

# WATERY SAUCES OLDIES & BOLDIES

**THE YEAR OF THE OUTBACK**

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## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Lunches at COTAH are proving to be our most popular functions. The Christmas lunch was no exception when 69 members and guests attended a very pleasant luncheon. We were delighted to see Noel and Rhondda Ullman again, the "old" regulars George and Merle Beran from Bargara and Joan Clark from Walkamin. Bob and Christine McDonald were welcomed back from their round-Australia-trip. We were also honoured to have as our guests Peter Noonan, Chief Executive Officer of SunWater and Paul Woodward, standing in for Terry Hogan, Director General of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Dorothy Fawcett, Eileen Rossi, Bob McDonald and Allen Seabrook won prizes for sitting in the right seats.

## TOUR OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE

The guided tour of Parliament House on 14<sup>th</sup> February and the subsequent barbecue on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Annex were also most enjoyable and very much appreciated by the 39 members and friends who took part.

The tour guide, Col Schneider, Speaker's Aide and Protocol Officer, was both informative and entertaining. One could not fail to appreciate the magnificent workmanship that went into the refurbishing of the Chambers and their furnishings. It certainly reflects great credit on the artisans of the old and oft maligned Works Department.

The barbecue was also good as chefs Jim and Gordon and drinks waiter Norm slaved under the direction of Heather.

She particularly deserves our thanks for organizing an excellent function. The red rose for each lady

on St Valentines Day was a brilliant idea.

It was good to see new members John and Bernie Hillier, Eleanor Bower and Jim and Jones (ex Lands Department), in attendance in addition to several members and wives whom we don't see often enough. It was also great to again see Pauline, widow of Harry, Wright.

### MAREEBA NEWS

The Christmas function was held at the RSL Club on 29<sup>th</sup> November and the 40 who attended enjoyed it very much. Another get-together is likely when Col Lewis' visit to his old stamping ground eventuates in August.

Past residents and employees may be interested to hear that SunWater has moved into a new building on the old Workshop site.

Thanks Sheila Turner

### REST IN PEACE

**Mrs de Hayr**, mother of Maurie, died on 14<sup>th</sup> November. Sadly it is only a short time Maurie's wife Betty passed away. We extend our sympathy to Maurie.

**Ray Clark** died mid-year. Ray, who retired to Walkamin, was a highly regarded plant operator who worked at Tinaroo and Walkamin. He is credited with "taming" or "breaking-in" the Commission's first, and probably only, Vickers bull-dozer. Ray was also involved in water distribution work. We extend our sympathy to wife Joan, son Ray and daughter Jenelle and apologise for the delay in acknowledging Ray's death.

**George Leslie Toone** died on 27<sup>th</sup> October in Bundaberg and was farewelled at a ceremony at Des Allen's funeral parlour on the 31<sup>st</sup>. A considerable number of friends and old workmates attended to show their affection and respect for good bloke.

George was born in 1913, the son of a blacksmith in the Yorkshire coalmines who was determined that his son would not go underground. So George did his apprenticeship as a tailor, but could not get work in that trade as the Depression descended. Rather than stay on the dole George joined the Royal Artillery and after much study became a sergeant and battery gun layer, an occupation that laid the basis for his subsequent career as a surveyor.

After war broke out in 1939 George saw service in France and Iceland before volunteering for the parachute regiment although this meant dropping back to private. After training he joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Division and soon regained his sergeant's stripes. He was badly wounded at Arnhem and invalided for some time before he resumed parachuting.

George came to Tasmania in 1949 to work for the HydroElectric Commission and in 1952 moved to the Irrigation & Water Supply Commission. He stayed with IWS and its successor until retirement in 1978.

On the surface George was a man of contradictions. He loved company. He also loved his privacy. He loved his work and the Commission but he was quick to "stir the pot" if he thought his men or himself were being disadvantaged. He was a "knock about bloke". But he was an avid reader and deep thinker.

The 'Poms' had no greater supporter than George when their cricket team visited Australia. But many of George's visits to the UK were timed to coincide with the Test matches with Australia when he was most vocal in his support of his adopted country.

As a surveyor, especially a single one, with IWS, George and his team were usually the first on site long before any amenities were in place. They had to live rough, but George ran a good camp and his gang was usually happy, well at least as happy as a bunch of hard drinking, hard playing scallywags could be.

George worked in many locations including two stints at St George, the first when the irrigation area was being planned, and later during the construction of Beardmore Dam. Others included Borumba and Monduran Dams and along the upper reaches of the Dawson River. He was a well-known surveying figure along the Coast as far North as the Ross River.

Some of George's off-work activities provide countless conversational opportunities where

Commission employees gathered for a yarn, a drink and a smoke. We hope to bring you some of these tales in the future from sources including Hec Macdonald and Phil Sternes. George was a fearsome driver of his car, not because of high speeds, George didn't speed, but because of his aim. It is reported that at weekends the Toone machine could be seen in all manner of locations, attitudes, and states of bodywork imperfection.

With Roger Callaghan, the late Don Redmond, Bob Bryden and other worthies, George was a patron of the Whitsunday Isles. Oh how the management and staff of South Molle Island must have looked forward to the arrival of George and that party at the end of each year!

George was also an enthusiastic, if somewhat unsuccessful, follower of the turf. This interest waned when an employee whom George trusted to place his bets, did not report for work one day. Not only was the employee missing, but so too were George's winnings. It transpired that George's selections were so rarely successful that the employee kept the wagers himself rather than lodge them with the SP bookie. He thus earned himself a regular income as the selections usually failed. When George finally cracked a winner and a big one at that, the employee had no funds to pay him and took off over the horizon.

George was a good friend to the Credlin family and for close on 40 years had each Christmas with them. To the two Credlin girls, Elizabeth and Tricia, George was the only grandfather they knew.

**Des Fogarty** died recently and was buried at Home Hill on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Des is survived by wife Colleen and daughters Leanne, Patricia and Michelle to whom we pass on our condolences. Des was a highly regarded construction Supervisor who joined the Commission at Fairbairn Dam in 1968 and worked on many projects including Kinchant Dam, Clare and Val Bird Weirs and the Burdekin Irrigation Area before retiring as Senior Supervisor.

**Mal Darrock** who worked at Tinaroo many years and who settled there after retirement, died in February in his 99<sup>th</sup> year. Mal would also be remembered for his very Scottish accent.

**Jim Pashen** died on 20<sup>th</sup> February aged 76 years in Greenslopes Hospital. James Edward Pashen came to the old Commission as Training Officer from the Army where he was a Warrant Officer I in the Army Training team and saw service in Vietnam. Jim moved to Main Roads before retiring to Peregrin Beach. We extend our sympathy to wife Cleo and son Dennis and his wife Susan and their daughter Anna.

## CONGRATULATIONS

We all extend our best wishes to **Sheila and Vince Lynch** on their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on 8<sup>th</sup> April. They were married in Esk in 1939. Sheila is the sister of Marty Ryan, a Plant Inspector with the old Commission in the 1950's. Marty died in October 1997.

**Bill and Pat Fossett** celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their wedding in July. Congratulations.

**Mark Siebel** turned 80 on 28<sup>th</sup> January. Mark's joy at attaining this milestone was tempered by the death of his brother in Sydney. We pass on our congratulations to Mark but also our condolences.

Congratulations go to our Secretary **Heather** who has resumed her modelling career on the catwalk. Not only that but her appearance on TV pushed a local channel to near the top of the ratings.

## GETTING BETTER

**Stu Robinson** is pounding the footpaths of Aspley and surrounding suburbs as he recovers from heart surgery. He says he is available to distribute Neighbourhood Watch newsletters, advertising material and free newspapers.

**Dave Munro** underwent surgery for the removal of a tumour of a salivary gland and consequent skin grafts to his face in mid-January. He is recovering well. His main regret is that many of those whom he now meets ask him about his encounters with Mike Tyson and other maulers..

Your **Editor** had a short stay in hospital at the end of January. He is undergoing tests to determine the cause of his abdominal discomfort. Those souls who attribute the recent fall in the price of Lion Nathan (XXXX) shares to Bernie's abstinence during these tests are being unkind!

### **BOWLING BLINDNESS**

A caller to the ABC on 21<sup>st</sup> January reported that a ladies bowls day at a club south of Brisbane was disrupted when a male ran on to the rinks, removed his clothing and proceeded to dance around before running off. The club president and a police officer interviewed the ladies seeking a description of the offender. "Could you tell us what he looked like?" they asked. "We didn't look at his face" was the universal reply.

(Our President, who is keen to liven up our functions with raffles, lucky spot prizes and red roses etc., regrets that he will be unlikely to perform himself and is reported to be seeking a suitably qualified volunteer to entertain players at our next Bowls Day).

### **HIGH FLYER**

**Larry Walters** of Los Angeles sought a quiet restful afternoon. He bought 45 army surplus weather balloons and several bottles of helium all of which he fastened to a sturdy, comfortable lawn chair and tied it to his Jeep. He also packed a pistol, several sandwiches and a six pack of light beer. His plan was to inflate the balloons, cut the rope to the Jeep and float to about 30 feet above his back yard.

When ready to descend, the idea was to use the pistol to pop a few balloons and float back to earth. Things didn't quite work out.

When the Jeep rope was cut, Larry and his chair shot up to 16000 feet. At that height he couldn't risk shooting any of the balloons so he spent more than 14 hours drifting cold and frightened into the main flight corridor to Los Angeles airport. A Pan Am pilot saw Larry and radioed the control tower that he had passed a guy in a lawn chair with a gun! Radar confirmed the Pan Am man's observations, emergency plans were put in action and a helicopter was despatched to investigate. The breeze changed direction and Larry was carried out to sea with the helicopter in pursuit. The helicopter got above Larry and lowered a rescue line. Larry caught the line and was towed back to shore. As soon as he landed he was arrested by waiting members of the Los Angeles Police Department for violating LA International airspace!

Taken from a true story at Internet <http://www.flightdata.com>

### **RETIREMENT**

Bevan Faulkner retired from SunWater on Friday 1 February 2002, following a career of 45 years with the rural water industry in Queensland.

He commenced work with the Irrigation & Water Supply Commission in 1957 as a Cadet Draftsman and studied Civil Engineering at night at the old Central Technical College, now part of the Queensland University of Technology. Completing a Diploma in Civil Engineering in 1964, he was transferred to Construction Branch and while working there qualified for Graduate Membership of the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

Bevan married his wife Wendy in 1966, and together they spent almost all of the first twelve years of married life in country Queensland working on the construction of Wuruma and Atkinson Dams; in the Regional office in Rockhampton; and as District Engineer at Mackay and St George. Their two children, Joanne and Russell were born early in this period.

Returning to Brisbane, early in 1978, he spent the next 13 years as a construction services engineer during which time he was responsible for the construction pre-planning and initial site works for such projects as Boondooma, Burdekin Falls, Bjelke-Petersen, Peter Faust and Clarendon Dams; Boggabilla and Val Bird Weirs and Tarong and Awoonga Callide Pipelines. In 1991-92 he was appointed Regional Engineer, South Eastern Region and then Manager, Asset Management in Water Production Division. He has held a similar position under a few different titles since that time.

"My whole career had been very rewarding, but I have particularly enjoyed the work and the challenges over the last five and a half years as State Water Projects was transformed from a commercial business group within the Department of Natural Resources into SunWater." Bevan said.

Often the Commission's contribution to a district is judged by its services, dams and channels. The efforts that staff and employees made to improve the quality of life in social, educational and sporting fields for the whole community is immense but is often overlooked. Bevan and Wendy can look back at their contributions in the country, particularly to tennis and Rotary. Many other organizations also benefited from their help.

More than 130 people, including a liberal number of retirees, gathered at the Chifley on George hotel on 30<sup>th</sup> January to farewell Bevan. Among those present were Dot and Hughie Byrnes who renewed acquaintances with many old friends. Some of our members will remember Dot as Dot Adams who worked in Accounts Branch years ago. And of course Hughie worked on more construction jobs than "you can poke a stick at."

### **GONE TROPPO or MANGO MADNESS**

The Sunday Mail published a story on 9<sup>th</sup> December repeating claims by university workers that northern Australians really do go troppo in summer, caused by an Australian version of **S A D**, Seasonal Affective Disorder. The original SAD occurred in the North European regions where short days and long nights were said to send residents slightly mad. ( The Sunday Mail/university workers neglected to mention that these same conditions were duplicated in Victoria and Tasmania in winter and that the disorder may be known as **F E**, Football Fanaticism. The workers also say that the steamy heat of the tropics sends people slightly mad, sometimes called Mango Madness. The head of the psychology department at the Northern Territory University, Mary Morris, said that the decline in sunshine in the wet season made people "doomier" and gloomier and the humidity hindered concentration, mental alertness and the ability to do two things at once. A Flinders University sleep psychology expert, Leon Lack said the tropical heat disrupted sleep leaving northerners cranky, distracted, depressed, stressed and tired.

### **SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA**

Written by an American airman stationed at Iron Range between Bamaga and Coen in 1942.

*Somewhere in Australia, where the sun is like a curse,  
Where each dull day is replaced, by another slightly worse,  
Where the brick-red dust is thicker, than the shifting desert sands,  
And a white man dreams and wishes for the fairer greener lands.*

*Somewhere in Australia, where a woman's never seen,  
Where the sky is never cloudy, and the grass is never green.  
Where the dingoes' nightly howling, robs a man of blessed sleep,  
Where there isn't any whiskey, and the beer is never cheap.*

*Somewhere in Australia, where the nights were made for love,  
Where the moon is like a searchlight, and the Southern Cross above,  
Sparkles like a diamond necklace in the balmy tropic night,  
It's a shameless waste of beauty, when there's not a girl in sight.*

*Somewhere in Australia, where the mail is always late,  
Where a Christmas card in April is considered up to date,  
Where we never have a payday, and we never have a cent,  
But we never miss the money, cause we'd never get it spent.*

*Somewhere in Australia, where the ants and lizards play,  
And a hundred fresh mosquitoes replace each one you slay.  
So take me back to 'Frisco, let me hear those Mission Bells,  
As this godforsaken outpost is a substitute for hell.*

### **TOILET HUMOUR incl AFFO'S ANECDOTE**

From The Courier-Mail comes a story about a CSIRO forestry project at Wagga Wagga in which various trees are grown using treated sewage effluent. The fastest-growing and most promising eucalypt so far is *Eucalyptus dunnii* (pronounced dunny-i), and one of the scientists is Dr Peter

Crapper. It is also said that the project farm is nicknamed "flushing meadows".

The United Kingdom's lawyers' magazine *The Lawyer* recently and incorrectly reported that Maurice M.... was a "senior lawyer". It was subsequently forced to publish the following correction. 'We apology for any embarrassment caused by calling him a lawyer.'

*The Bottom Line* in The Courier-Mail.

A Leslie Dam bloke who lived in Warwick had a memorable experience. The night before his daughter was to marry he took his prospective son-in-law for a few beers. The future son-in-law's father accompanied them. The young man arrived home late and well stoked. Unfortunately the lad lost his teeth in the toilet and flushed them away before he realised it. He was then put to bed where he passed out cold.

Guilt overpowered the two fathers as they set about to recover the dentures. A wire with hook was used in the bowl without success. They couldn't find the manhole in the dark and the search was postponed to first light..

Early next the morning the father rang a friend who operated the City sewerage plant. The friend said yes he had accumulated 62 sets over the years and that the lad was welcome to try them. The lad declined a trial!

The problem was solved when a dental mechanic was found who manufactured a set in time for the wedding.

Thanks Ron

### **SURVEYING AND CAMP LIFE**

Last edition **Des Foster** told us of his introduction to the surveying life with the Main Roads Commission in the Cloncurry area in 1944. He continues:

On the day that peace was declared in 1945 I received my army call-up papers and was impolitely told at Kelvin Grove Barracks what I could do with that piece of paper.

Instead I boarded a train for Chinchilla en route to join a private surveyor at his camp at Mt Auburn 80 miles to the north. The camp was one 14 by 14 feet auto tent and one tent fly (the mess tent).

I was told to take an axe and cut down a box tree about 15 inches in diameter and cut one log about two feet long for a pillow and another a little longer and smaller for a 'foot log'. I then cut saplings to lay between them. Dry grass was then gathered and put it along the saplings. Over this I spread my trusty "Wagga" – three corn sacks sewn together to act as a mattress. After a couple of weeks there was a disconcerting dip in the middle of the saplings which was corrected by adding more grass.

All four members of the party slept in the auto tent with almost all our food supplies, but we had the luxury of boss's pressure lantern. The boss's nephew, also a chainman, did the cooking but food rationing was still a way of life. Unlike my earlier experience beef was our staple diet. We ate fresh steaks, more steaks and more beef until after a critical period fresh beef was off the menu and salted meat came out of the brine barrel supplemented by beef smoked over the camp fire.

Bread and other stores left Chinchilla on Thursday and arrived at "Auburn" homestead on Sunday morning where I collected them in a 1930 Capitol Chevrolet utility. By Tuesday or Wednesday bread could be used for anything other than sandwiches. So the "sandwiches" were balanced on a green forked stick over the lunch fire and voila "Toasted sandwiches"

I left the camp at the Christmas closedown having not left camp for four months, very lean, very fit, and with a cheque for 34 pounds, seventeen shillings and four pence (\$69.73). Any other money had been deducted for my mess account but at least I was spared the cost of A.W.U. membership.

### **CONCESSION AND HEALTH CARE CARDS**

Centrelink issues three types of concession and health care cards which provide a range of benefits to cardholders.

For low-income earners, you may be able to get a **Health Care Card** to help with the cost

of medicines and a limited number of concessions.

For low income earners (receiving selected payments), you may be able to get a **Pensioner Concession Card** to help with the cost of medicines and a range of concessions.

For people who are of Age Pension age but do not qualify for the pension, you may be able to get a **Commonwealth Seniors Health Card**.

You must meet residence requirements

While those who are on a pension or an allowance of some kind from Centrelink would automatically receive the appropriate Concession or Health Care Card, it is possible for the other cards to be available to self-funded retirees as follows:

**Health Care Card** (age limits do not apply)

Issued for six months (renewable) if your *income* in any eight week period is less than:

\$3200.00 - if you are single

\$5330.00 - in combined income, if you live with your partner

\$5670.00 - if you have a dependent child. The eight-week limit increases by \$340.00 for each dependent child.

Your *income* is calculated on:

Annuity

minus capital invested in the annuity scheme divided by your life expectancy

plus bank account/ investments deemed at 3% pa

eg. If you bought an annuity for \$32000 pa for \$300000 at age 62 and have a listed life expectancy of 19 years, your income is deemed to be  $\$32000 - (300000/19) = \$16210$  pa or \$2494 per eight weeks.

Add to this eight weeks worth of any deemed interest. If the total is less than the amounts above you could qualify for the Health Care Card

**Commonwealth Seniors Health Card:**

for an Australian resident, living in Australia, of pension age, not qualified for a pension and who has an annual income of:

less than \$50 000 (single)

\$80 000 (couple combined);

\$100 000 (couple combined, separated due to ill health)

the limit is increased by \$639.60 for each dependent child you care for.

Benefits from these cards include concessional prescription medicines which cost \$3.50 for each Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicine.

Other concessions may include reductions in:

health care costs including ambulance, dental care, and eye care;

public transport costs;

water rates; and

energy/electricity bills

car registration.

The figures above are subject to indexation twice yearly. It could pay to have Centrelink assess your eligibility. You could also check the web page [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au) for more information.

Once you turn 60 you can apply for a Queensland Seniors Business Discounts Card (QSBDC). After you turn 65 you can apply for the Seniors Card. If you qualify for the Low Income Health Care Card before turning 65 then the Queensland Government will upgrade your QSBDC to a full Seniors Card with the added concessions that that brings. Read the booklet that comes with that card to ensure that you take advantage of the benefits it offers.

Thanks to Jim Uhlmann who assembled this information.

## NEWCOMERS

The brouhaha about immigration invites a few comments about some of our newcomers from earlier times, their hardships, their successes and their contributions to their new home. These much shortened, and not necessarily improved, comments are taken from the July and November 1995 editions of this Newsletter.

Peter Gosse 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 to Germany in 1944 and came to Australia in 1949.

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 railway line to Mount Isa, the hydrology of Coolmunda and Maroon Dams and several southeast 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.

**The late Halina Netzel** spent her time between her mother and an aunt in Warsaw after the death of her father and the remarriage of her mother. "I was a happy person. I made plans for the future and was convinced that the world was waiting for me." Of course World War II changed everything.

With Karol, and son Richard she came to Australia in 1949 and moved to Brisbane in November. "Imagine us, a crowd of wildly gesticulating people, laughing, shouting in languages nobody understood, descending on the prim and proper Brisbanites who sedately walked, be-hatted and be-gloved, in the CBD. They did not know what hit them, but neither did we. In time we got used to each other and developed a good relationship."

The Netzels spent about 3 years in Mareeba where they learned about life in Australia. "I liked it there particularly as the Country Women's Association befriended me and were always ready to help me."

On return to Brisbane Halina worked in a factory, one of the profoundest experiences of her life. The men and women there accepted her as one of their own. "I learned that the needs of people are all the same no matter what their background. I enjoyed their company and we still have wonderful rapport."

She spent much of her my working life as a volunteer and loved it. Her last effort was as a broadcaster in a multilingual radio station, the Polish radio group. "I actually think this is what I should have been doing all my life but somehow never realised it."

She said that Australia is a good country for migrants, steady government, people give others a "fair go" and they can fashion their lives in their own way. There are drawbacks, but they become attached to Australia and even though they dreamed about their home country they still wanted to come back here after visiting there. She felt that another country would not have given her as much as Australia did. She was awarded the Order of Australia on the strength of achievement not on whom she knew. "I am very happy and proud of that Order."

Halina has worked to encourage women to contribute outside their own narrow linguistic communities. "This is multiculturalism at its best because it is the result of an inner commitment based on one's own needs. I think that I have also contributed in my own way to diversify Australian perceptions and I am proud of that."

**Sir David Smith's** ancestors came to Australia 70 odd years ago. "We are all either immigrants or the descendants of immigrants. Some of our ancestors came here at least 40,000 years ago, some

over 200 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."

"They 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." These aspects of our Australian way of life are of British origin. But from the time of the first fleet our colonial culture differed from that of Britain, and was continuously modified by the harshness of the land and by new arrivals to produce a distinctively Australian culture.

"We cannot alter our history, no matter how hard or how often some of us try to do so."

He said today we are using language to separate and divide us. 'Indigenous' is being reserved for 'some' of us which is to discriminate against the rest of us and to deny us our birthright as native-born Australians.

We have invented 'multicultural' to label the process of taking-in and absorbing people of many cultures. We forgot that this place has been home to a multicultural society for at least 40,000 years.

Sir David said new Australians have the right to develop their cultures and languages, but asks, "Where is the corresponding emphasis on duties, obligations and responsibilities?." "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. More than ever we should seek that which unites and not that which divides."

"I am a first generation Australian, of non-English speaking migrants from Poland." Smith's wife's parents were also migrants. "Neither set of parents, like other migrants who came here before and soon after World War II, had any difficulty in becoming loyal and patriotic Australians 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 the resultant mixture became all the richer."

My father before his death literally thanked his God that He had brought him to this country 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. He also expressed amazement that 25 years later would see his son appointed Private Secretary to a Federal Minister, and then to one of the highest secretarial positions in the land.

Had I been born in his country, I could not have aspired to such a career I would have been of the wrong religion. Indeed if you or I were to migrate today to many of the countries from which our immigrants come, we would be denied rights and privileges conferred on us 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.

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.

**Cheers**  
**Bernie Credlin**