

WATERY SAUCES OLDIES AND BOLDIES

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 33

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.....TWELVE DAYS TO CHRISTMAS.....

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
"I'm glad we bought a turkey and a proper Christmas tree."

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
as we tucked into our turkey, a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas, the people from next door
said the turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.

Day four, relations came to stay, poor Granny's looking old,
We finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the children scurried,
But we fanned ourselves inside and ate the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the festive spirit died,
The children fought and bickered and we ate turkey rissoles - fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love did she wince,
When she sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.

Day eight and nerves were getting frayed, the dog had run for shelter.
I served up turkey pancakes with a glass of alka seltzer.

On day nine the cat left home, by lunch Dad was blotto,
He said he needed lots to drink before eating turkey risotto.

On the tenth day the booze had gone except the home brew,
and as if that wasn't bad enough, we suffered turkey stew.

On the eleventh day the Christmas tree was moulting,
The mince pies were like rock and the turkey was revolting.

On the twelve day my true love had a smile upon her lips,

The guests had gone, the turkey too and we dined on fish and chips.
Pegg.

Thanks Beth

.....**CONGRATULATIONS**.....

We are very pleased to tell you that **Dan Rowley** has been awarded the Australian Sportsman's Medal. (ASM) . The medal has been instituted with the approval of the Queen to commemorate the Year 2000 and acknowledges the recipient's contributions to sport and public duties. Good on you Dan!

Dan was nominated by the Western Suburbs Cricket Club.

**Thanks Alan
Seabrook.**

.....**WELCOME HOME**.....

Gordon Wilson is home from Malaysia , where he attended a Royal Commonwealth Society conference, and other Asian countries. He has a serious attack of *jet brag*.

Grahame and Joyce Bertram are back from a delightful 16 day holiday in China.

Malcolm and Beth Pegg had a most enjoyable time in Alaska.

.....**LIMERICKS**.....

"Tis strange how the newspapers honour
 A creature that's called prima donna.
 cry on;
 They say not a thing
 Of how she can sing
 And write reams of the clothes she has on her.

A rare old bird is the pelican,
 Australia
 Whose beak holds more than his belly can
 He can take in his beak
 Enough food for a week;
 I'm darned if I know how the hell he can!
 failure.

The girls who frequent picture-palaces
 English
 Set no store by psychoanalysis.
 Indeed, they're annoyed
 By the great Dr. Freud
 And they cling to their long-standing fallacies.
 last line

And

For

Those

Who

Dislike

Limericks

There was a young lady of Zion
 Who looked round for a shoulder to

 So she married a spouse
 From a very old house
 And started to cry on the scion.

There was a young girl from

 Who went to a dance as a dahlia.
 When the petals uncurled
 They revealed to the world
 That as clothing the dress was a

A verse form that's common in

The limerick's hard to extinguish.

When congress in session

Decreed it's suppression,

People got around it by writing the
 without rhyme or rhythm.

.....**GRAFFITI ALL OVER**.....

"Paralell parking"Official sign Kuranda.

"Watch out for blue healer"Normanton.

"Do not tie dogs to fence."

"Compromise - I'll keep my bullets out of your dogs if you keep your dogs out of my yard."

"And the angel said unto the shepherds, p--- off. This is cattle country."Gregory Downs Q.

"Trespassers will be composted."Anon.

"We like our lizards frilled not grilled."Roadside sign Barkly Highway.

"If you do not wish to share your room with unwanted quests, eg, Snakes, Lizards etc, Please Shut The Door."Door to residential area, William Creek Hotel SA.

"Please use other door because some smart a--- tried to lift this door off it's hinges."Birdsville
 (After the races)

and this sad brass plaque has been erected at Eulo:

“Destructo”. Champion racing cockroach accidentally killed at this track (24.8.90) after winning the challenge stakes against ‘Woodenhead’ champion racing lizard 1990”

And Barrie has been reliably informed that the toilet doors behind the Pub at Adavale are signed respectively, ‘Wipe’ and ‘Shake’

Which brings to mind one of our old country officers who fancied himself as a fast bowler in the local district cricket competition. His colleagues didn’t share his opinion of himself and nicknamed him ‘Sorbent’ because he only cleaned up the tail.

Thanks Barrie Fawcett

.....CARING AND SHARING.....

A kindly young man watched an elderly couple share a very small burger, a tiny helping of chips and a mini coke. They cut the burger in half, divided the chips into two halves and poured the coke into two small cups.

The kind young man, fearing that the couple were short of funds, quietly offered to buy them a meal. The couple were profuse with their thanks, saying that they had been together for 60 years and were used to sharing.

While the old man ate his food the lady watched him and fearing she was going to sacrifice her portion, the young man repeated his offer.

The lady thanked him again and said that she was just waiting for her husband to finish with their teeth.

.....REST IN PEACE.....

Maude Willis passed away in late December 1999. Maud was the widow of Joe Willis who was a vehicle mechanic at the Tinaroo and Mareeba workshops. After Joe retired the family stayed in Mareeba where Joe was a familiar figure on his motor bike, trundling around town. He died in December 1995 and Maud continued to live in Mareeba for a while before moving to Atherton to be near her daughter.

Keith Viertel who died in mid September at the age of 74 years will be well known to many of our members, particularly older members, who worked with him in the 1940’s and ‘50’s. Keith started work with the Public Service Superannuation Board in 1943 and completed his Accountancy studies at night school. He worked with I&WSC at Clare as a Works Clerk from 1949 to ‘51. After two years in Accounts Branch in Head Office he moved to the Auditor General’s office. While in these positions he obtained his Diploma and Bachelor of Commerce qualifications by part-time study.

Keith began his association with the electricity industry in 1955 as an Audit Inspector and apart from three years on computing and data processing with the Treasury, the rest of his working life was with State Electricity Department and/or Commission as Auditor, Accountant, Secretary and Deputy Commissioner. He retired in 1990 and was awarded the Public Service Medal.

Keith was very active in the sport of hockey as a player and office-bearer, and his work for the Headland Golf Club earned him Life Membership. He also gave freely of his time to his church and various other organisations.

We offer our sympathy to Mrs Viertel and their sons.

Doreen (Dorn) wife of **Col Lewis** passed away suddenly on 17th July on the Gold Coast where they had retired from Mareeba. Col will be remembered as a very competent drilling supervisor.

We extend our sympathy to Col and to children Jennifer and Jeffrey and their children.

George Barnwell of Mareeba passed away recently and was buried on 6th December. We extend our sympathy to wife Marj, and hope to be able to provide further details in our next Newsletter.

.....MAREEBA.....

Thirtyeight members and friends of the Association enjoyed a pleasant mid-year lunch at the Mareeba Bowls Club.

The Christmas lunch was held at the Mareeba Leagues Club on 22nd November and attracted an attendance of 35 all of whom enjoyed themselves. Members were pleased to see **Joy Buttenshaw** back at the function.

Charlie Paolucci entertained the gathering with anecdotes and humorous stories. We hope Charlie can jot some of these down and share them with us all. What about it Charlie?

We hear that **Marcia Pont** has been back in hospital and we sincerely hope that she is soon out and about.

Thanks again **Sheila** for keeping us informed of the Mareeba doings and for collecting subscriptions etc

.....THE GOOD BOOK.....

Thou shall not admit adultery.
the 12 decibels,

The first Christian preachers were

Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines..

Holy acrimony is another name for marriage.
apostles

The epistles were the wives of the

allegedly from children's essays and published by Bottom Line in The Courier-Mail.

.....MUGGERS.....

The little old London lady was bemoaning the incidence of mugging in the streets of her City. "In the war we had bombs and fires and doodle bugs but it was still safe to go out at night."

.....PUBS AND PUBLICANS.....

In the 1950's the Publican in a town in North western Queensland had a pig for sale and a fine looking pig it was. A small group which included a couple of characters well known to us, visited the pub one afternoon to enjoy a few beers. The toilet was a long, long way from the pub and during the course of many visits to the toilet one of the group became most impressed with the pig and decided he must buy it. When it came time to leave the pub the group couldn't fit the squealing pig into the back of their 10 HP Prefect car so they set off in search of a larger vehicle.

In a nearby town they came across the engine driver at the local power house and who had recently purchased a two-tone Holden station wagon which had become his pride and joy and which used up all his spare moments cleaning and polishing. For reasons unknown, the engine driver agreed to loan his prized possession to the group who drove back to collect the pig. After a few more beers and a herculean struggle they finally managed to squeeze the pig into the back of the station wagon and headed back to the engine driver's town. However they decided to have a couple of quick ones before unloading the pig and returning the vehicle.

While they were in the hotel the engine driver walked down the street and was at first alarmed to see the pig in the back of his station wagon and then horrified to see that it had used the plush interior of the Holden as a toilet. He raced into the pub to confront the group who tried hard to calm him down with large volumes of free grog. Meanwhile one of the group sneaked out the back of the pub, unloaded the pig and acquired the local chemist's entire stock of Old Spice After-Shave lotion which he splashed around the interior of the Station Wagon after cleaning it up as well as he could.

The other group members, having poured litres of booze into the engine driver, loaded him into his own wagon and drove him home hoping that by morning he would have forgotten that he had ever seen a pig in his car.

It is true that the engine driver never said boo about the pig in his car but he was often heard to complain about the smell of After-Shave.

based on a true story in **The Townsville Bulletin**

.....WANTED.....

While writing about Western Queensland our attention was drawn to a plea from President Barrie for information on a derelict stock-route watering facility on the Charleville/Adavale road in what is now

the Mariala National Park and which is shown on QNP&WS maps as "Range Tank". The facility originally consisted of an excavated tank with wing walls, a silt tank, wind mill, corrugated iron storage tank and corrugated iron troughing.

If anybody can identify this tank etc. would they please contact Barrie and allow him to resume his normal sleeping habits.

.....**DHOW ON THE DAWSON**.....

We have salivated over dishes in the ABCTV's *A Gondola on the Murray* with Stefano de Pieri from Mildura and now we have our culinary expert, Cec Redmond, once of Theodore on the Dawson River, who has generously shared with us her recipe for Carrot & Pecan Cake. The recipe comes on the strongest of recommendations from David Morwood who also advised us to avoid borrowing ABC titles like *The Naked Chef* and *Two Fat Ladies*.

Prepare 1 1/2 cups grated carrot
1/2 cup chopped pecans

Sift 1 cup plain flour
1 teaspoon bi-carb soda
1/2 teaspoon mixed spice
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Beat on low in mixing bowl 1/2 cup oil
1 cup sugar
2 eggs

Add sifted ingredients to egg mixture and beat until smooth

Stir in carrot and pecans

Bake in an 8 inch ring tin in a moderate oven for about 30-35 minutes
Can easily double mixture

Frosting 3ozs cream cheese
3 ozs butter
1 1/2 cups icing sugar (approximately) and **Beat**

.....**PEOPLE'S HISTORY**.....

Ian Pullar has brought us up-to-date on progress with the People' History.

The good news for people who are trying to write Newsletters, speeches or other accounts of Water Resources, is that there are now on the record hundreds of anecdotes and snippets about the old Commission.

The manuscript for the book, covering the period 1881 to 1995, is now "complete" and incorporates material provided by 120 or so interviewees together with a lot of archival material. The manuscript currently runs to about 160,000 words (the authors anticipated about 100,000) but it still requires a good hard edit.

Before that happens, it will be reviewed by at least six people while the authors are swanning around Britain. A number of chapters have already been reviewed and modified as a result. The next tasks are to incorporate the reviewers' comments, finalise the illustrations, complete the editing, do the desk-top publishing and then proceed to printing. The target date is about May 2001.

The authors are extremely grateful to all who have so willingly assisted, particularly the Steering Committee of Bernie Credlin, Alan Wickham and George Pearce. We are sure they had no idea of the volume of material they would be presented with (but then, neither did we!)

Thanks Ian. No doubt much of your time in Chaucer and Caxton.

Britain will be spent learning a few tricks from

.....**SUNWATER DAWN**.....

We thank Bevan Faulkner for providing the following notes:-

Queensland's newest government owned corporation (GOC) began trading on 1 October 2000 under the name of SunWater. The Chief Executive Officer of the new corporation is Peter Noonan.

For those who can remember back to the 1980's, SunWater is that part of the Queensland Water Resources Commission then known as Designs Branch, Construction Branch, Irrigation Branch and Operations and Maintenance Branch or those sections of the Commission that were involved in the design, construction and operation and maintenance of the State's rural water infrastructure.

SunWater is the former commercialised business unit of the Department of Natural Resources, which was known as State Water Projects since early 1996. **See later paragraphs on the demise of State Water Projects.**

As the State's largest water business, SunWater delivers more than 40% of the total amount of water used in Queensland each year to agricultural, manufacturing, mining and energy sectors and to some Local Governments.

SunWater owns, manages and operates water storages and distribution infrastructure across Queensland with a replacement value in excess of \$2.5 billion. It has a highly skilled work force of over 500 people and over 7000 customers.

As a corporation, SunWater will be more flexible, adaptable and better able to respond to customer needs. SunWater will be free to pursue commercial opportunities to allow the business to grow, which will ultimately benefit all Queenslanders.

SunWater is a statutory GOC, established under the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993, overseen by a commercial board of directors who report to the Minister for Environment & Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources, Rod Welford and the Queensland Treasurer, David Hamill.

The seven member board of SunWater comprises:

Andrew Greenwood, Chair – a partner with Minter Ellison;

Jane Bertelsen, a manager with the city governance division of the Brisbane City Council;

Julie Boyd, the Mayor of Mackay City Council;

Helen Doherty, a senior executive with Brown and Root;

Richard Haire, Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Cotton Corporation;

Phil Hennessy, a partner with KMPG; and

Henry Prokuda, a partner with Corrs Chambers Westgarth Lawyers.

For further information, contact Bevan on

3224 7376

.....**SWP SUNSET**.....

(or Down The Gurgler)

A Reflections Dinner was held in August to mark the end of State Water Projects. More than 80 present and past employees of SWP from Head Office and the country whose service went back to the days of I&WSC, QWRC, WRC(DPI), Water Commercial DPI) attended the function.

It is reported that guests were kept amused by activities which included quizzes and presentations. Cec Maddox discovered what can happen after a glass of red wine when he became a fish ladder, Dave Murray capitalised on his people skills during the evening discovering he was really Harald Steinkamp, and Peter Sampson had some difficulty coming to terms with the fact that he was blue green algae!

Ian Pullar hosted the evening and by all reports it was most entertaining, so much so that arrangements have been made for him to give a similar presentation at our Annual General Meeting.

The evening was an opportunity to reflect on past achievements and to prepare for the next steps forward.

.....TRIP TO LAKE EYRE.....

The novelty of Cooper Creek in flood and the partial filling of the inland sea of Lake Eyre are guaranteed to attract 4WD enthusiasts and fly-in visitors to one of the great wetland areas of outback Australia.

We decided to charter a small plane and spend three days visiting the area. Dorothy and Barry Fawcett carried in their plant books, while Malcolm and I used binoculars and field bird guides and Gordon wandered and asked questions. We had no trouble filling the empty seats on short notice.

On Friday morning we flew across Queensland to Innamincka in South Australia. It is surrounded by harsh gibber plains and parallel sand dunes. After the rain the interdune valleys are green and lush, often with claypans full of water, while the dunes are red and bare. When the surge of brown flood water comes down the Cooper it brings life and vitality to this arid land, and a late afternoon cruise reveals what an oasis this is for the numerous birds, animals and plants.

Of interest is the evidence of human endeavour, with monuments to the struggles and death of Burke and Wills in 1860 and with King's memorial an hour's boat ride from the Innamincka Town Reserve. The carefully built A.I.M. Nursing Home stands once again on the red hill (now National Park), but the Police Station and school; have gone with the floods of the past, as has the giant bottle heap near the old hotel. (Gordon worked well to help build a new heap with the help of friendly locals.)

We watched the sun rise on Saturday then flew south-west to Marree besides South Lake Eyre. This is a larger town with a Hospital and Police Station. We took an excellent 4WD tour out to the smaller saltier southern section of the lake. No water birds were visible here but the beautiful little arid land birds are unafraid and delightful. Wildflowers in hues of yellow and purple pattern the sand dunes with a great variety of soft, fleshy salt tolerant samphire and low shrubs protected by fierce spines. We lunched on BBQ sausages and billy tea as we gazed over the blue water where the horizon had disappeared as it merged into the clear blue sky. The extensive white salt deposits on the beach indicate the receding shore line.

During the late afternoon we flew over the remains of the notorious Marree Man on the way to North Lake Eyre and William Creek. Five small planes drifted below us as we travelled over the immense blue lake which held the largest amount of water in ten years but it is still only 40 per cent full.

William Creek is a tiny isolated town where small planes taxi from the strip down the road to the fuel supply. At the time the population was greatly increased by tourists and the Royal Flying Doctor had to be called in the previous night after a two car collision in the dust.

On Sunday we were up before sunrise to prepare for the last trip to the lake edge. Finally we walked on the sand, crunched over the salt and dipped our hands in the cold water of the inland sea that so many men had searched for in the past. Dorothy and Jan were off with the plants, Malcolm and I were enthusing over the avocets and banded stilts. Goodness what Gordon was doing. Too soon we are called back, for it is a long distance back to the east coast and there was a head wind. It was a great experience, Why didn't you come too?

Thanks Beth Pegg.

.....FORE.....

The 398 yard drive.

After holding the world record for the longest golf drive for eight years a British professional has bettered it twice in 24 hours on a course in Teneriffe.

Karl Woodward, 48 years and weighing 12 stone (76 kg) used standard clubs to belt a standard ball 398 yards and 5 inches.(364 metres). The Guinness Book of World Records stipulates that the course

must not be more than 1000 metres above sea level, the incline must be less than 1:1000 and the landing area must not be more than 40 metres wide. Only the flight of the drive is measured to eliminate bounces and roll and at least 6 adults must be present to mark the landing spot.

Apparently Woodward is only an ordinary golfer. Perhaps his putts are nearly as long as his drives.

Thanks Roy Mincher

.....CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON.....

The Christmas luncheon held on 22nd November at Cotah on Southbank was excellent and earned plaudits for organisers Barrie and Gordon as well as for the Cotah staff. **George and Merle Beran** and friend and **Eric and Peg Wheeler** came down from Bundaberg to join the 60 members and friends. There were apologies from a dozen members who usually attend these functions.

Please remember we intend to hold a mid-year luncheon in June and another Christmas function in November, both at Cotah.

.....PICNIC IN THE PARK.....

Which Park?

On 13th September 16 members arrived at the Brisbane Forest Park only to discover that Bellbird Grove and other picnic areas were closed because of fire risk.

The group then reassembled near Enoggera Reservoir but when that proved unsatisfactory they repaired to J.C.Slaughter Falls where a belated barbecue got under way followed by a short walk.

As a quirky postscript to this meagre tale, when Dave and Judy returned to Brisbane Forest Park to redirect latecomers they discovered that sparks from the welder being used to repair the gates to Bellbird Grove had started a fire in the nearby bush and the park's officers had to be summoned to fight the blaze.

Some members may recall that about 1992 a similar attempt to organise a barbecue in the same area was constrained by a complete fire ban. Is there a message in all this?

Thanks Barrie.

.....CRUISIN' DOWN THE RIVER.....

This function on 8th October was organised in conjunction with the Royal Commonwealth Society in order to reduce the cost to our members and 15 of us joined 26 RCS people for a most enjoyable day on the heritage listed, coal fired tug the "S.S. Forceful" on its cruise down the Brisbane River to Moreton Bay.

Particularly nostalgic was the experience of seeing sweating stokers shovelling coal into the fire box, fireman/oiler with oilcan and handful of cotton waste oiling bearings and crossheads and the gentle throb of the reciprocating steam engine. There was ample shade and all had an excellent day.

Thanks Gordon.

.....**TALES FROM TRADGE**.....

Len (Tradge) McGowan has been retired for a few years and spends much of his time piloting light and ultra light aircraft in the skies above the Burdekin and recalling experiences from his working life which he puts in a bucket and empties on us from a great height.

One of his stories titled "Engineer Turned Magician" concerns a superior whose wife was trying to rear several chickens under a box on the front lawn of their house. Preventing the chicks from escaping while feeding them was a major problem for the wife. Husband, on way to work, waves to wife with one hand, takes chook food in other and lifts box. Chickens disappear, not so wife who shows great inventiveness with selection and variety of words.

Another story concerns your editor who during Burdekin recharge investigations in the "60's walked miles along a creek in the Delta and who ignored warnings about Parker's bull. The walk was uneventful until he met the bull after climbing through a fence. The only escape route was across a waterhole in the creek along the trunk of a large tree which had fallen over the water. Halfway across he fell off the tree trunk into several feet of water. He never did decide which was the hardest to confront-the threat on the face of the bull or the laughter of the colleagues who had warned him about the bull.

.....**COMING TO GRIPS WITH A CAT**.....

The thousands of householders who are offended by the urinating habits of neighbours' cats will be pleased to hear that Veterinary scientists have developed a pill which will discourage cats from wetting in locations other than in their own surroundings. The pills are sold under the brand names **Tewon** and **Eniru-on** and come with instructions on giving the pill to the cat.

1. Pick up the cat and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently squeeze until mouth opens. Pop pill into mouth, allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
3. Retrieve cat from bedroom and throw soggy pill away.
4. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open and blow down drinking straw.
5. Check pill label to make sure pill is not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
6. Tie front paws of cat to rear paws and tie cat to table leg. Use pruning gloves and with small spanner force cats mouth open. Push pill into cat's mouth followed by piece of fillet steak. Hold head vertically and pour cup of water down throat to wash pill down.
7. Get spouse to drive you to out-patients centre, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill fragments from right eye. Order new table from furniture shop on way home.
8. Arrange for RCPA to collect cat and phone pet shop about availability of hamsters.

Cheers,
Bernie Credlin.
Editor.