

WATERY SAUCES

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Tennis Edition 1998



OLDIES & BOLDIES

Should be No 26

SUMMER SPORTS EDITION

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GOOD SPORTS

Pat Rafter won a lot of respect after winning his second successive US Open Tennis Title and his magnanimous donation to children's medical care.

The following lines written a couple of years ago by Rupert McCall are appropriate:

Success is never lucky-every honour stands deserved
Only you are out there when the thunderbolts are served
Not the critic who will surface when you're down and when you're beat
He seldom sees the sacrifice behind the path to glory
He didn't read the most important chapters of the story
Forget the voice that doubts you and the pen that writes you off
Belief within is all you need to silence those who scoff
And that can take you anywhere and bring you any crown
It's time to line them up again and knock the b.....ds down
Shake the tree in front of you -the seeds above you will drop
Rafter is the player -he is heading for the top.

AND THE BAD ONES

The use of drugs to gain advantages over other competitors is a relatively recent happening. However the cheats have always been with us. We all know about Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe whose antics intimidated umpires and broke the concentration of opponents and a whole heap of footballers of all codes who physically assaulted opposing players. Here are a few more:- Pat Cash yanked a central umpire by the hair almost pulling him from his chair, throwing his racquet into the 14th row of the stand and thumping a TV cameraman.

Kid McCoy aka Norman Selby was the World Champion Welterweight and Middleweight Boxer about the turn of the Century. One of his tricks was to pull down his opponent's shorts. When the opponent dropped his gloves to cover his nether regions, McCoy would knock him out. On another occasion he spread tacks on the ring floor in Capetown before he fought a bare-footed 160 kg Zulu.

The media has reported such matters both serious and lighthearted. Here are a few of the latter:-

"Mike Tyson has postponed his comeback fight on medical advice. His dentist confirms agonising toothache needing extensive treatment."

"North Sydney Rugby League Club has called for increased security and alcohol restriction after it's 8th successive loss. Shortly after the final whistle the Bears feared for their lives when confronted by rowdy lawn bowlers. The footballers were visibly upset after they were subjected to abuse, had missiles thrown at them and were jostled by these pensioner bowlers."

"A deal with a sports drinks manufacturer to provide the Australian Davis Cup team with sponsorship has fallen through when Philipoussis and Rafter refused to participate, conscientiously objecting to endorsing a product that doesn't contain alcohol".

AND ON MATTERS GOLFING

Heard on McLeod Golf Course-

Golfer: "I got a set of golf clubs for my husband."

Partner: "Hey that's a great swap."

And from the Woodend (Victoria) Golf Club via Barrie Fawcett-

"The 11th hole is par 3 - 164 metres most of which is a vertical drop. It's a case of "Look out below" and golfers have to hope that balls drop onto the green because once struck they won't be seen again until the players make the descent to the green.

The hike between the 16th and 17th provides another challenge. To combat the steepness a motorised pulley system has been installed to help players haul themselves up to the top. However the effort is well worthwhile. The views of the surrounding area are magical.

Thanks Barrie.

RECOVERIES

Some people will go to any lengths to get themselves seen at social events. Others will do anything to avoid the prominence that comes with these occasions. Such a retiring person is STAN JAMES who had a heart attack and thus missed his grandson's wedding in Home Hill. After treatment at

Townsville's Mater Hospital, Stan is now back home in Brisbane regaining his health. All the best Stan.

BILL SHARP is in the Royal Brisbane Hospital and may move on to a Nursing Home. We will keep you informed of Bill's condition.

JACK LUCHTERHAND will be remembered by many former colleagues. Jack retired about 15 years ago and enjoys meeting mates and spinning yarns about drillers and the drilling business in the post-war period.

GEORGE TOONE had a spell in the Bundaberg General Hospital mid-year. He is now home again planning painful punishments for the miscreants who robbed his home while he was in hospital.

MARCIA PONT is now home after having a knee replacement.

BILL FOSSETT has also had surgery in Cairns and is now back in Mareeba.

Others from the Mareeba area who have been poorly of late are MAUDE WILLIS and NORM POLLARD.

Some of us will remember BRUCE BURKE who started work as a cadet draftsman in the '50's and left a few years later to join a consulting engineering firm. Bruce has been seriously ill but is responding to intensive treatment. He lives at Boreen Point, and his address is available to anyone wishing to contact him.

THE CAIRNS OFFICE

Jack Pont recalls the days of the Cairns office of the Irrigation and Water Supply:-

I joined the Cairns Office on 1st July 1948. For the previous three years I had been a junior clerk in the Court House in Cairns, a nice old fashioned office with ancient appointments and attitudes. A "new" department, as the IWS was at that time, sounded much more attractive and exciting to someone my age, and anyhow I reckoned I had better find another job as seven blokes had enlisted from my job, and there might be a squeeze when they "returned".

I arrived on my bicycle that Wednesday to find three other staff. REG FOX was the District Engineer, JOHNNY NICHOLLS was the Cost Clerk and everything else, and PAT EDWARDS was the typiste. (And we had a resident caretaker, an ancient, much travelled and experienced gentleman whose name I cannot remember, but who had a story for all occasions.)

The office block was a cluster of wartime plywood huts in O'Keefe St., North Cairns. They were alleged to have been an Army laundry but it would have been extraordinarily difficult to use them for that purpose.

There were four huts in the main block, with push up shutters for windows, on low stumps about two feet off the ground, and the floor was uncovered six inch planking. The gaps between the planks were part of our air conditioning. (And it sure helped with the occasional sweeping.) The huts were each about twelve by eight feet arranged in two pairs and connected by a roof and a central landing. At the back was a detached hut in which the caretaker lived; a backyard "dunny" and two garages in the far corners of the block. The two huts on the left were our offices; the D.E. and a plan press and a couple of filing cabinets in one, with the rest of us with three tables in the

other. One typewriter and a single telephone were the only mechanical "aids".

Whilst the block was not much more than an ordinary quarter acre allotment, it was so overgrown with molasses and swamp grasses, that, in the three years I was there, I only saw the inside of the empty sheds once. Our only neighbour was the Good Counsel Catholic Convent, separated by the traditional high corrugated iron fence. This whole area had been mangrove swamp, partially filled in the late thirties, but on king tides we had salt water just outside our windows, adding new meaning to the belief that we were in a quiet "backwater".

I look back now and think of the difference to our conditions in the Court House,- but then I didn't give it a thought.

Being a clerk, even if rather junior, one could expect a table to work at. However none was available. Main Roads, who were about block away, and who were good for a loan most times, could not supply. "Lets make one" said Johnny, so a few hours later, a sheet of ply and a few bits of six by one became a table which later survived transfers to Mareeba, and on to Mutchilba. (Dad laughed when I told him that night that my first job with the new Department had been to make my own table.)

Cairns Office was only in existence for a few years, moving to Mareeba in the early fifties. However while we were there, we "looked after" (I don't think you could say administered - we never saw most of it), the area from Ingham to the Torres Strait, and west to the Gulf. Mostly waterworks licensing and some stock routes, and Johnny and I took care of the pays, costing and supply of materials for the two concrete weirs then being built on the Tableland, and I did the "vouchers".

Vehicle were all pre or wartime surplus. Initially a 1938 Dodge Utility was the D.E.'s and variously over the next couple of years there were a couple of jeeps, two weapon carriers, (one left hand drive and one right) another old Dodge ute, and then our first new vehicle; a stiff legged Commer, hooded (our first) and much more uncomfortable to drive than any of the others,

I suppose the late teens are "Golden Years" for everyone but I certainly remember those few years as a highlight in my life.

Thanks Jack

BREAKOUT

Jack's reference to Stock Route work and the recent tragic death of a prisoner due to a fire in the Cloncurry watchhouse, bring to mind the exploits of a survey party which was to select and peg sites for stock route excavated tanks in the Wandoan area in the early '50's. This party had even more "characters" than the usual Western survey team.

When one of the party became "tired and emotional" after a day in the pub, the local constable locked him up in the single cell which stood alone in the yard of the Police Station. The cell was about half a metre above ground level and was built of wood with wrought iron fittings.

The prisoner's colleagues discussed his plight over drinks, many drinks, and resolved to rescue their mate during the night. Efforts to pick the lock and to jemmy the door were unsuccessful so the rescuers decided to release him through a hole in the floor. Lacking tools to cut such a hole, they came up with the idea of burning the hole.

The fire was well alight and had burnt some of the floor when the constable was alerted to the blaze and raced to the cell to release the prisoner, who by that time was beginning to resemble a smoked porker.

History doesn't record where the prisoner and his would-be rescuers were housed during the following days.

REST IN PEACE

John Geoffrey Swales died on 14th August just six days short of his 82nd birthday. John was born and raised in Yorkshire before moving to the Lakes District where he finished his education at Windermere Grammar School.

In his youth John excelled at cricket as an allrounder and remained an enthusiastic follower of the sport throughout his life.

Following training with the Windermere District Council as a Cadet Engineer, John joined the British army and served with the Royal Engineers in the Middle East where he was wounded on two occasions. Also in the Middle East John met Sally and they were married in Palestine before returning to England. In 1951 John obtained a position with the Brisbane City Council so he and Sally, together with their three children, Terry, Michael and Diane, migrated to Australia. Their younger daughter, Lesley, was born shortly after their arrival.

In 1956 John joined the Rivers and Streams Branch of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission and became an adviser to landholders who wanted to establish or improve water supplies on their properties. During the course of his work John travelled throughout much of Queensland as an advisory officer and later also as a judge in the competitions established by the Royal National Association and other Show Societies to promote the provision of on-farm water supplies. As Senior Works Supervisor and later Senior Water Adviser, John was fiercely proud of "his" field officers, especially the cadets, and was their staunch advocate in all matters concerning their work and advancement. John retired from the Commission in 1979.

In his private life John was a keen gardener and competent handyman but his main interest and pride and joy were always his family - his children, grandchildren and later, his great-grandchildren. Our condolences go to Sally and family.

We are grateful to Michael Swales who provided much of the information upon which this obituary is based and to Barrie Fawcett who put it together.

PHILLIP MacNAMARA passed away on 27th September aged 47 years. Phil grew up in Beerburum and was educated there and at Caboolture State High School. As a young man he worked for the Forestry Department before moving to Longreach where he worked first as a clerk and then as a Boring Inspector. He was later moved to St George.

Phil made a big contribution to the Artesian bore refurbishing programme.

He married Kay in 1971 and they were blessed with three children, Grant, Sonia and Shane.

We extend our sympathy to the family.

LES RAYMOND died in Goondiwindi on 11th October after a 4 year battle with cancer. On leaving school, Les started work in the family earth-moving and land clearing business- W.R.Raymond and Sons, which did quite a lot of work for the old Commission at Beardmore, Coolmunda, Glenlyon and Moogerah Dams. He then joined the staff of the Commission and worked at Biloela, Blackwater, Goondiwindi, St George and Glenlyon Dam. He retired due to ill health in April 1997. He was highly regarded by all those who worked with him.

Les was an outstanding clay pigeon shooter and was the Queensland High Gun Champion at 17 years. Both sons have followed in the sport and have done well. Fishing also gave Les and his wife great enjoyment and they could catch a feed where others couldn't lose a bait. His love of fishing was reflected in his efforts to start fish restocking programmes at St George and Glenlyon.

Les was 61 when he died. He is sadly missed by June his wife of 40 years, his mother, two sons- Bruce and Paul, (one son, Bryan, predeceased him), a daughter-Amanda and 5 grand-children.

To these bereaved we extend our sympathy

CONTACT WITH D.N.R. STAFF

Our Association is very much aware of the need for better communications with Staff of the Department. On one hand our members are keen to know what is happening in the Water Resources sphere and wish to hear more of former workmates and what they doing, We are also anxious to let current employees know more about the Association in the hope that they will consider joining as their retirement approaches. On the other hand we believe some of the current staff would be interested in knowing how the years are treating their old colleagues. To that end copies of the July Newsletter were sent to Departmental offices for circulation to staff. The response has been promising and we are now hoping to receive regular contributions from current staff. Ross Krebs has already sent in his which is included in this issue. Thanks Ross.

At the suggestion of Frank van Schagen this and future editions of Oldies and Boldies will be on the Department's Intranet site.

RETIREMENTS

MICK CONLAN, ED MILLER AND RAY SCHLUTER have retired recently or are about to. (We would like to hear from present staff or our members if they know of forthcoming retirements.)

TOAST

The Frenchman drinks his native wine,
The German his lager beer
The Englishman his half and half,
Because it gives him cheer.
The Scotsman drinks his whisky neat,
The Irish like it hot,
The Australian's got no natural drink,
So he drinks the bloody lot.

'RECKING THE RINK

Another highly successful Bowls day and Luncheon was held at the Aspley Memorial Bowls Club on Friday 14th August.

The success was due in no small part to Stan Ross and his willing band of helpers including wife Joan, the Beatties, the Robinsons, the Rossis and Shirley from the Club.

We were pleasantly surprised to have the Club President MICHAEL GEORGES and his wife IRENE join us in the competitions and for lunch and the social activities. Our Patron TOM FENWICK and VAL joined us at the end of the day's play for a drink and a chat and it was a good opportunity to catch up on news of staff and activities within the Department.

In all 39 members and guests played, watched, lunched, chatted and had a pleasant and relaxing day. The ladies arranged morning tea, lunch and savouries at the end of play which were enjoyed by all. Stan organised games of triples for each session and selected teams to give a good mixture of players of like ability, to join with the regular bowlers, and this resulted in some very close and entertaining matches.

The overall winner for the day was Allan Seabrook who played excellent bowls and was ably supported by his teams. There were other winners too as Stan made sure there were small trophies for morning and afternoon sectional and for a number of runners-up.

There were quite a few with stiff joints the next day. However they all said they would be back for the next next Bowls day.

(Thanks to those who made the day so successful and to the scribes who prepared this account.)

There are three kinds of people: those who can count and those who can't.

EXCURSION TO WOODFORD AREA

Eight of our members and partners joined the Australian Water Transport Association in an outing to the Woodford area on Sunday 11th October. We travelled by Coach to Woodford after being picked up at various locations throughout Brisbane and boarded the scenic railway for a short ride to a herb farm where a delicious Devonshire morning tea was served and the farm was inspected before returning on the historic steam train. The coach then transported us to the Woodford Golf Club where we enjoyed a very nice lunch and a few cold drinks.

We then travelled to see the Delaney's Creek Winery and tasted its wares. The winery was interesting as it has only been operating for six months and all the equipment was new and the procedures were explained by one of the owners. The wines were very new and will probably (hopefully according to the Association's wine critic) improve with age.

We then returned to Brisbane and were dropped off various points.

The company, the weather and the facilities were great and all had a most enjoyable and relaxing day.

CHARITABLE DONATION

At the Annual General Meeting on 22nd April it was moved that in view of the Association's sound financial position, a donation be made to a worthwhile charity. Discussion took place about the need to maintain healthy reserves to cushion fees against rises which would result if generous support by way of postage, stationery, copying etc was withdrawn. Reference was also made to declining income as membership fell away and more members took advantage of the 75 year rule. It was agreed to make a donation in the current year and to reconsider the matter in the following years.

Your Executive has agreed to make a gift of \$100 to the official Papuan -New Guinea Tidal Wave Appeal. This has now been done.

Mahatma Gandhi, when asked what he thought of western civilisation replied: "I think it would be a good idea."

IRRIGATION

From the old staff Magazine **Aquarius** comes the following:

"The inhabitants of the Indus Valley (now Pakistan) elevated the practice of irrigation to a spiritual level. Brihaspati, the ancient Indian writer on law and politics stated that the construction and repair of dams was a pious work. Constant references are made in the Vedas (religious books 1500 BC), and in the Kaushika Sutra we find a quaint ritual which was performed at the opening of a new irrigation canal viz., "A gold plate was laid at the mouth of the canal on which a frog tied with blue and red threads was made to sit. The frog was then covered with moss and the water was let in."

This would explain why the Director - General is surreptitiously known as GOD, and as for the opening of say, the Haughton Main Channel, the mind boggles.

VISITORS

The Bertrams have dropped in on Brisbane for holidays.

Be kind to your kids, they'll choose your nursing home.

The analytical results on the next page are alleged to have been found during a clean-up of old geological and hydrological papers at Indooroopilly. The officer's name and the date have been deleted to protect the guilty

Cheers
Bernie Credlin

Thanks Norm.

VISIT TO BRISBANE BOTANIC GARDENS-MOUNT COOTTHA

The visit commenced with a minibus tour of several sections of the Gardens which are normally accessible by walking. As the various sections were traversed a taped commentary drew attention to specific features and discussed the significance of the plant communities encountered. The commentary made the point that the gardens have a remarkable diversity of plants from all over Australia and the world representing a wide range of climates and soil types. Brisbane is indeed fortunate to have such a collection.

At the conclusion of the bus trip, Dorothy led the group through the fragrant garden, the tropical dome and the Japanese garden.

Afterwards some of the group had lunch at the Mount Coottha lookout. Although the numbers were down, those Oldies and Boldies who ventured forth on the day enjoyed the experience.

ODE TO WATER RESOURCES

(Krebsy's Lament)

Water Resources has had its day

None too soon some may say

This organisation has a history long and true

Its greatest feature its people-an impressive crew

Whether it's building dams, gauging streams, helping cockies whatever

The State has prospered from our endeavour

We've put in the hours nurturing the resource

Managing this product from ocean to source

But times they are a changin' and different ways will be used

To consider water more wisely and less oft abused

Water for the environment, ICM, PMP, and so on

WaterCom, Resource Management, R&RD is how we will go on

The teamwork we've built will hold us in good stead

To regroup into new units to meet the challenges ahead

The linkages we've developed will carry us through

To enable our new ways to prosper too

So let's all go forward with commitment and pride

And infuse our respective talents into the bigger departmental side

But what of our customers out there all unknowing

They'll come in next week the Water Resource's sign not showing

A shock they will get - What's happened to the place?

Now we must get out there and bring them up to pace

SURGICAL STOP PRESS

The going rate for brain transplants at the illustrious Princeton University Hospital is \$500000 for a male brain and \$250000 for a female one. The difference is because male ones have not been used.

**NAME OF SAMPLE****Woman**

Symbol	W02
Discoverer	Adam
Atomic Mass	Accepted as 55kg but known to vary widely.
Occurrence	Copious quantities in all urban areas with traces found in most others

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

1. Surface is usually covered in a powder or painted film.
2. Undaunted by anything, freezes for no reason.
3. Melts if given special treatment.
4. Bitter if incorrectly used.
5. Found in various grades ranging from the purest to the most common.
6. Yields to pressure gently applied.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

1. Has great affinity for gold, silver and most precious stones.
2. Will absorb great quantities of expensive substances.
3. May explode spontaneously, without warning, for no reason.
4. Softens and takes on a rosy hue when soaked in hot water.
5. Activity greatly increases when saturated in alcohol.
6. Most powerful money-reducing agent know to man.

COMMON USES

1. Highly ornamental – especially in sports cars.
2. Can be a great aid to relaxation.

TESTS

1. Pure specimen turn bright pink when discovered in its natural state.
2. Turns green when placed beside a better specimen.

HAZARDS

1. Highly dangerous except when properly treated.
2. Possession of more than one is illegal.