

# Watery Sauces Oldies and Boldies

Newsletter No 60

November 2009

Newsletter of the Water Resources Retirees Association

## Freedom Forgone

In the last Newsletter it was reported that Scott Spencer, former Director-General of NRW, had achieved the freedom of retirement. In this edition it can be reported that the freedom didn't last for very long. Scott has now been appointed by the government as the Chairman of the Board of SunWater.

As part of a revamp of Seqwater, Phil Hennessy was appointed Chairman of its board, leaving a vacancy back at SunWater. How lucky the government was to have such an able replacement virtually waiting in the wings. We offer our hearty congratulations to Scott and trust he finds the new post enjoyable as well as challenging.

The seat which Scott vacated back at NRW (which had segued into DERM) was temporarily filled by John Bradley, former CEO of the Queensland Water Commission. John has now been confirmed in the position which no doubt he is finding very challenging. John has graciously agreed to be co-patron of the Water Resources Retirees Association for which we are grateful. We hope members will have the opportunity to meet him at one of our luncheons or AGM.

On the subject of luncheons, the post that mails out this Newsletter will also include an invitation to our regular end-of-year/ Christmas luncheon to be held at COTAH on Wednesday 25 November. This is always an enjoyable get together and this year it will feature additional reasons to attend. Following the success of his quiz at the mid-year lunch, Terry Loos will be conducting another one on that special occasion. His topics will include geography, sport, politics, food, science, music and literature. Those keen to take out the lavish prizes may care to form their own informal teams with specialist knowledge in all those fields. Alternatively, others may just care to have a good laugh and face up to their lack of knowledge or killer instinct.

In any case, those of us attending will be the recipients of our own special segment of entertainment. The renowned barbershop quartet *A'cafellas*, starring our very own John Connolly and Col Cooney will, by special arrangement, present their own brand of harmonious delectation.

Do come and join us.

## We've a Web site

Your Web Site Sub Committee, comprising Peter Bevin, Lee Rogers, Geoff Eades, and Jon Henry has been working on the proposed Watery Sauces Web Site. An application has been made to register the domain name "waterysauces.org."

At the last Sub Committee meeting, Jon demonstrated the first draft of the structure of the site. The current structure and appearance were developed from some original ideas of Peter's. The web site will make all newsletters continually available online and allow for the addition of additional contributed content such as coloured photographs.

The Sub Committee appreciates the contributions of all those who responded to an earlier request for ideas.

*They'll keep you posted on further progress.* - Ed.

## From the Editor's Chair

*Our leaders keep telling us that the climate is changing. But so too, it seems, are the seasons. Jacarandas blooming in September? I ask you! It's barely enough to cause chronic Jacaranda dysentery and with that amount of notice even the most lethargic student of our generation should have had ample time to cram for the end of year exams. Mind you, with the current reduced lecture loads and continual assessment, the end of year panic seems to have become anachronistic. So perhaps I no longer need to have those recurrent nightmares.*

*Preparations for the festive seasons also seem to arrive ever earlier each year - no doubt we'll have Easter eggs in the shops before memories of Christmas have faded. So I guess it's not too early to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and a great 2010. Until next time, au reservoir.*

**Ian Pullar, Editor**

*P.S. I've found some wonderful new proverbs which I'd like to share with you - see the bottom of each page.*

Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.

## Out and About

I'm (almost) sorry to inflict more pain on those who suffer from paranoid jealousy, but I have more travels to report.

Lee and Denise Rogers thoroughly enjoyed their Intrepid tour of Spain and reported "Spain certainly is very different and has many great attractions as well as distractions. A group of Spaniards having a friendly chat sounds like a raging argument! I have never seen so many wind turbines but 90% or so seemed to be feathered generating no power – perhaps they have over-invested in wind. Lots of irrigation in the drier areas which is most of Spain." A much fuller account next edition.

The Shannons and the Marleys attended ICOLD, this year in South America and enjoyed themselves hugely. Brian has now completed his term as Past Chairman of ANCOLD and leaves the executive. Happy retirement, Brian.

Geoff Eades has recently returned from Hawaii, reportedly with about a thousand photographs of the geological products of volcanic activity.

Terry and Julie Loos spent ten days on the Shaky Isles (fortunately armed with the material presented on page 8). Terry reckons it was the best trip ever with so much natural beauty on show. It only rained at Doubtful Sound (which of course it should).

The Gilbeys had a most memorable trip across the top end and Peter has provided a few titbits to whet our whistles (see page 3). Unfortunately they didn't quite catch up with Gary and Amanda Luck in WA. Gary reports a mostly enjoyable experience, although the lack of fitness of some of the older travellers dampened the organised tour activities somewhat. A report of a Caton/Davis trip is also given on page 3.

Hein and Francoise van der Heide have reason to be very proud parents. Their daughter Elizabeth Schofield was recently awarded the 2009 Young Professional Engineer of the Year, by the Qld Division of Engineers Australia. (A Young Engineer is regarded as anyone 35 and under.) Elizabeth is a Civil Engineer with Main Roads and has been seconded to Qld Motorways since mid 2007, to work on the Gateway Bridge Upgrade Project, where she has been involved in road and bridge construction and contract management. Over the last few years Elizabeth has been the Vice-Chair and then the Chair of the Women in Engineering Group, and she is now on the Divisional Committee of the Qld Division of Engineers Australia. She will now go to Canberra in late November, for

the Engineering Excellence Awards night, where the National 2009 Young Professional Engineer of the Year will be announced.

Eighteen WRRRA members were present for the Annual Bowls Day at Aspley Bowls Club on 7 August. The players included a women's rink of Laurel Connolly, Eileen Rossi, Pat Cooney and Francoise van der Heide. As usual, Allen Seabrook set a standard too high for the others to attain – or even to keep out of the ditch! A pleasant morning of bowls on a perfect winter's day was followed by a most enjoyable lunch, superbly catered, as usual, by Norm and Lindsay White. We are most grateful to these stalwarts for their continued efforts.

Eleven members and partners enjoyed lunch at Chez Laila Restaurant at Portside on 20 October. Nine of these went on to take in a film at the adjacent cinema complex. Attendees had the added attraction of viewing the *Sun Princess* Cruise Liner which, coincidentally, happened to be docked on a one day visit to Brisbane.

Apart from the Christmas luncheon, members will also have the opportunity to gather together and chew the fat over old times and future plans at the Public Service Club in February (date to be advised) and again at the same venue for the AGM on 22 April 2010.

We welcome Bruce Gaydon as a new member. Your friends and former colleagues are also welcome to join us.

## Tinaroo Revisited

On 15 September celebrations were held to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of Tinaroo Dam. Locals had collected and displayed a large amount of memorabilia in the Sport and Recreation Hall at Tinaroo. A special feature of the occasion was the launch of a history book written by Gwen Price. The book has been painstakingly researched and is beautifully illustrated.

Anyone wanting more information can visit  
<http://sites.google.com/site/tinaroobook/>  
or email Gwen: [gwenp@trc.qld.gov.au](mailto:gwenp@trc.qld.gov.au)

Members will have been greatly saddened to hear of the death of **Joan Wickham**. Joan had a double connection with the old Commission - not only was she the wife of Alan Wickham, former Deputy Commissioner, she was the daughter of Bill Nimmo, Commissioner from 1949 to 1955.

Many members will recall **Robin Black** who was an engineer in Mareeba before joining the academic staff at QUT where he rose to the rank of professor. Robin was also heavily involved in work for the Institution of Engineers, particularly in the field of engineering heritage. He succumbed recently to leukemia.

**Mark Siebel** passed away in June. Mark, originally from Sri Lanka, was taken on by Ken Carmichael as a Water Adviser in Water Advisory Section where he worked closely with Dave Morwood and Jim Uhlmann and many others.

From Bundaberg came a report on the death of **Ray Hargraves** in September at the age of 73. Ray was a well respected Water Officer whose services as a tour guide were often called upon in his retirement. He was treated for prostate cancer nine years ago.

One of our members noticed a funeral notice in July for **Arthur Gould**. Members will remember Arthur from his days in the Plan Room with Les Saxby and Arthur Jarvis (both deceased).

Word has come through of the passing in October of **Marcia Pont**, wife of Jack Pont, retired District Clerk of WRC, Mareeba. Our condolences to relatives and friends.

**If you look like your passport photograph, you're probably not well enough to travel.**

## Sternes' Smatterings

*Concluding Phil Sternes' memories of 40 years of service. Many thanks, Phil, for this and other contributions. - Ed.*

### Would you like fries with that ?

The reproduction of Jim Ole's memo in the November 2008 edition of *Watery Sauces* reminded me that while Jim was obviously no great shakes as a photographer he did have talent in other directions.

Jim was elected president of the local kindergarten association just after he arrived in St George. This association, to raise money for its activities, undertook contract catering for various functions around the town and on this particular occasion were given the job of providing the meal for the tennis club's annual awards banquet.

On the Saturday afternoon of the banquet my father took ill and after having taken him to the doctor I was dispatched to find the local pharmacist to have a prescription filled. I eventually found him at the RSL club in the company of Jim where they were preparing the main course for the evening's repast on an outside fire, a curry of indeterminate recipe.

When questioned about the ingredients, Jim was reluctant to disclose what these were save for the "secret" ingredient he mentioned which taste does not allow me to mention here. When I intimated that I was unlikely, despite its emerging richness, to partake of his culinary creation that evening, he replied that he wouldn't be eating it either.

What was obvious though was that a lot of planning had gone into the preparation of this dish as a "runner" frequently appeared from the RSL bar to supply the necessary sustenance, a couple of packets of cigarettes were visible in Jim's pocket and a stirring tool of some creativity was in evidence. This masterpiece consisted of the side of an apple case with a portion strategically removed to form a handle.

I did partake of Jim's curry that night and regardless of whether or not the secret ingredient was actually used it was quite tasty. I didn't encounter any splinters either.

## Gallivanting Gilbo

The adventure started with my purchase of a very second-hand camper trailer from Gary Corbett and a second-hand Ford Falcon Station Wagon from the Government auction. I was too lousy to stay in the bidding for the vehicle I went to purchase – a 3 litre V6 Pajero which would have cost just about as much as a new one if I had kept bidding!

Anyway on 15 June I headed off with my new second-hand car and trailer to see as much of the top end I could in the six weeks available – on the first leg I had set off with my cousin and her husband who had a much more upmarket Kimberly Kamper and a rather large boat which was designed to take the three of us fishing in the 'Gulf Country'. Lesley stayed home and was to join me when I eventually made it into Darwin.

Day 1 did not augur well for the campers as I managed to take the wrong road out of Gayndah – I still don't know how – and the intrepid travellers were separated for a couple of hours as I saw some new country on the south side of the Burnett trying to get to Munduberra.

## Way up North

*My esteemed contributor Marilyn Caton sent me another of her valued book reviews (see page10) and for good measure added the following account of what was obviously a most enjoyable experience. - Ed.*

We have just been on a trip around Cape York with Eric and Jan Davis on the cargo ship *Trinity Bay*. Friends of mine told me how much they enjoyed the trip and I had to book in July 2008 to get on this August. We left from Cairns, had perfect weather, exceptional food and it was really interesting just how much cargo is ferried around the coast. We were met by a smaller tanker from Lockhart River in Lloyd Bay as the area is too shallow for the 80m *Trinity Bay* which carries up to 3500 tonnes of cargo. We all lined the deck to watch as the huge crane loaded up the smaller vessel.

We were all up early the next morning as the ship went through the Torres Strait. It was just before dawn and there seemed to be islands everywhere so we made use of the computer screen below that gives the exact position of the ship at all times. A tug pushed us into the wharf at Horn Island and the 35 passengers enjoyed a tour of the island and the local museum. The Island played an important role during the war and suffered regular bombing. The 13 crew were kept busy for hours loading and unloading containers and freight. Smaller tankers were also at the wharf ready to take cargo to smaller outlying islands. We then made our 35 minute trip across to Thursday Island where we again were taken on a tour of the Island while the crew worked.

That night we left for Seisia which is the coastal link to the larger community of Bamaga. Half the passengers left the ship at this point - those who had their cars on board started their drive back to Cairns, others flew out and those of us who were left made the trip by 4WD to the "tip".

When we returned we found we had a new lot of passengers who had just driven to the Cape and were taking their cars home by boat.

We returned to Horn Island to pick up prawns, a couple of cement trucks and the Breast Screening Van, then on to meet with the *Temple Bay* off Lockhart River before heading back to Cairns. It was a very enjoyable five nights and six days.

Eric and Jan flew home and Nev and I drove on to Cooktown where we spent a lot of time at the Museum and of course saw the sun set from Grassy Hill. Cook was certainly an amazing man.

Having paid a small fortune for the KK, my travelling companions could not afford to stay anywhere decent so we found ourselves at strange locations such as on the banks of the Western River at Winton (which turned out to be quite nice) on the way to Karumba.

We had a week or so at the tourist Mecca of Karumba which was a sight to behold between 7 and 8 in the morning with the road to the boat ramp looking more like Wynnum Rd at peak hour with nomads learning how to reverse holding the rest up.

After Karumba I split up with the KK's and took the high road to Burketown where things were much quieter except for the corroborree at night – before heading off to Borrooloola along the Savannah Way which quite rightly is designated for four wheel drive vehicles as I was to find out when attempting some rather deep crossings – nevertheless we made it through and the talk in the camp that night (accompanied by more corroborree in the background) was of the mad man who had come directly from Burketown in a two wheel drive!! .. to be continued.

*Thanks Peter. I look forward to further instalments. - Ed.*

**Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again.**

## Reminiscences of the Early Days of the Emerald Irrigation Area

*Continuing the memoirs of Peter Bevin and Bob McDonald.*

### Pilot Farms

Two pilot farms were established well before the design of the scheme started to prove the feasibility of various farm enterprises under irrigation. Water was drawn from Selma Weir for the furrow irrigation of cotton, sunflower, safflower and grain crops like wheat and sorghum as well as flood irrigation of lucerne and pastures for cattle fattening on the farms.

Gordon Titmarsh managed No. 1 Farm on the left bank to confirm the suitability of the black soils that predominated in that area and Jack Scott, likewise, managed No. 2 Farm on the right bank – a difficult task because of the complex nature of the soils.

### Designing the Channel Works

Irrigation design work was focused initially on preparing plans to build Selma Main Channel on the left bank. It was many years before the right bank (Weemah Channel) system was designed.

The starting point for Selma Main Channel was near one of the saddle dams (then yet to be built) as part of Fairbairn Dam. The first 8 miles were through rough sandstone country covered with black wattle and lancewood and traversed by creeks that would occasionally carry substantial flows. (Readers will have to pardon our lapsing back into imperial measurements now and then but it doesn't have the same meaning if we say the first 12.8km). It was very easy to get lost in that country for a while; most of us found that out to our concern – until we became ultra observant of all the landmarks.

Decisions were made as to whether the channel went around the ridges or through them, or deviated around a gully or was piped across it. The largest pipe siphon was a twin six foot diameter pipeline across St Helen's Creek, perhaps four miles from the start.

In this rough country, the process was to provide the surveyors with a probable line so that they could take levels every 100 feet and offset levels 25 and 50 feet left and right. This information was drawn up, and cross section areas planimetered to calculate earthworks volumes, and in conjunction with soil information from back-hoe pits, a final line for the channel was established. Surveying in this rough country was not an easy task.

At 8 miles, both channel surveying and design became a lot easier as the channel broke out onto the virtually treeless black soil country to the west of Emerald. However, this next area brought its own set of problems in that the lands to be irrigated were often much steeper than those normally watered by furrow irrigation.

### Area Works and Farm layout plans for the left bank

Once the design of the main channel works was well under way, the subdivision design for the new irrigation farms and the associated area works was started.

Bob recalls that teams of surveyors pegged out a one mile grid over the whole irrigation area and surveyed the natural surface level at 100 foot intervals within each square mile. Their survey books were plotted in Brisbane on a high quality Watmans Paper two square miles at a time. Contour lines were drawn through the 100 foot survey levels with a now extinct drafting tool called a contour pen. The draftsmen who did this work, supervised by Don McCulloch, should have

been given an A+ for dedication to duty, outstanding quality and artistic merit. For the record Bob has a contour pen in his minuscule drafting museum on the book shelf and is desperate to come by a small planimeter in a bakelite case if one is known to exist. Any offers or suggestions?

The two square mile sheets were photographically reduced to 10 chains to the inch and joined into sheets for Emerald staff to work on. In close harmony with the DPI soil scientists, we would plot the soil type variations on to the 10 chain films. The aerial photos (coloured) were not at the same scale as the 10 chain films. The soil boundaries on the photos had to be copied to the film using an 'Artiscopé' (thing-a-me, jigger) machine in the dark room, which has long been replaced by magnifying photocopyers. You often wondered whether people were actually at work, or were they in the dark-room. From memory we were probably working on sheets covering 10 or 12 square miles each. To make sense of all the coloured lines on these, we had to put them up on the office partitions, which were conveniently fabricated of a vinyl covering over a thin steel sheet. Hence button magnets came into widespread use in the new office.

We were very conscious of the fact that the area of each farm had to be at least 500 acres. Each farm would be measured for size in the design phase by defining the coordinates of boundary intersections (and there weren't only four) and applying the area calculation process called "latitudes and departures". This would take the best part of half a day if you got it right first go. Because paper shrinks and expands with heat and moisture content, it was impossible to scale the exact size off the plans. We were always relieved when the surveyed cadastral plan came back with all farms at the correct size. Nowadays, modern computer programs simplify this process enormously.

Part of the process of finalising the layout of the farms (which also meant the layout of the channels, roads and drains in the irrigation area) was to obtain the endorsement from the 'Farm Inspection Committee'. The FIC was a small locally based group (perhaps six or eight) comprised of farmers and representatives of key government departments.

The surveyors had their own problems in the field as the black soil rose and fell as the moisture content changed. If adjacent square miles were surveyed after a seasonal change, the whole country would have expanded, particularly after a big wet, and the contour alignment at the mile boundary couldn't be reconciled. Bob thinks they went to great lengths to drive copper rods through the black soil to bedrock to overcome benchmark problems.

After the main channel design, designing laterals as part of the area works was relatively simple – mainly pipelines along farm boundaries to serve another one or two farms. The drainage works were more interesting because of the relatively steep slope of the land. Normal drain design wasn't suitable because it would have required very large drop structures so we relied on research work being done by a young engineer, Bill Eastgate, on the design of grassed waterways when he was working with the DPI in Brisbane and doing post graduate studies. *To be concluded*

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### Answers to Terry's Trivia on page 9.

1. (c) 30 years 2. (a) Errol Flynn 3. (b) Garfield Sobers  
4. (b) C 5. (a) Fish soup 6. (c) Lunule 7. (a) Eugene Cernan

**For every action there is an equal and opposite government program.**

## Travelling Round

*Continuing the adventures of Hein and Francoise Van der Heide. - Ed*

### Denham to Augusta – September 2008

Then on to Kalbari, another seaside holiday town, but it is also adjacent to the Kalbari NP - once again some tremendous gorges inland and scenic views along the southern coastal cliffs. The WA wild flowers had been gradually starting to bloom, but it was from Kalbari onwards that they really became apparent at regular intervals.

When we were some 50 km north of Geraldton, we noticed a significant change in the country side. Since leaving Kununurra there had been no significant land clearing and no cultivation, with the vegetation varying from knee high up to some 3 m high. As we approached Geraldton, we noticed taller trees, land cleared for sheep grazing and eventually wheat and other grain crops. We were back in 'civilisation' ! The other change we noticed was the weather. We had substantially bypassed the colder winter weather since leaving Brisbane in May, but now (mid Sept) the early mornings and late evenings were starting to get cooler, and a jumper and jeans started to replace the shirt and shorts. Also we started to get cloudy weather with signs of rain - the first in more than four months.

Geraldton, with a population of some 33,000, was the largest town since we left Darwin in early July. An opportunity to do some shopping for a few items we couldn't readily get in the smaller towns. We did a side trip east of Geraldton through the wheat field and wild flowers. Some 140 km east we saw the wreath flower, which only grows in a few isolated locations - an amazing flower. Just to the SE of Geraldton is a wind farm consisting of more than 50 turbines.

Heading south we stopped briefly at Dongara / Port Denison - a truly picturesque historical town and seaside locality. Then on to Jurien Bay for a few days - another good seaside town. From here we did a trip to the Pinnacles, where there are thousands of lime stone pillars standing up to 5 m proud of the surrounding terrain. Apparently the roots of ancient plants have calcified and then eroded over time to create this bizarre landscape.

Then on to New Norcia, a whole town built in the 1800s by Spanish Missionaries, in Spanish architectural style. Then via Toodyay (historical town) for a week in Perth, where we did the usual tourist things - Kings Park (lots of wild flowers on display), Museums, Art Galleries, CBD Shops, Swan Valley trip and wineries. Then three days in Fremantle, with trips north and south along the coast. The Maritime Museum in Fremantle was great, as were the many streets lined with historic buildings in the older parts of the town. Along the coastal area you can see evidence of the money earned from the WA Resources Boom being poured into seaside mansions and apartments.

For something different, we went easterly to have a few days in the historic town of York - very impressive, then another couple of 100 kms east to see the Wave Rock and surrounding features. Wave Rock is a massive granite formation that has weathered to resemble a large wave about to break on the shore.

We then went back south westerly to the coast, through a number of interesting towns, including Wickiepin, the area where Albert Facey (author of "A Fortunate Life") came from. Seeing the countryside put some of the contents of the book into perspective, as I read the book a year or so ago.

After a few days in Bunbury, we based ourselves in the Margaret River area. We went to a few wineries - but there are only so many that you can do !

We visited the seaside tourist city of Busselton and the adjacent town of Dunsborough, which has a more relaxed lifestyle. Between Bunbury and Busselton are remnants of the once ancient forest of Tuart Trees - massive eucalypts. Of great interest was the visit to Cape Naturaliste - an operating lighthouse and a whale watching area (many whales just offshore). We also went to the western coastal localities of Yallingup, Gracetown, Prevelly and Hamlin Bay - rugged coastline where the Indian Ocean pounds onto rocky outcrops interspersed with partially secluded sandy beaches. Just inland of these localities is the Margaret River region, which abounds in vineyards, cellar door wineries, galleries and craft shops, as well as numerous wildflowers (at this spring time). At the southern end of this western region is Cape Leeuwin, where a spectacular stone lighthouse (circa 1895) stands on the most south westerly point of the Australian mainland, at the merging of the Indian and Southern Oceans. Augusta is the nearest town.

### Augusta to Eucla – October 2008

After Augusta we started heading east for the first time since having travelled in a southerly direction from Broome in early August. We now entered the "Tall Timber" country. We based ourselves in Pemberton for a few days and we drove most of the forest drives (and walked some of the tracks) that contained fantastic sights of huge trees (both in height & girth) - the predominant trees are the Karri, Marri & Jarrah. The Karri is the tallest, reaching up to 80m high, while the Jarrah appears to be the best furniture timber (deep red & close grained). A number of "Fire Tower" trees remain, where the top of the tree was cut off and a platform constructed as a fire lookout. Spikes were driven into the side of the tree to provide access to the platform - spectacular to see but difficult to photograph. We also went on the historic tramway trip through the local forests.

We then moved on to Northcliffe, from where we did a 50 km drive through the Shannon National Park (more tall trees). The next day we did a trip to Windy Harbour on the southern coastline. Fortunately it was a great sunny and 'non windy' day, resulting in fantastic views along the coast. Adjacent was the D'Entrecasteaux National Park, where a cliff top scenic drive had recently been completed, with a number of great lookouts as well as secluded white sandy beaches. On the way back to Northcliffe we climbed Mt Chudalup - a massive granite dome (some 180 m above the terrain). The granite is said to be about 1,300 million years old.

Then on to Walpole - a small town set on the shores of an inlet to the Southern Ocean. Another scenic drive to the base of Mt Frankland, and then a climb to the top - which was one of the more challenging climbs and circuit walks that we have undertaken - but the views were fantastic. More scenic forest drives and trips to ocean and beach lookouts. Close by is the "Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk", where a 600 m long steel walkway has been constructed at near tree top level (38 m high) to view the giant Red Tingle Trees, which have huge buttresses.

*To be continued ...*

**A closed mouth gathers no feet.**

## SunWater Snippets

SunWater, is a Government-owned commercial organisation whose existence, like any other business, relies on making a profit and increasing the profit margin. Inspired by the Olympics slogan of *Faster Higher Stronger*, CEO Peter Boettcher established his own Smarter Lighter Faster Initiative (SLFI). A small team headed by old Water Resources stalwart Phil Miller has been charged with the task of developing strategies for improving the bottom line. Specifically, the SLFI project is about substantially reducing indirect and overhead costs, but it is also about devising ways to improve SunWater's commercial performance. After a five week consultation phase, the team were able to identify significant opportunities for improvements. They are due to complete their work this year.

SunWater is also always on the lookout for new business opportunities. There are a number of potential projects currently being evaluated.

In the central Queensland coalfields, demands for water continue to grow. The recently installed Burdekin-Moranbah pipeline has been designed to allow for an increase in capacity, but that won't be enough.

Consideration is being given to a water grid which could eventually use water supplied from existing sources as well as new ones that could include new dams on the Connors River (Mt Bridget) and the Dawson River (Nathan).

Another potential water grid project would utilise water produced by coal seam gas production being delivered to areas between the Condamine River and the Dawson River. As the water would need to be treated before it could be used, SunWater with its expertise in pipeline development and water marketing is working with Osmoflo who have expertise in water treatment processes such as reverse osmosis and Penrice who have the capacity to extract saleable salt from the residual brine. In due course as the supplies from the gas production dwindle, they could be replaced by Nathan Dam water. An exciting potential project!

Other projects reported in the media are the raising of Hinze Dam for which SunWater is the owner's representative, and the Cloncurry Pipeline which is well advanced.

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## DERM Dossier

The Department of Environment and Resource Management, an amalgamation of NRM and DEH, has had offices at various locations throughout the city of Brisbane. Very recently, there has been a move to reduce the number of addresses. Of particular interest to your informant is the acquisition of new premises at 400 George Street, a brand-new building. Older members may still recall moving to Mineral House in 1979.

As of mid-October, staff of Water Industry Regulation and Strategic Water Initiatives (which includes Regional Water Infrastructure where members Lee Rogers, Peter Gilbey, Terry Loos and yours truly work part time) have packed their goods and chattels (but limited to no more than four boxes) and moved to the new address. For some of us this is a boon because it is located less than five minutes walk from Roma Street Station.

Also moving have been Director-General John Bradley and Deputy Director-General Debbie Best. Minister Stephen Robertson who has responsibilities in other departments as well, has his office in Mary Street.

As noted on page 1 and in the July Newsletter, John Bradley's previous position was CEO of the Queensland Water Commission. Formerly, as an Executive Director in the Office of the Coordinator General, he was involved in preparing the state's retail electricity business for sale. As Executive Director of the Western Australian Government's electricity reform implementation unit, he oversaw the restructure of that state's electricity industry, the introduction of new regulatory arrangements and competition reforms.

Before this, John held senior roles in the Queensland Energy and Treasury portfolios. In the Office of Energy, he was responsible for Gas and Strategic Projects which included procurement of the \$500 million Townsville Power and Gas Delivery Project.

Within the Treasury portfolio, John worked on competition policy in the water sector, the incorporation of the South East Queensland Water Company and the corporatisation of SunWater.

Members may have noted that, in an article headed **Overflowing with risk**, in the *Courier-Mail* on 15 October, reporter Craig Johnstone wrote an article in which he claimed that "the State Government is scurrying to ensure that all dams in Queensland that would put populations at risk if they failed have adequate safety in place."

Perhaps advancing years have made me over-cynical about the accuracy of media reports, but I decided to seek the truth of the situation from the man who knows, Peter Allen, Director of Dam Safety. While Peter accepts that most of the report is reasonably accurate as the information is taken from the department's annual report, he has generously offered to enlighten our members. His advice is as follows:

"The spillway upgrade program is part of an ongoing program to assess the spillway adequacy of all referable dams in Queensland that officially began with the publication of our Acceptable Flood Capacity guidelines in February 2007. There are now 103 referable dams in QLD (those with an identified population at risk if they were to fail) and we have issued notices for 34 dams to date and we have recent design information on quite a few more.

"We have written a couple of ANCOLD papers for this year's conference in Adelaide (11-13 Nov) ... one on the spillway adequacy program and one on our farm dam identification process which we use to identify dams previously unknown to us (using satellite imagery and follow up field inspections in association with targeted field surveys and rudimentary hydraulic modelling) and which may have populations at risk. Once we present them publicly, we can make them available to you and we can develop a story for the newsletter." So, in the next edition, you will learn all about it.

Another change worth reporting is that Brian Vandersee has retired from the Indooroopilly Resource Science Centre which he headed. Members may recall Brian from his DPI days before it absorbed WRC. When the departments separated again, he was "stranded" behind in NR (and whatever else). We wish him well.

**A clear conscience is the sign of a bad memory.**

## Phishing and Pharming

Using a variety of nefarious methods, phishing and pharming are a consistent problem that threatens everyone with identity theft. If you recognise what these methods are and how malicious users employ them, you can keep yourself and your users from becoming a victim.

### A quick review

Phishing involves sending an e-mail that claims to be a legitimate business in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information. Pharming involves the same goals with a different method; malicious users employ spyware, keyloggers, domain spoofing, domain hijacking, or domain cache poisoning to obtain personal or private (usually financial) information.

To put it bluntly, criminals try to steal your identity by getting you to divulge financial data such as credit card numbers, account user names, passwords, and social security numbers. They sell this information, and it then becomes an identity theft crime.

### Recognise the methods

The primary method for this crime is to send e-mails that look like valid correspondence coming from a bank asking users to click the link provided and log into their account for some type of important information. But your bank and other institutions where you do business don't work this way. They may send you an e-mail and ask you to review or verify information. However, they don't send links to a Web site. You already do business with them, and they know you don't need the link to the Web site.

If you click that link, one of two things is going to occur. It could download spyware onto your computer, which will then capture your personal information and send it to the criminals. Or, the link will direct you to a Web site that looks and feels like the site you expected – but it's actually just a front to collect your login information to help the criminals harvest your personal information.

### Fight back

To protect yourself and your users against phishing and pharming schemes, here are four rules to live by:

- Rule 1: Stop clicking links in e-mails that direct you to your bank or a financial institution. Stop filling out forms sent to you by your bank or financial institution. If you want to visit the site to see if you need to confirm/update/verify your account, open up a browser and type the link or retrieve it from your favorites.
- Rule 2: If you suspect an e-mail is part of a phishing scheme, report it to the financial institution.
- Rule 3: Update your browser, your antivirus software, and any other security software. The latest versions of such software have phishing filters that detect attempts and warn you if they suspect you've surfed to a site that isn't legitimate.
- Rule 4: Stop using public computers to access private information. Internet kiosks at hotels and other business are convenient but often have Trojans and keyloggers installed that collect and transmit your information to the criminals. Access personal and financial information only from a computer you trust to be free from these evils.

### Final thoughts

Criminals have learned that they don't need to pull a gun on you to get your wallet or purse. They're using the Internet to steal everything in your accounts – and your good credit too. Take a few simple steps to stop them, and don't become an identity theft statistic.

## Travellers' Tales

### From Northampton, England

The first car chase in Britain involving the police occurred in Northampton in April 1899. Sergeant McLeod of the Northamptonshire County Police was proceeding on foot, in accordance with his duties, when he happened upon a suspicious individual selling forged tickets for the Barnum and Bailey Circus. Upon being challenged, the miscreant scarpered. Being somewhat hampered in terms of agility and speed by his regulation boots, Sergeant McLeod flagged down a passing Benz automobile, commandeered the vehicle and set off in pursuit.

A hair-raising chase ensued, in the course of which speeds of almost 15 mph (24 kph) were reached and the scoundrel was finally nabbed 3 miles out of town.

A beaming Sergeant McLeod was commended for his quick thinking and impressive driving skills and his satisfaction was only slightly tempered when he received a sharp reprimand for exceeding the speed limit of 12 mph!

### From Buckinghamshire, England

There has been a stately home at Cliveden since 1666 when the Duke of Buckingham built a hunting lodge there. In 1961, the then Secretary of State for War, John Profumo met a show girl named Christine Keeler there and started a brief affair with her. Unfortunately, she was also sleeping with an attaché at the Soviet embassy. Despite protesting to the House of Commons that there was 'no impropriety whatever' in their relationship, he was forced to resign in June 1963.

Readers may remember the contemporary limerick:

"Oh what have you done?" said Christine.

"You have wrecked the party machine:

To lie in the nude

Is not at all rude

But to lie in the House is obscene."

### From Buckinghamshire, England

The village of Colnbrook boasts the third oldest pub in England which happens to be the most haunted. The 17<sup>th</sup> century landlord, Thomas Jarman, designed an ingenious bed nailed to a trapdoor above the kitchen. He showed prosperous single guests to the attractive Blue Room. When they were asleep, he and his wife unbolted the trap door to catapult the unfortunate victim into a vat of boiling water on the stove in the kitchen below. The body was thrown into the nearby Coln Brook and his horse and belongings sold off. The Jarman's were finally caught – 60 victims on – when someone recognised a horse belonging to one of the victims, drinking in the brook.

### From Buckinghamshire, England

In Stony-Stratford, almost side by side, are the *Cock* and the *Bull*, inns of ancient repute. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, coaches would stop off here en route from London to the north-west and many a traveller's tale would be embellished as it flew between the two establishments, fuelled by good ale and a good audience. Hence an unlikely tale inevitably became a cock and bull story.

**Junk is something you throw away three weeks before you need it.**

# HEALTH *and beauty*

Gentlemen, if you're running late for an important appointment, either let your feminine side come out or let your wife drive. Research conducted by the University of Southern California has shown that men respond to stressful situations by taking more dangerous risks, while women become more cautious.

The research shows that men are more likely to respond to stress by driving dangerously, smoking, gambling, taking drugs or having affairs (some of which might at least keep them off the roads!)

The researchers believe the different reactions might be explained by evolution. It was more efficient in primaeval times for men to become aggressive in threatening situations but for women, who were more likely to be looking after children, to become more cautious.

Another cause of stress in our modern life (and certainly something avoided by our cave-dwelling ancestors) is the overwhelming office environment which is taking its toll on workers' health. Surveys have found that three-quarters of office workers complain of suffering stress from too many office distractions, particularly from phone calls and emails. The most irritating interruptions come from internal emails, 39% of which come from less than 100 metres away.

## Lost in Translation?

*Foreign travel can be dangerous when travellers don't understand the language. Accordingly we offer the following to help safeguard members venturing across the ditch - pkf Peter Allen. For bist effect, rid these aloud. - Ed.*

Milburn - capital of Victoria

Peck - to fill a suitcase

Pissed aside - chemical which kills insects

Pigs - for hanging out washing with

Pump - to act as agent for a prostitute

Pug - large animal with a curly tail

Nin tin dough - computer game

Munner stroney - soup

Min - male of the species

Mess Kara - eye makeup

McKenoock - person who fixes cars

Mere - Mayor

Leather - foam produced from soap

Lift - departed

Kiri Pecker - famous Australian businessman

Kittle crusps - potato chips

Jungle Bills - Christmas carol

Inner me - enemy

Guess - vapour

Fush - marine creatures

Fitter cheney - type of pasta

Ever cardeau - avocado

Fear hear - blonde

Ear - mix of nitrogen and oxygen

Ear roebucks - exercise at the gym

Duffy cult - not easy

Amejen - visualise

Day old chuck - very young poultry

Bug hut - popular recording

Bun button - been bitten by insect

Beard - a place to sleep

Chully Bun - Esky

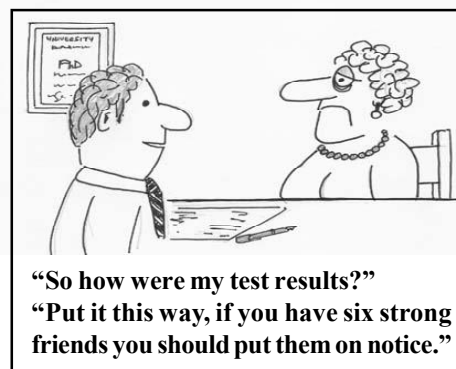
Sucks Peck - Half a dozen beers

Ear New Zulland - an extinct airline

Technology, such as emails, which is supposed to speed things up, can actually have the opposite effect. Workers have to spend altogether too much time dealing with unnecessary things - just deleting unwanted messages can be enormously time-consuming. Not having to answer the phone or emails can provide space for productive work. At the same time, people need to remember that the best way to communicate with people sitting less than 100 metres away isn't necessarily by an impersonal email.

Interestingly, nearly half the workers claimed that the most productive part of their day was the journey to and from work. In the modern office, time is probably the most precious commodity, and being caught up in the modern communication technology, which can occupy many hours, is a frustrating distraction.

For some, of course, the commuter journey may not be free of stress because of the ubiquitous mobile phone - which some public transport authorities have mercifully banned on their services.



Beers - large savage animals found in U.S. forests

Veerjun - mythical New Zealand maiden

One Doze - well known computer program

Brudge - structure spanning a stream

Sex - one less than sivven

Tin - one more than nine

Iggs Ecktly - Precisely

Earplane - large flying machine

Beggage Chucken - place to leave your suitcase at the earport

Sivven Sucks Sivven - large Boeing aircraft

Sivven Four Sivven - larger Boeing aircraft

Cuds - children

Pits - domestic animals

Cuttin - baby cat

Munce - usually served on toast

## Exercise those Brain Cells

Each player had a bat and ball. During the game, each player used another player's bat and yet another's ball.

Alan used the bat belonging to the player whose ball was used by Bill. Bill's bat was used by the player who used Alan's ball. Colin had used Doug's ball.

Whose bat and ball had Alan and Bill used?



### Solution to last edition's puzzle

The answer was (c). This was the simplest possible substitution code.

**Artificial intelligence is no substitute for natural stupidity.**

**A Sign of the Times**  
On a UQ Noticeboard:  
**Time passes. Will you?**

## The IgNobel Awards

Once again, the annual IgNobel Awards have been announced by the Annals of Improbable Research magazine just days before the Nobel Committee in Stockholm began announcing its prizes.

The Public Health Award, presented at Harvard University, has gone to three Chicago inventors for a brassiere which, in an emergency, can double as a pair of gas masks. The cups can be lifted and separated with one cup to be used by the wearer and the other by her companion. Each cup section is fitted with a filter device so that the wearer can whip it off and detach each section to fit over a face. One wonders about the circumstances where this might be necessary, but maybe the airlines would be interested.

The IgNobel for chemistry went to the Mexican researchers who created diamonds out of tequila.

The literature prize went to the Irish police who wrote out more than 50 traffic tickets to one Prawo Jazdy without realising that in Polish that means drivers licence.

The peace prize went to Swiss researchers for demonstrating that empty beer bottles are more likely to crack heads in a bar room brawl than full ones.

And the Veterinary Medicine prize was awarded for the discovery by Newcastle (UK) University that cows with names produce more milk.

The Igs' aim is to highlight scientific achievements that "first make people laugh and then make them think".

## Terry's Trivia

*Following the success of his trivia competition at the mid-year luncheon, Terry Loos has agreed to do it again at our end of year lunch and also pose a few trivia questions to a wider body of members through this Newsletter. Enjoy them and keep that grey matter exercised. Answers can be found on page 4 - Ed.*

1. Saturn takes about ? earth years to orbit the sun  
(a) 3 years (b) 10 years (c) 30 years
2. "I've had a hell of a lot of fun and I've enjoyed every minute of it" were the last words of ?  
(a) Errol Flynn (b) Mae West (c) Doris Day
3. Which West Indian cricketer was born with six fingers on each hand?  
(a) Frank Worrell (b) Garfield Sobers (c) Joel Garner
4. The head of M16 is known by what soubriquet?  
(a) M (b) C (c) J
5. Cullen skink is a ?  
(a) Scottish fish soup (b) legless lizard (c) animal trap
6. The white crescent-shaped mark at the base of the fingernail is known as the ?  
(a) cuticle (b) lunette (c) lunule
7. The last man to walk on the moon was ?  
(a) Eugene Cernan (b) Ronald Evans (c) Roger Chaffee

## How Come – ?

Having IgNobly thought about the invention opposite, I decided to research the origins of the said brassiere.

Women's breasts have always come in for special treatment with something being done to disguise, display, contain or accentuate them. The term 'brassiere' entered the language as late as 1916. Although it is French in form, it was born in the USA and actually has nothing to do with the bust as it really means an 'arm protector'. The shortened form of 'bra' dates only from 1937.

World War I liberated women from the restrictive corset with its framework of steel and 'bust distenders'. The tightly laced corset has been described as man's last - but abortive - stand to keep women under control. But once it was gone, some visible means of support was needed. As early as 1902 a patented 'bust improver' promised to give every woman a "bust modelled on that of the famous Venus de Milo". During the war, American Charles DeBevoise began to manufacture cup-shaped models, originally for stout women. And the rest is history (including the burnt-bra period).

The eastern world has its own version of the origin of the garment under discussion, claiming that the west has only recently moved to keep abreast of the development. In the C8th a concubine of the Emperor Hsuan Tsung had an affair 'on the side' with one of his generals which she kept secret. But one day a crisis arose when in a fit of ardour the general bit and scratched one of her breasts. Due to report for duty to the Emperor that very night, she desperately sought a way out. So when she appeared in the Emperor's bedchamber, she coquettishly wore a decorative red silk apron around her attributes.

The Emperor was thrilled at his lover's constant endeavours to offer him something novel. His other ladies, of course, had to respond in like fashion and the bra was born: the invention of a desperate courtesan out of infidelity and deceit.

And talking of the wages of sin, Cheddar cheese was discovered over 800 years ago when a milkmaid accidentally left a pail of milk inside a cave at Cheddar Gorge in England. She had ventured into the cave on a secret tryst and probably had her mind on other things.

When she remembered, she rushed back to retrieve the milk, but discovered that, thanks to the unique conditions of a constant 7°C, it had turned into a delicious, crumbly new substance. Cheddar cheese was born. King Henry II (1154-1189) declared it to be the best cheese in Britain.



**Before you criticise someone, walk a mile in his shoes. That way, if he does get angry, he'll be a mile away - and barefoot.**

## Book Club

*Our recent trip to Italy was extremely memorable. A couple of relevant books are also worth noting.*

Anyone who is moved by the romanticism of Tuscany and the simple joys of rural life would be well advised to read *Death in the Mountains*. When Australian author and journalist Lisa Clifford moved to Florence with her Italian husband, the unsolved murder of his ancestor early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century became an obsession with her. The more she delved, the more she became intrigued by the harsh life of the people who had existed in mediaeval conditions right up to the middle of the twentieth century. Entire families subsisted on tiny rented allotments, paying half of their proceeds to absentee landlords. Life was precarious and grinding, with the children put to work at a very early age. Food was often scarce so that if the chestnut crop – the staple food – was below expectation, families faced starvation. There is a poignant account in the book of slaughtering and processing a pig with absolutely nothing wasted. Even the bones became fertiliser.

The murder was never investigated nor even reported to the police. “How could that be?” Lisa asked her mother-in-law. “You don’t understand. Things were different in the mountains a hundred years ago.” They certainly were.

Friends who knew of our impending trip to Italy presented us with a novel *Pompeii* by Robert Harris. Set in AD 73, the novel has as its central character the Aquarius (Water Engineer) who was sent from Rome to investigate why the aqueduct was no longer delivering water to Pompeii and adjacent towns. He discovered that there had been earth movements in the vicinity of Mount Vesuvius as there had been seventeen years before. To answer the debate about whether the town should be evacuated, Pompeii’s leading citizen consulted the oracle who informed him that in thousands of years time, hordes of visitors would descend on Pompeii, so naturally he elected to stay!

While most people in the book are fictional, the Admiral of the Fleet, Pliny the Elder (from whose diaries the world knows of the destruction of Pompeii), is a central character who sailed his fleet into the centre of the eruption and perished along with the many others whose remains we can marvel at today. A most enjoyable book with vivid word pictures of life and death of the time. Having read it before we visited the city certainly added to our understanding and appreciation.

**Ian Pullar**

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It’s been a while but I have just finished reading *The Education of Little Tree* by Forrest Carter. It is about a five year old orphaned Cherokee Indian boy who goes to live with his Scottish/Cherokee Grandpa and Cherokee Grandma during the Depression. The story takes place during the 5th and 6th years of the boy’s life when he is taught about nature, farming, whiskey making, society and love in their home in a mountain hollow. The state eventually forces Little Tree into an orphanage where he stays for a few months. At the orphanage he suffers from the prejudice and ignorance of the orphanage caretakers towards Indians until his Grandpa rescues him and takes him back home.

I really enjoyed the book though when I looked it up on the internet I found that Carter died in 1979 and the autobiographical truth of the book was found to be a fake. If you must read the background of the author, leave it until after you finish the book because it is a delight to read.

Ian, I usually find it hard to find the books you recommend – too lousy to buy them all – but I did buy *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* last year and loved it. Have been lending it around ever since and that is what I’ll do with this one as I had to buy it too. I just heard someone mention on TV that it was their favourite book and decided to check it out.

**Marilyn Caton**



“I don’t know! The boss wants me to have more meetings and be more productive.”

“So what’s the problem?”

“Does he want me to have more meetings or be more productive?”

## Credits

*My thanks are once again due to Helen and Jean; to Graham Bauer who printed this; to the contributors ; to Ajanthi Ranasinghe and Rebecca Wall who made it available to departmental staff; and to Harvey Yates for his continuing cartoons (pages 8 & 9).*

**Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.**