letter was to say that her address is:

Unit 9, Woodward Retirement Village, McManus Street, Whitfield, QLD 4870

She was particularly interested in David Wilmott's story "*Them were the days*" in the July '95 edition. In addition to mentioning some of the staff in her day who subsequently moved to higher things, Mrs Hannam did comment on the very colourful staff at Mutchilba - people who bore the names Green, Black, Brown, White and even a Pink!

DINNER AT ALEXANDRA'S

Thirty two attended the dinner on 8th September at COTAH College at Coorparoo in pleasant surroundings with large servings of good conversation and somewhat smaller helpings of food. The Organisers have heeded the occasional adverse comment.

WATER RESOURCES - WHERE HAVE THEY ALL GONE??

It isn't only the dams that have emptied, soon you won't find any "Water Resources" (WR) in Mineral House either. Even for frequent visitors like myself, it's becoming difficult to find anyone working for WR.

For over 5 years WR has been part of DPI, but for a while it retained its name within the larger department. Even that has now changed, although "Water" still gets a mention in parts of the new structure. From 1st July 1995 what we knew as Water Resources Commission, and the people in it, have been absorbed, separated, regrouped, amalgamated, reorganised, (liquidated? Ed) and maybe rationalised into, or out of: **Resource Management Group**; (the allocation and licensing aspects of water, land and forestry management, data acquisition, assessment, river improvement, and the client advisory services).

Rural and Resource Development Group; (including planning, Water Industry Policy, Dam Safety, Urban Water Planning and management, "WaterWise", Rural Water Boards, land and forestry development as well.

Water Commercial; (Planning, design, construction, operation, asset management and financing of state water projects on a commercial basis and commercial engineering services). As with the other groups, Water Commercial remains part of the Departmental structure, it is not being corporatised, privatised, or otherwise floated off. There is a longer term plan to corporatise Water Commercial eventually.

Resource Management central office is in Mineral House, including its Executive Director, Noel Dawson. There will be a Brisbane District Office, and also a Resource Institute at

Indooroopilly. So the people once in licensing, hydrography, hydrology and rural advisory are likely to be at Indooroopilly, or maybe in Mineral House.

Rural and Resource Development and *Water Commercial* central offices are in Mineral House on the 13th and 5th floors respectively. *Peter Bevin* is Executive Director of both for the time being although it is proposed that *Water Commercial* will eventually have a separate head reporting to the *Director General, Tom Fenwick*.

So you will find some of the old Planning, Design, Construction and Operation Head Office people in Mineral House. Ask on the 5th or 13th floors.

Regional and District structures are more difficult to describe. "*Regional Directors*" will work with the Central Office General Managers to design a structure that meets the needs of each region while also providing consistency across regions..oh well! the money and privileges are some compensation for Regional Directors. Three of the five Regional Directors are ex-Water Resources persons: *Tim Smith -Nambour, Frank Van Schagen - Toowoomba and Mike McKenna - Rockhampton*.

For *Water Commercial* there will be only three Regions: North. Central and South (North includes Mackay and South takes in Bundaberg). Each of these Regions has a Regional Manager who reports direct to the Executive Director *Peter Bevin*, and not to a DPI Regional Director.

Within these Regions there are Districts pretty much as before, with a Manager *Water Commercial* reporting to the Regional Manager *Water Commercial*.

In Country towns you still find District offices where they used to be, disguised as DPI offices, with some familiar faces inside. The "*Big Tadpole*" logos still exists on some of them, but have been painted over. And of course the dams haven't been moved! Not even Tom Fenwick could do that. Finally, David Morwood pleads that you don't blame him for these structures, but he does offer to explain the changes in greater detail to anybody interested.

Thank you David

"Everything was so different before it changed" (Kemsley-Courier Mail)

CONRAD TREASURY CASINO

Eleven members very much enjoyed the guided tour of the Casino and were impressed with the attempts to fit a light hearted modern fun-thing into a serious and magnificent century-old building without doing too much damage and still managing to preserve a lot of the original grandeur.

Cheers

Bernie Credlin (EDITOR)



*Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*