

WATERY SAUCES OLDIES & BOLDIES

THE YEAR OF THE OUTBACK

NEWSLETTER NO 39

NOVEMBER 2002

Earlier captions in this the **Year of the Outback** have used images typical of the Outback. We conclude the year with one all too common and certainly one relevant to the current severe drought.

This picture was taken by David Martinelli of a dead steer in the mud of a dried up gully near Wallumbilla. We thank David, Michelle Bailey and The Courier-Mail not only for the graphic picture but also for their speedy and pleasant manner in which they responded to my request.

President	Gordon Wilson	7 Prout St.,	Camp Hill	4152	3398 7247
Past Pres	Barrie Fawcett	118 Goldsborough Rd	Taringa	4068	3378 0631
Vice Pres	Jim Uhlmann	133 Sapphire St.,	Holland Park	4121	3420 5168
Secretary	Heather Clarke	60 Davidson St.,	Newmarket	4091	3356 2802
Treasurer	Lee Rogers	61 Upland Rd.,	St Lucia	4067	3371 3200
Executive	Dave Morwood	35 Bellata St.,	The Gap	4061	3366 3570
	Bill Eastgate	14 Sixth Ave.,	Bardon	4065	3369 5917
Auditor	Col Taggart	34 Beaufort St.,	Alderley	4051	3356 3729
Editor	Bernie Credlin	10 Kordick St.,	Carina	4152	3398 5103

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Our luncheon was held on 1st November at the Skyline Restaurant at the College of Tourism and Hospitality.

Approximately 60 attended and by all accounts enjoyed themselves. It was gratifying to the organisers to see members travel considerable distances to be with us. George and Merle Beran and friend and Roy and Iris Maxted

came on the Tilt Train from Bundaberg with Merv and Marlene Brand from Gympie. Noel and Rhondda Ullman came up from the Gold Coast and Joyce Reick from Rosewood. Joyce brought Shirley Quinn with her. Many old timers will remember Shirley as Shirley Horrobin in Supply Branch (?). It was also good to see George Pearce again.

It was a pleasure for the Association to welcome Peter Noonan, CEO of SunWater who gave us an outline of its activities and the water storage position in its dams. Peter's notes are reproduced on page 7. Unfortunately The Director-General of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines could not be with us because of a prior commitment in Weipa.

As part of his program to liven up our functions, President Yul had promised a bevy of ladies performing a Tie dance which was undoubtedly a factor in attracting many unaccompanied males anxious to see the gyrations of dancers clad only in bow ties. They were disappointed as Old Yul drew on his movie background (remember him in the lead role in Anna and the King of Siam or was

it The King and I) and substituted fully dressed Thai ladies in their national dress performing traditional dances.

Also of much interest was a display of excellent carvings representative of about 12 countries. These were crafted from **margarine** by members of the Cotah staff. Your Editor won one of the Lucky Seat prizes, a beautiful bunch of flowers. He took them home to Sherry and tried hard to ignore the looks, gestures and giggles of scores of schoolboys who shared the same rail carriage.

The Association incurred some unnecessary expenditure at the Luncheon when several members, having advised the Secretary that they would attend and that they would pay on the day, then failed to show up. We have to pay Cotah for them, having told Cotah of the number of lunches to prepare. The Association may have to consider billing members who declare their intention to attend and who fail to attend or to provide reasonable notice of their inability to do so.

If you have a lot of tension and get headaches do what it says on the aspirin bottle. "Take two aspirin." and "Keep away from children."

RICHMOND LOSES ITS COLOUR

Colourful Richmond is about to become a drab dingy town. Art aficionados will no doubt mourn the loss of the rich red colours that once graced their houses, garden ornaments, nappies and sleeping dogs. (How would Blue Poles look without its blues.?) However the less artistic residents look forward to the day soon when their bore water ceases to dye all that it contacts. A new bore has been drilled, raised earth tanks have been constructed and water will be distributed under pressure, all at a cost of \$2 million.

Former Shire Councillor, Jack Brown, said "There was nothing wrong with the water, it just stains everything. In fact it is probably good for you. It could put iron into your backbone". In any case he said it wasn't as bad as Julia Creek's. "They had a bore there not long ago that had so much fluoride in it people's hair turned green". (No doubt the art buffs regret the day when that bore was no longer used.) Mr Brown did say that you would have had to take a lot of showers before the Richmond water would give you red hair.

Thanks to Roy Mincher and the Townsville Bulletin

BOWLS DAY

Another very successful Bowls Day was held on the 9th August 2002 at the Aspley Memorial Bowls Club

with some 37 members, partners and friends enjoying the facilities and hospitality of the Club.

The weather turned out to be mainly fine and warm, and the green was running at a fair pace which certainly

made it interesting for the "once a year bowlers", who all enjoyed themselves.

The format for the day was as in previous years, with a morning game followed by lunch then an afternoon

game finishing around 4.30 PM. This was then followed by drinks, nibbles and presentation of prizes.

Both the morning and afternoon games were played as pairs, using a 2;4;2 format, which meant that everyone

played as lead and also as skip. As this seemed to be a successful type of game for all concerned, it will

probably be continued in the future.

A large number of prizes were presented to the various winners and for 'touchers', and also by draw of the cards so that all had a chance of collecting something. This year a number of our usual players were absent due to various reasons, but fortunately new players turned up so that the total numbers playing were similar to previous years.

A small group very ably conducted the day, and thanks must go to Stan and Joan, Norm and Lindsay and Don and Shirley for all the hard work, and particularly Joan and Shirley for the excellent luncheon provided and served.

Stan is stepping down from organizing this function after many years, and all the credit for such successful days belongs to him. He will certainly be missed in this role, and he is no doubt looking forward to more time to enjoy his bowls in the future. Norm will be taking over this role for next year unless another volunteer becomes available in the meantime.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

From time to time members contact the Secretary inquiring whether or not they are financial. It is the intention to send a statement indicating a member's status with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. Our membership year is from 1st April to 31st March in the following year, the AGM is usually held in April and notice is given at least 14 days beforehand. Current membership fees are :- Ordinary Member \$5:00, Country Member \$2:50, Fully Paid Up Member (Over 75) \$ Nil and Honorary Member (Spouse of deceased member) Nil

TRADITIONAL CAPITALISM

You have two cows.

You sell one and buy a bull.

Your herd multiplies, and the economy grows.
You sell them and retire on the proceeds.

A Chinese Corporation:

You have two cows.

You have 300 people milking them.

You claim full employment, high bovine productivity, and arrest the newsman who reported the numbers.

American Capitalism:

You have two cows. You sell three to your publicly listed company, using letters of credit opened by your brother-in-law at the bank. You then make a debt/equity swap so you get all four cows back, with a tax exemption for five cows. The milk rights of six cows are transferred via an intermediary to an offshore company secretly owned by the majority shareholder who sells the rights to seven cows back to your listed company. Your company's annual report says the company owns eight cows, with an option on one more. The international firm of auditors states that your annual report met all statutory requirements. The public accepts your bull.

A Swiss Corporation:

You have 5000 cows, none of which belong to you.

You charge others for storing them.

An Australian Corporation:

You have two cows.

You sell one, and force the other to produce the milk of four cows.

You are surprised when the cow drops dead.

A British Corporation:

You have two cows.

Both are mad.

A French Corporation:

You have two cows.

You go on strike because you want three cows.

REST IN PEACE

Humphrey Desmond died on 15th July aged 81 years. Humphrey will be remembered by many of us for his

work on water quality in the Local Government Department, and as Director of Water Quality.

George James Christopher Hyde died on 24th September aged 95 years and was farewelled by family and friends at St Joseph's Cathedral, Rockhampton. George was born in England and immigrated to Queensland when he was 15 years of age. Aspects of his working life included canecutting, gold mining, railway ganger, storekeeper, meatworker and SP bookmaker. He was a man of his principles, strong minded and very well read. He was a life member of the Labor party and had stood for the Federal seat of Dawson.

He will be missed by his daughter Barbara Beak and her family and her partner Gordon Wilson.

Harry Horne died on 19th October and was cremated at Deception Bay on 23rd. Harry has been in poor health for quite some time and spent the last 19 months at Abbey Gardens Aged Care Home. Harry was one of the old Commission's most courteous and efficient officers. He was born in Hull, Yorkshire in 1925. His childhood ended abruptly when he was drafted as a Cyclist Messenger in the Civil Defence organisation. He then served as a radar operator in the Royal Air Force and saw service in Iceland and South Africa.

Harry said that "the big step in my life came when I decided to emigrate to Australia". He arrived in Brisbane on the "Mooltan" in August 1950 and joined the Commission as a Timekeeper at Bonshaw Weir in September and followed with a short period drilling for water in the Burdekin area under the supervision of Tommy Lord. Deciding that the desk was an easier taskmaster than the drill, he

returned to timekeeping at Clare and Gorge Weir until 1953 when with two mates he embarked on a twelve month working holiday around Europe.

He returned to the Commission at Millaroo and except for a few months with a sawmill at Mungallala, worked with it until retirement. He served at Greenup Weir, Nathan Gorge, Mutchilba, Moogerah, Leslie, Wuruma, and Fairbairn Dams before transferring to Head Office as Senior Clerk (Personnel) in 1972. Despite name changes to the position, he was in that job until his departure in 1985.

After retirement Harry moved to Caboolture where he maintained his long-standing friendship with Des and Betty Rayner, their children and many others. His main interest became Contract Bridge with the local club.

Harry became an Australian citizen in 1974 and for several years he was a telephone counsellor for Lifeline.

From notes by Harry in 1995 and a copy of the eulogy read by Rod Schafferius.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Many of our members, like Harry Horne, gave freely and unobtrusively of their time to community organizations. We heard recently that **George Beran** was awarded a Certificate and Medallion honouring his "many years of devoted and selfless volunteer work". Well done George.

BACK TO BOGGO ROAD

We had an informative tour and heard some interesting history of the old Brisbane Gaol from a former prison officer. He told us something of the battle of wits between staff and prisoners. The prisoners and their families got up to all sorts of tricks getting contraband into the prison. The staff had a few tricks of their own just to show who was in charge.

Ten people turned up for roll call. Gordon, Lee, Bill and Jim from the Executive, Eric Davis, Jim Jones and his wife, Sheila Turner and her daughter, and Maureen Webb. Maureen told us that her grandfather owned the land before it was resumed for the gaol. Seven of us went on to have lunch on the bank of the river along Brisbane Corso.

From Number 3420 5168

GETTING BETTER

George Pearce had a poor patch and spent time in hospital. He says he is well again and is leading an active life.

Ron Afflick is another who has been undergoing lengthy medical treatment. Ron says it all paid off and although he still having treatment, he is now back at his beloved golf course bemoaning the changes that occurred in his "swing" during his lay off.

Jim Walls has also "done time" in hospital and is back home. No reports are available on his golf swing.

Don Beattie is only now back at bowls after a lengthy absence due to persistent 'flu. Wife **Shirley** has also been poorly.

Sherry Credlin had a couple of weeks in hospital while undergoing treatment for heart irregularities. Not to be outdone I had three nights in the Mater following minor surgery.

Alan Vizer has been in trouble again. He has been on crutches for three months because of a snapped tendon in a leg. He sustained the injury when attempting to walk a few metres backwards. He finally conceded he is no Vince Lester. We do wish you a speedy and complete recovery, Alan.

Joyce Bertram has also suffered a shoulder injury, under circumstances totally different to those of Alan. She has had surgery and is progressing well

Knees Up!. **Elaine James** (K/nee Murphy) had a knee replacement and is now jumping out of her skin, (well not quite). We all wish her a speedy recovery. **Murhp** was Harold Buckle's secretary before becoming Head Typist.

Merv Scheuber has been ill and undergoing treatment in Brisbane. He hopes to return to Bundaberg soon.

Adrian Muller continues to have medical problems.

Jill Riley is making good progress after heart surgery.

RETIREMENTS

We welcome the following new members and spouses and sincerely hope that they do get a lot from the Association and its functions. More importantly we hope they will contribute ideas and energy to the Association.

Bob and Marg Brydon

Ian and Judy Ferrier

Ross and Rhonda Gomersall

Bill and June Sticklan

Peter Thompson

Barry and Karen Mewburn

Trevor and Carmel Tuesley

We do try to contact people as they retire or leave the Department so that we can tell them about our Association and hopefully persuade them to join us. So if you know of colleagues who are retiring or who have already done so, please tell one of our office bearers so we can approach them about joining.

We do try to mention these recent retirees in the Newsletter. Unfortunately our grapevine is limited and we do sometimes fail to acknowledge contributions made to the State by them. Barry and Trevor above are but two we missed. We are sorry when this happens particularly as some of those omitted have particularly interesting stories to tell. It is not too late fellas.

RETIREMENT IAN FERRIER

Ian Ferrier retired in early October, 37 years after taking up an IWS scholarship. He carried out duties in the old Designs, Project Planning and Construction Branches which included activities associated with Bedford Weir, Balonne Culgoa regulating weirs, dam sites in the Bowen Basin for coal mining, materials investigation for Monduran and Maroon Dams and construction at Maroon Dam. In 1974 he left for a two year stint in private enterprise which included work on Wesley Hospital planning and Central Station construction.

He then joined the Construction Section of the Department of Local Government working on water supply and sewerage projects from the Torres Strait to Southern Queensland, ranging from Doomagee water supply, to Palm Island sewerage to Gladstone water supply upgrade. He had become Chief Construction Engineer of DLG until its water supply and sewerage functions were transferred to Commission construction in 1988. He found the next four years tumultuous and stressful and moved to Client Advisory Services in 1992. He helped establish Asset Management Units in Cairns and Thursday Island to help indigenous communities operate and manage their water supply and sewerage works.

He then moved to Project Planning Group on the then proposed Comet and Nathan Dams and weirs in the Burnett Basin, fishways etc. Work on the latter continued after Ian moved to Water Development Group upon the demise of Project Planning.

In mid 2001 he was seconded to Burnett Water P/L to prepare environment studies for the Burnett river Dam and Eidsvold Weir and other infrastructure in the Burnett Basin.

CONVERSATION PIECE

Before marriage he did all the talking and she did the listening. After marriage she did the talking and he did the listening. Now that they are older they both do the talking and the neighbours do the listening. And **Bill Fossett** wants to know if a man is talking in the bush and no woman is there, is he still wrong?

DRINKING

"Always carry a flagon of whiskey in case of snakebite and furthermore I always carry a small snake." WC Fields.

Two drunks are walking along. One drunk says to the other, "What a beautiful night, look at the

moon."

The other drunk stops and looks at his drunk friend. "You're wrong, that's not the moon, that's the sun."

They seek the advice of another drunk. "Sir, could you please help settle our argument? Tell us what that thing is up in the sky that's shining. Is it the moon or the sun?" The third drunk looked at the sky and said, "Sorry, I don't live around here."

Two men met in a bar and had a great evening together. They promised to meet at the same bar a year from that day. One of the men returned a year later and found the other sitting, waiting for him. "When did you get here?" he asked. The other said, "Who left?"

What the hell does the President mean, "Evil Dewars"??

"Whoever makes a poor beer is transferred to the dung-hill." Edict, City of Danzig, 11th Century.

"Ale, man, ale's the stuff to drink

For fellows whom it hurts to think." A.E.Housman 1859-1936 (This line was used in the March 2000 edition.)

David Morwood drew on his collection of drinking stories from his earlier years to give us these stories. Thanks.

FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES

A small boy was sent to bed by his father.

Five minutes later: "Da-ad." "What?" "I'm thirsty. Can you bring a drink of water?" "No. You had your chance. Lights out."

Five minutes later: "Da-aaaad."

"WHAT?" "I'm THIRSTY. Can I have a drink of water?"

"I told you NO!" If you ask again, I'll have to spank you!"

Five minutes later: "Daaaa-aaaad." "WHAT!"

"When you come in to spank me, can you bring a drink of water?"

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?" The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!'"

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?" The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy."

THE ORIGIN OF OUR LANGUAGE

Here are some facts about English in the 1500's and the origin of many of our everyday words and phrases:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled reasonably fresh by June. However, to be sure, brides carried a bouquet of flowers as a safety measure. The practice continues.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, followed by the women and finally the children - last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it - hence the saying "*Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.*"

Houses had thatched roofs - thick straw - piled high, with no ceilings. It was the only place for animals to keep warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice and bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained, the thatch became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof - hence the saying "*It's raining cats and dogs*". There was nothing to stop other things falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedrooms where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice "clean" bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how *canopy beds* and *four posters* came into existence.

House floors were of dirt. Only the wealthy had something better than dirt, hence the saying "*dirt poor*". Dirt floors would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance - hence a "*thresh hold*".

(Our married quarters on Construction jobs in the 1940-50's wasn't all that bad after all!)

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Occasionally they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could "*bring home the bacon*". They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "*chew the fat*" as they talked.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and guests got the top, or "*upper crust*". Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would often knock them out for a couple of days and they would be mistakenly thought to be dead. Rather than bury an unconscious man, he would be laid on a table for a day or so and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if he would wake up - hence the custom of holding a "*wake*".

Unfortunately it did sometimes happen that the person buried was not dead at the time so the practice began of tying a string to the wrist of the corpse and lead it up through the ground to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "*graveyard shift*") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "*saved by the bell*", or considered a "*dead ringer*".

And that's the truth, after all it is history...(whoever said history was boring?)

EARTH SUMMIT

At the Earth Summit hosted in South Africa, a survey was conducted of all UN countries. The only question was:-

"Would you please give your honest opinion about solutions to the food shortage in the rest of the world?"

The survey was a huge failure....

Africans didn't know what the word "food" meant.

In Eastern Europe, they didn't know the meaning of "honest".

Western Europeans didn't know what "shortage" meant.

The Chinese, didn't know the meaning of "opinion".

In the Middle East, "solutions" were unknown.
South Americans found "please" totally foreign.
And in the USA, they didn't know what "the rest of the world" meant.

HELP

Geoff Cossins who worked with the Stanley River Board, Co-ordinator General's Department and the Brisbane City Council is trying to discover the fate of two cableways used to build Somerset Dam. He believes they came originally from Wyangla Dam in NSW in 1935. He understands they were sold to the old Commission in 1955 and were to be used to build Nathan Dam. He would like to know if were used elsewhere by the Commission (or any other organisation).

If you can help please contact Geoff at 4/60 Lambert Road, Indooroopilly 4068, or by 'phone 3876 7661.

SUNWATER

SunWater is the commercial part of the old Department now a government owned corporation. It manages 27 water supply schemes and provides consultancy services to the water industry. It has just released its second annual report which records a substantial water use for the last year of 1.6 million megalitres, but a reducing level of water storage for the year. Half its schemes have announced 50% allocation or less, with no allocation for irrigators from the Lockyer, Moogerah and Leslie systems. The Bundaberg scheme has 10% and is in its 8th year of less than 100% announced allocations. The upper Mary has only 25%, Wuruma Dam has been empty for many months, Fred Haigh Dam (Monduran) is 4%, as is Cania, and Callide is only 9% full. Last year there were record water uses in Mareeba, Burdekin, Eton and Emerald as the dry weather increased demand.

SunWater has recently announced the construction next year of a new weir at Barlil on the Barambah Creek, and the raising of Jones weir at Mundubbera. A mini-hydro plant on the irrigation outlet at Tinaroo Falls Dam will be built next year.

MAREEBA NOTES

Planning is under way for the Christmas "Do". It is late this year because of the lunch in August to coincide with a visit by Col Lewis. Numbers continue to improve, with over forty expected this time. The local "sick list" includes Carlo (Charlie) **Paolucci**, Marcia **Pont** and Althea **Kalf**, and we wish them and all others who are feeling off colour, "All Best Wishes and Get Well Soon".





Like the rest of the country, the weather continues "dry". Mareeba generally gets "very little" rain from May to about November. But for this year, read "nothing" to "nothing worthwhile". Generally, we are better off than many though, as Tinaroo is still about half full. So far, no restrictions on watering here in town, (except pay as you use, of course), so the town is fairly green. As with every dry spell, the fifty year old cry "Build Nullinga" is much louder.

Thanks Jack **Pont** for these notes. We acknowledge the very fine job done by our previous correspondent, Sheila **Turner**, who carried on the good work of her late husband, Keith. Thanks a lot Sheila. It's participants like you who make this job worthwhile



"We  not
erate Saddam



Hussein for his actions. We will
Mobilize to meet this threat to
vital interests in the Persian 
until an  ble solution is reached.
Our best strategy is to repared.
Failing that, we ming
to kick your ass."

"The fall of empires has been a good thing because it gives authorities a chance to exploit their own people without outside interference." From a student's examination paper.
Sometimes I think war is God's way of teaching us geography." Paul Rodrigues

ST GEORGE REUNION

Arrangements are in hand for a reunion of staff and employees of I & WS, QWRC, and successor bodies involved with the activities of the St George District and Irrigation Area and construction of Jack Taylor Weir and Beardmore Dam. The celebrations coincide with the 50th anniversary of the opening of Jack Taylor Weir and will begin on Friday 14th February 2003. Those planning to attend, or seeking more information should complete the following and send to **Meegan Christodoulou**.

Cheers,
Bernie Credlin

ST GEORGE IRRIGATION AREA REUNION 2003

FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

FROM 6.00PM – Meet & Greet at RSL

SATURDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

8.00AM – Breakfast at the Jack Taylor Weir

12.30PM – Lunch at Beardmore Dam

(followed by tour of irrigation area)

6.00PM – Dinner at RSL

SUNDAY 16TH FEBRUARY

8.00AM – Farewell Breakfast at Lions Park

(optional tour of Cubbie Station to follow)

Further details will be mailed out once we have established a contact list.

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THIS NOW

Please post or fax this form to any persons you know who may have worked on the Jack Taylor Weir or Beardmore Dam projects or had involvement in any way with the development of the St George Irrigation Area

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PERSON ON THE CONTACT LIST:

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
TELEPHONE: _____
FACSIMILE: _____
EMAIL: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

STGEORGE IRRIGATION AREA REUNION
C/ PO BOX 310
ST GEORGE Q 4487
FACSIMILE: (07) 4625 3892
EMAIL: meehan.christodoulou@nrm.qld.gov.au