



Watery Sauces Oldies and Boldies

Newsletter No 67

March 2012

Newsletter of the Water Resources Retirees Association

AGMs come but once a year ...

.. but that once a year is now upon us once again. In the same envelope as this Newsletter is your invitation to attend the 28th AGM of WRRRA on 26 April. As all the current members of committee are prepared to serve again, it is quite safe for members to attend without fear of being conscripted – though naturally anyone who wants to stand for office is free to do so.

This has not always been the case. In 2002 a recent retiree innocently attended the AGM and emerged as Treasurer. Since then, he has gone on to serve as Treasurer for five years, President for three years and Past President for two. And it's not over yet! WRRRA owes a debt of gratitude for devoted service to — **Lee Rogers!** And there is further cause for recognition. On 7 May, Lee will reach the venerable age of 70. I'm sure all our members will wish him a very happy birthday and thank him for his efforts on our behalf.

The Committee looks forward to meeting with lots of members on the day of the AGM and will even shout members their lunch!

.... and so to the future

This Newsletter is scheduled to be posted to members on Monday 26 March, which means that it has to go to press in the middle of the previous week.

The State election is scheduled to be held on Saturday 24 March. So, by the time you receive this document, dear reader, Queensland will have a new government. Whether there will be a change from Labor to LNP (or otherwise) only the ballot will tell.

I well remember the lead-up to the 1989 State Election when the opposition won power for the first time for decades. We thought that even if this were to occur – and the opinion polls of the day indicated this would happen – any changes would be cosmetic and life would go on as normal. How wrong we were! Change might have been gradual but it certainly occurred. It wasn't long before our Director-General (no longer Commissioner) Tom Fenwick could state that "The only constant is change."

It will be fascinating for us disinterested (but extremely interested) retirees to observe what changes, if any, will occur. Will the recent fragmentation of the water industry be reversed, continued or maintained?

From the Editor's Chair

I could not do otherwise than feel dreadfully sorry for our colleagues who not only faced the trauma of the record Brisbane River flood of 2011 and the dilemma of operating Wivenhoe Dam, but also faced the double jeopardy of being pilloried by the lawyers of the Commission of Inquiry. And now three of these heroes face investigation by the CMC despite the Inquiry finding that they "did close to the best job possible in handling the flows from Wivenhoe in the crucial days before the flood peak."

It is exactly 200 years since Charles Dickens was born and went on to observe, with a very jaundiced view, the activities of the legal profession. It is very hard not to share that view of some of the practitioners.

I hasten to protest that this is my personal opinion (to which in this democracy I am entitled) and not that of WRRRA.

Until next time, au reservoir.

Ian Pullar, Editor

Will the good ship "Water Resources" be rebadged again? Will, with the benefit of hindsight, the current and future eras become in their turn, the "good old days"?

For the answers to these and other intriguing questions, WRRRA will search diligently and endeavour to expose them to the light of day in future editions of this Newsletter.

In the meantime, we wish the current crew of the ship all the best for the future. And if any wish to seek a quieter life of retirement, we would be more than happy to receive their applications for membership and to welcome them to our convivial gatherings.

Out and About

It seems that all our members stayed in during Summer, or if they went out, they didn't want anybody to know what they were about. Consequently there is a dearth of members news in this edition.

The February luncheon was attended by 17 members and four spouses, which was quite a good turnout. It would be good if even more came to the AGM.

There has been one new application for membership - from Jim Cook who, following his retirement in 2006, returned to Bundaberg to live after stints with SunWater in Emerald and Biloela. We welcome Jim as a new member.

Despite the spate of recent retirements, we have not yet attracted any other new members, but we hope that will change.

Another recent retiree is Peter Moran who was farewelled in February from the Regional Water Supplies group by present and former colleagues.



The last afternoon tea.

L to R: Lawrie Pappin, Peter Moran, Ian Hanks, Don Cock, Lee Rogers, Toby McGrath.

Photo pkf Terry Loos

The Meaning of Old Age

Here are some "interesting truths about growing old" supplied by David Dempster (who also contributed the article on page 3).

- ◆ Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- ◆ Forget the health food; we oldies need all the preservatives we can get.
- ◆ When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- ◆ You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- ◆ It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- ◆ Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- ◆ Old age is when you choose the cereal for the fibre, not the toy.
- ◆ Wrinkles don't hurt.
- ◆ Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- ◆ Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

Things Ain't What They Used to Be

Noel Dowling sent me a copy of a staff list of the Department of Irrigation and Water Supply in 1947. It is not suitable for reproduction, but I thought some of it might interest our members. In particular names and the annual salaries at the time might stir nostalgic thoughts.

Title	Name	Salary (£)
Commissioner	Lang, Thomas Arthur	1563/0/0
Deputy Commissioner	Parkinson, Charles Edmond	1313/0/0
Senior Engineer	Butler, Norman Julius	763/ 0/0
Engineer Division I	Hiley, Wraith Harrison	725/0/0
Engineer Division I	Calvert, Francis James	708/0/0
Engineer Division II	Fox, Reginald Isaac	533/0/0
Engineer Division III	Robinson, Eric James	473/0/0
Engineer Division III	Wickham, Alan Ernest	473/0/0
Engineer Division III	Pearce, George William	473/0/0
Surveyor	Card, Oswald Laurie	610/0/0
Draftsman in Charge	Kearton, William Frederick	653/0/0
Engineering Draftsman	Sutton, Norman James	573/0/0
Draftsman	Thomas, Thomas	531/0/0
Draftsman	Vizer, Alan	131/10/0
Clerk	Brannelly, William Patrick	363/0/0
Clerk	Clowes, John Windsor	103/0/0
Clerk-Typist	Nowlan, Coralie Mary	313/0/0
Clerk-Typist	Smith, Mary Jane Rose	121/10/0

Answers to Terry's Trivia (on page 11)

1. (iv) Stuart Law. 2. (iii) Javelin. 3. (i) 2 4. (i) Tango. 5. (iii) Monash 6. (ii) Libya 7. (iii) Adelaide. 8. (iii) 13. 9. (iv) flute. 10. (iii) Nellie Melba. 11. (ii) Joe Biden. 12. (iv) Tasmania

Very sadly, we report the following deaths:

Rod Kingston, who was a Works Accountant on a number of construction projects before settling in for the longer term as Regional Administration Officer, Bundaberg District. He remained there in retirement and pursued a very active life with his wife Judy - a mixture of community service and such activities as golf.

Ron Afflick, a Senior Works Supervisor, who was well-known throughout the state for his work, his good humour and affability and for his enjoyment of an ale on a hot day. Older members will recall his contributions of *Affo's Anecdotes* to Bernie Credlin's Newsletters.

Carol Zinn, wife of engineer Peter who left the Commission some time ago and joined WRRRA fairly recently. Carol was only 68. Our sincere condolences to their relatives and friends.

Groundwater Goings-on

by David Dempster

1964 was a big year – The Beatles hit the big time and I departed home on the Darling Downs to start work at the Irrigation & Water Supply Commission in Brisbane. Darryl Hooper and I commenced as groundwater cadets on the same day, following Kelvin Roberts who was the first cadet to start in September the previous year (Kelvin departed after 18 months to the Northern Territory, only to return to the department several years later to drive resource operations plans in Central Qld).

My first working day commenced at the Office of the Public Service Board in George Street, where along with some 30 other cadets, we ‘signed on’ to the public service and received an induction (read lecture) on what was expected of us. We had to front up for another session there about three weeks later to ensure we were well indoctrinated.

Head Office

Head Office occupied the building on the corner of William and Margaret Streets. Water Resources Branch was located on the first floor, in the south-west corner of the building. As a cadet, you had to start at the bottom. One task was to be “lunch boy” – take the smoko and lunch orders from the staff and buy their food requirements at Billy Morris’ cafe next door in William Street.

Groundwater and surface water were in the same branch in 1964, under the direction of Senior Engineer Arthur McCutcheon who later went on to greater things in Canberra. I was fortunate to be mentored in matters groundwater by Don MacPherson (who went on to be head of groundwater in West Australia) and Jack O’Shea (Jack became head of engineering at Darling Downs Institute of Advance Education, and then Professor of Engineering when DDIAE became a university). Col Hazel was a young engineer in the branch and influenced my knowledge of pump test analysis.

The department ran a service advising landowners on suitable sites for drilling bores. Geologists Phil Whitmee and Henry Shannon ran the advisory service across southern Qld. In the 1960s acute staffing problems were temporarily alleviated by employing uni students who had failed some subjects and needed a ‘make-up’ year to complete those subjects before continuing their degree. Mike Graham and Peter Cochrane were part way through their geology degrees; they also were part of the groundwater advisory team. (Peter never went back to uni; he stayed on in the department for another 40+ years). It was a wonderful experience assisting the hydrologists in the field, learning practical groundwater hydrology as well as dealing with landowners.

One of the early tasks Darryl Hooper and I were allocated to was water conductivity testing; this was carried out in a small kitchenette area as it had running water and a sink. We walked in there to be met with cartons containing several hundred brown stubby bottles filled with water. These had been collected as part of PWF surveys (private water surveys carried out on a parish by parish basis). Jim Murray was the ‘main man’ carrying out these important surveys and was assisted by Brendan Moore, an engineering student on a ‘make-up’ year. (Footnote: It was 45

years later I again met up with Brendan in Jasper, Canada; he went back to uni but completed a teaching degree and taught secondary around Toowoomba.) I have never found out if it was a requirement for the field staff to empty those stubbies of their original contents before filling them with the groundwater samples.

Two other memories of Head Office: (1) The bells ringing for start and end of smoko and lunch breaks; (2) Christmas Eve: After lunch all the staff assembled in the Design/Project Planning big office. Commissioner Fred Haigh clambered up on to a draughtsman’s mapping table to give his Christmas speech.

In January 1965, I was sent on a three week field trip to the Central Qld Regional Office, prior to being transferred there later in the year. At the time CQRO was located at Callide Dam which was in the final stages of construction. There were only three staff at CQRO – Regional Engineer Malcolm Pegg, Hydrologist Mike McEniery and Draughtsman Alan Viser; they had to be multi-skilled sharing every task from the menial to the professional, to establish the office and keep it running.

When I returned to Brisbane, I found there had been a re-organisation. Groundwater group was moved into Underground & Stock Water Supply Branch and relocated to the south-east corner of the building. It was surprising how many items were ‘lost in the shift’ while moving from one corner of the building to another - on the same floor.

One of the memorable engineers in the ‘new’ branch was Alec Vitte. He often had to contact landowners, chasing information on artesian bores in western Qld where party line phones were the only contact. Alec had a melodious voice, saying “Hello/He-looo/Hel-ooo” etc for up to 20-30 minutes at a time, trying to make contact with the relevant party.

In 1965 the Department employed four groundwater cadets in Brisbane – all named John; made for interesting communications within the group.

Central Queensland

In July that year I transferred to CQRO which had been relocated to Rockhampton and merged with the department’s district office there.

Central Qld was going into drought and there was a great demand for the groundwater advisory service, particularly in the Central Highlands. The road from Rockhampton to Emerald was a narrow strip of bitumen, referred to as the ‘Crystal Highway’ because of the multitude of piles of glass from broken windscreens littering the road. The trip to Emerald took about four hours as much time was spent moving off the bitumen trying to avoid stones from passing vehicles. Today, the same trip takes under three hours with a 110 KPH section from the Dululu turn-off through to Blackwater. In order to get out into the area where our services were required (Central Highlands), Mike McEniery and I would depart R’ton after lunch on Sunday, work Monday – Thursday visiting landowners, and return to R’ton by lunchtime Friday, to prepare and do it all again next week. This was the program for three consecutive weeks, with the fourth week of the month being spent in town, analysing pump tests, licensing etc. We worked this routine from July to December to clear the advisory service backlog, as well as investigations associated with the brisgalow scheme.

- continued overleaf

Groundwater Goings-on (continued)

As mentioned above, multi-skilling was the norm in district offices. Under the direction of Regional Engineer Malcolm Pegg and his successor, Sam McCall, I was occasionally coopted to assist the hydrographers and make up another field party. This was a learning experience as it gave you an insight into other aspects of the department's work. While offsidng for Hydrographer George Beran, I assisted taking food and equipment in to a stream gauging team who had been marooned for about a week, set up a cross river gauging wire at The Gap above Rockhampton, in anticipation of a major flood that was coming down the Fitzroy, and measured flows in numerous creeks and gullies after storm rains. On one occasion George, a hydrographic cadet and I were late arriving into the pub at Mt Larcom where we were to overnight. Dinner was finished by the time we arrived; there was no all-night servo providing food. We managed to catch the local grocery store just before closing; no hot food there so one purchased a tin of peaches, another – a tin of peas, and the last – a tin of creamed rice. We sat at the bar in the pub, eating from our individual tins and playing hookey.

Brigalow Scheme

In 1965 the first people had won their ballot for land in Area 1 of the Brigalow Scheme around Bauhinia Downs and had moved onto their properties, living in caravans or open sheds, trying to fulfil the Lands Dept residency requirements in order to obtain title to their blocks. The Qld government had promised considerable assistance to the ballot winners and, with drought through the area, the groundwater advisory service was in constant demand. On one occasion Mike and I departed from Springsure, fuelled up in Rolleston and headed east towards the brigalow blocks. Down the road we discovered that we had paid for a percentage of water in the fuel and had to stop every 3 – 4 miles to empty water out of a filter bowl in the fuel line to the engine. The road across the Expedition Range was a rough 'camel track' in those days and we managed to break the accelerator. Welds attaching the pedal to a U-shaped bracket broke; the only way we managed to proceed was using a tyre lever with a spanner as a fulcrum. It must have been a shock to the brigalow scheme balloters to see the 'promised government assistance' arrive in the form of a FB Holden ute with water in the fuel tank and a makeshift accelerator.

With the government progressing the brigalow scheme, it proposed to open Area 3, in the northern Bowen Basin of Central Qld. Groundwater was proposed as the source of water for many of the ballot blocks and it fell to the lot of CQRO groundwater staff to survey the area for potential. On our first reconnaissance journey around the area, the road from Clermont to Sarina was gravel, with a particularly nasty black soil section near Grosvenor Downs that was impassable after wet weather. (Today it is a bitumen highway servicing the coal mines). We stayed at the Nebo pub and each morning would collect a cut lunch (sandwiches, can of drink, piece of fruit) and head out to investigate where local access tracks

might lead us as we looked at the local geology. In today's world with safety protocols for field work, I shudder when I think back then we had no esky for the lunches, carried no additional water, carried no spare fuel, no UHF radio and did not advise anyone in which direction we would be travelling on the day.

On one occasion we meandered south of Nebo via internal tracks on properties, checking out potential access for a drilling rig. We came into a clearing in the scrub where a mob of cattle were grazing. They hadn't seen a man nor vehicle for years; one look at us and they took off – luckily not in our direction. That day we eventually ended up at Batheaston Station (a property that Warren Hutton referred to in his memoirs; Newsletter #64, March 2011) and drove back to Nebo via the Bruce Highway.

Some 2-3 years later, Hydrologist Bruce Pearce and I were visiting a property in that area. The balloter had put in fencing and had the country pulled (actually the timber was pushed by bulldozer or knocked over by a huge ball-and-chain dragged by two bulldozers). We were there before the fallen timber had been stick-raked and burnt. While looking at the geology for suitable bore sites, a stick was thrown up and severed the hydraulic clutch line of the ute. Bruce was driving and had the presence of mind to keep the ute rolling because as soon as we stopped we weren't going anywhere. We headed back towards the entrance of the property and the Bruce Highway in second gear which was fine until we came towards a closed gate. We quickly developed a procedure: Bruce would slow the ute down to just above stalling speed and I had to jump out, race ahead and open the gate and after the ute had passed through, close the gate and run like crazy to catch up again. That was fine; then we realised there were some 10 or more gates (all closed) to be traversed before reaching the highway. (Fortunately I was carrying less avoirdupois than I am today).

All our groundwater investigation work in the Brigalow Area 3 came to fruition with the installation of a borefield near Nebo that became the water supply to establish the coal mines in the northern section of the Bowen Basin.

Coolibah College

As the work load for the office increased, so did staff numbers. Paul Smith and Greg Murphy joined me in the technical team as cadet/field assistant/adviser and Boring Inspector Bill Johnstone transferred in from Charleville. Regional Eng. Sam McCall decided that these groundwater technical officers who all came from towns or the city needed to be instructed in the ways of the bush. Bill was given the job as he had been born and bred in the bush and had spent department time based at Longreach and Charleville. And so "Coolibah College" was born. One of the technicians would accompany Bill on his excursions through the Central Highlands carrying out pump testing of bores. Occasionally we stayed in pubs but mostly camped beside the bore being tested. Looking at the stars and yarning beside a camp fire helps pass the time between the set intervals for pump test readings.

... to be continued next edition.

I, of course, know what's coming, but you, dear reader, will have to wait with bated breath. - Ed.

A 2011 Travelogue

by Peter Jones

A visit to relatives in mid-west USA, an organised tour of Morocco, a driving holiday in Spain and freelance touring of Italy with an Italian friend – this mix, with an urgent return to Australia for a funeral, one of our travelling group being hospitalised in Italy and travelling back home on the weekend that Qantas shut down its services thrown in – gave us a somewhat different holiday than we had expected or experienced before.

So let me give you some of the highlights and trials of our 2011 travels.

The first leg of our travel took us to Chagrin Falls, Ohio, a semi-rural district about a 45 to 60 minute drive from Cleveland. After a delay in Chicago (caused by the American Airlines pilot having reached his maximum flying hours for the day and a new pilot having to be brought in) we arrived at Chagrin Falls around midnight, where we were met by my brother for the final leg.

But there was no rest the next day, it was the Great Geauga County Fair day and my brother's family had decided we were to see it.

There is a strong horse tradition in the area, so this was one of the dominant themes. Horse riding skills were on show (and although very western oriented, there were none of the rodeo type events), produce and livestock, farm machinery, including that suitable for small 5 to 10 acre farms, horse drawn gigs and wagons (teams of 2, 4 and 6) each lovingly restored to immaculate condition by their owners (who themselves were decked out in their finest period costume) and the inevitable western music entertainment and food.

We tried most of the food, but no matter how much our nieces urged, we could not face the batter coated and deep fried swiss cheese on a stick doused with ketchup. Don't know why we couldn't face them, they looked just like a dagwood dog from the Ekka.

It must have been nearing local election time in Geauga County because candidates had their posters everywhere. But the range of positions being contested came as a surprise – the citizens would be voting for, amongst others, judges, school board members, clerks of court, township trustee, auditor and, of all people, the county engineer. I had never realised until then just how far the American system went in electing its public officials.

The next day was off to the University of Northern Ohio where one of our nieces is studying. The Uni is situated in the town of Ada which seems to rely very largely for its existence on the university with some lesser reliance on the local farming community. It was established in its current form in 1920, but it has had an educational institution on the site since 1871.

It was here that we saw our first grid iron game – a junior college match. We always knew that the grid iron teams had many more specialist players than our football teams – defensive team, offensive team, specialist kickers, etc, etc. It was a surprise to see each team having forty to fifty players on the sidelines all kitted out ready to play. When the state of play changed, eg from offense to defence, the entire team on the field changed. With the help of our niece we did start to make some sense of the game.

We left Chagrin Falls and headed to a totally different world – Morocco. We flew into Casablanca via Madrid.

Flying over the northern part of Morocco was indeed a surprise – no desert, but mile upon mile of irrigated cropping. As we later learned from our guide, Morocco is positioning itself as the primary supplier of fresh produce and other farm products to Europe.

The previous king of Morocco, Hassan II, had undertaken a major program of water resource development during his reign from 1961 to 1999. We were told that he had built 42 dams during his reign – no doubt with the help of significant international aid both in expertise and financing. The current king, Mohammed VI, son of Hassan II, appears to be a progressive and liberal leader, although the country has not escaped completely the disturbances that rocked other muslim countries (and still do in the some cases) during the Arab Spring of 2011. About three months before we were due to travel, there was a bomb blast in one of the cafes fronting the main square in Marrakesch resulting in the death of a number of people. That had us watching the news closely.

Our tour, with the Canadian based company Gap Adventures, started in Casablanca and travelled the major tourist route to Rabat, Fez, Merzouga, Todra and Dades Gorges, Ait Ben Haddou and finished in Marrakesch. We were a mixed group of 16 (Australians, Americans and Canadians) with ages ranging from the mid 20s to mid 60s.

From Fez, our tour moved on through the Middle Atlas mountains to Merzouga on the northern edge of the Sahara. In the evening was the obligatory camel ride into the desert to see the sunset over the dunes (camels are not the most comfortable to ride, although you do fall into their rhythm fairly quickly – unless the handlers get them to run, and then you hang on as hard as you can). Our accompanying handlers were most attentive, but while waiting for the sunset they spread their cloaks and laid out their wares for sale. Have no fear though, I did not buy anything and was taken back to the hotel anyway.

The next day saw us head for the town of Tineghir with a stop enroute at Todra Gorge, most fascinating with its towering walls (up to 300 metres), a crystal clear stream and dozens of visitors. It seems to be a favourite place for families with many family groups picnicking and swimming in the clear waters of the stream.

Between Todra Gorge and Tineghir we had the chance to wander through a palm grove forming part of a much larger oasis. The "oasis" is perhaps more correctly described as the narrow fertile valley floors, usually not more than ½ kilometre wide, sometimes much less. According to our guide, this particular oasis stretched for some 300km. The ancients knew not to waste fertile land. All buildings are on the infertile and usually rocky sides of the valleys, the floor being reserved for agriculture. They have a rudimentary but effective irrigation channel system serving the growing areas. Date palms predominate, but apple orchards are common as well as other fruit and vegetable crops. During the growing seasons, farmers set themselves up beside the roads to sell their produce – it was worth the stop to see our guide haggling with a local farmer over the price for a case of apples. We could understand what was going on, even if we could not understand the language.

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A 2011 Travelogue (continued)

The next morning we headed off for Quarzazate, a former Foreign Legion stronghold (although we did not see anything of this former use) via Dades Gorge. Not as spectacular as Todra Gorge, but much more interesting rock formations. Leaving there, we stopped at the Kasbar Taourit to see and learn something of the history and use of these characteristic buildings (what was the movie line “come with me to the Kasbah”?). I think I finally sorted out the difference between a medina, kasbah and souk (or souq as it is sometimes spelt).

On the last day on the road, we headed off to Marrakech via the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ait Ben Haddou. Listed in 1987, the site was one of the many trading posts on the commercial route which linked ancient Sudan to Marrakesh. The Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou (“Ksar” – another term I have yet to understand fully) is characteristic of similar towns in southern Morocco. It illustrates the main types of earthen construction dating from the 17th century in the valleys of Dra, Todgha, Dadès and Souss.

Built on the side of the valley and surrounded by defensive walls, the town overlooks the fertile valley floor below. Very few people live in the town now (perhaps around 10 or so families) compared to its population of several thousand at its height. A more modern (in a relative sense) town has grown up on the other side of the valley.

Our guide for the day was a local gent who claimed to be in his late 80s. A real personality with an eye for the girls and a cheeky disposition. A delightful character who was always checking his mobile phone. He took off like a young gazelle through the steep winding streets of Ben Haddou leaving many of us westerners behind gasping for breath. One of the more intriguing sights of the day –hanging from a tripod was a goat skin which we were told was actually a butter churn – shake it backwards and forwards vigorously for long enough to turn your (goat’s?) cream into butter.

We moved on later that day to our final destination, Marrakech.

A wander into the medina and an hour or two spent in the souk to smell the spices, bargain for clothing or hand crafts and generally just watch life in this crowded city. A visit to the Djemaa El-Fna Market with its food stalls, storytellers, snake charmers, acrobats and various other entertainers was a must. It was here that we were warned to be particularly careful of petty thieves and pickpockets – something we had not had to worry too much about in the other places we had visited.

It was in one of the restaurants bordering the market where dissidents had detonated a bomb not too long before our tour. The restaurant, or what was left of it, remained but was covered from view by scaffolding and plastic sheeting. A grim reminder of the dangers in many countries throughout the world.

Despite the last comment, we generally found Morocco to be a welcoming country, with friendly people and a place where we felt much safer than in other parts of the world we have visited. It seems that the current King, Mohammed VI is a progressive with an interest in his people. He was much admired by our guide – a man who had lived in and seen life in the western world. And as for our guide, he was a fantastic ambassador for his country.

But we did come to the end of our Moroccan tour and had to move on – next stop Spain and then Italy. They have their own stories of our 2011 travels but telling them will have to wait until another day, as will the stories of return for a funeral, the Italian hospital system and what happens to you when your flight, and every other Qantas flight, is grounded on the weekend when you are due to fly home.

... to be continued (provided the author does write the next instalment!)

Thanks Peter for this very enjoyable read. Now my breath is bated too! - Ed.

Travellers' Tales

Kangaroo caught

In 1770 James Cook ran aground on the Great Barrier Reef and had to repair his ship on what he named the *Endeavour River*. There he saw and shot the macropod later identified as an Australian mascot and symbol which he reported the local natives called a kangaroo.

Fifty years later, Phillip Parker King (son of Philip Gidley King, third Governor of New South Wales) came back to the area, exploring in the *Mermaid*. He could find no trace of the word kangaroo. The local people seemed to call the animal men-u-ah. As none of the other local words reported by Cook had changed, King must have wondered what ‘kangaroo’ really meant – perhaps ‘dead animal’, ‘food’ or even ‘I don’t understand’.

The flying menuah doesn’t have quite the same ring as *the flying kangaroo*.

Brisbane Line

On the headland at Kings Beach, Caloundra, there is a series of commemorative plaques. One notes that this is the boundary of the “Brisbane Line” established during World War II. The policy of the government of the day was that if Australia were to be invaded by the Japanese, the Australian army would fall back, abandoning the north of the continent, but defend stoutly the areas south of the Brisbane Line. Fortunately it never came to that. No foreign troops invaded (other than the Americans who, being “over paid, over sexed and over here”, made off with numbers of our women) although Darwin and Broome were bombed and Japanese submarines made it as far as Sydney Harbour.

At bay

When Wivenhoe Dam was being built near Fernvale, Queensland, to create Lake Wivenhoe, a firm of consultants was engaged to assign place names to the geographical features of the lake-to-be. The husband and wife team assiduously worked their way round the perimeter of the lake allocating aboriginal or local names, particularly those of the early settlers. By the end of the day, there was only the final bay at the southern end of the lake, right next to the dam abutment without a name. The one remaining settler was a Colonel North; a totally inappropriate name for the southern-most feature of the lake. It had been a long, tiring day and they were both feeling shagged out. So inspiration! Cormorant Bay!

Emerald Recollections

by **Hein van der Heide**

We recently undertook a caravan trip through Central Qld and stopped in Emerald for a few days (actually in the Caravan Park at Fairbairn Dam).

While, from time to time, you think back on locations where you have lived during your working life, there is nothing like walking and driving the places where you stayed and worked, to prompt and bring back long forgotten memories. The following stories are substantially correct, but the many years that have passed may have clouded some of the recollections.

My first visit to Emerald was in first half of 1964, the year I started as a Surveying Cadet (on £640 pa, or just over £12 per week).

I off-sided Graham Ledlie (the then Deputy Chief Surveyor) on an inspection trip from Brisbane, that covered several investigation sites and construction projects. Drilling along the left bank of the Fairbairn Dam axis was underway and we had to locate and level the new holes, as well as place pegs for several additional drill holes. Access was along an old drillers track, snaking its way between large and tall river bed vegetation, while crossing multiple flood channels (dry at the time, except for the main channel).

On the way back to Town, we stopped to look in on the survey team, who were undertaking investigation surveys for a possible Pilot Farm on the left bank. The crew was quite a way from their vehicle when we caught up with them, therefore we offered them a drink from our canvas water bag. One of them declined, saying that he didn't drink any water after mid-afternoon, as it would only spoil his thirst for a beer or three when he got back to the pub after knock off time. An eye opener for a Cadet, with all of 2 months of service.

I next saw Emerald when Trevor Sleep, myself and several chainmen were transferred from Mareeba in late January 1968. This was the very, very start of the Emerald Irrigation Project. There was no office, accommodation nor building of any sort. Trevor rented a house for his family and I lived in the Emerald Hotel for three months. Initially, our survey gear was stored in Trevor's carport.

Our first task was to undertake a topographic survey of three possible sites for a camp on the outskirts of Emerald. The site that became Weemah Camp was selected and set out and surveys were carried out for the camp roads, married and single quarters sites, and other camp facilities. Gradually additional personnel arrived in Emerald to build the roads and set up the demountable buildings. As soon as power, water and sewerage were connected we moved into a very dusty and stark Weemah Camp.

Concurrently, surveys were undertaken at the Fairbairn Dam site. The original drillers tracks on the left and right bank were improved (marginally) enabling slightly shorter travel times to and from the various work sites. The construction camp and works areas were surveyed and on receipt of near final drawings, the roads and building sites were set out. While

the vegetation was only moderately dense, there was a lot of fallen timber lying on the ground and hung up in adjacent trees. This made the task of clearing lines for theodolite and chain survey work difficult and time consuming. One different species we encountered, particularly in the construction camp area was Lancewood. As its name may imply, when tree trunks and branches broke and fell down, the timber split into long sharp 'lances' of wood, causing many cuts and scratches. One of the more spectacular ones was when Trevor backed into one such a 'lance' and it pierced an artery in his leg, sending out a spurt of blood in an arc more than half a metre long.

Not long after we arrived, there was a rain event that sent a significant flow down the river (only a minor flow compared to recent flood events). The water went up and down and a week to ten days later we arrived on site and were almost eaten alive by midges. Not having any 'lotions' with us to repel these midges, we searched the vehicle for something we could use before they drove us mad. With arms, legs, neck and face liberally covered in chainsaw oil we continued the day's work. That evening we were told of the local brew for a midge repellent – a 50/50 mix of Dettol and baby oil. It still may not have been pleasant, but it was better than chainsaw oil, which by the end of the day was liberally mixed with dust and grass seeds.

The rain also played havoc with our early access roads, particularly on the Selma side where the once hard and smooth black soil tracks (no gravel surfaces at that time) soon turned into black oozing mud 100 to 200 mm deep, for kilometre after kilometre of slipping and sliding travel that challenged the 4WDs we had at that time. Then as the mud dried out we had a road consisting of deep irregular ruts that eventually set rock-hard.

One of my survey tasks in the early days was to undertake an initial gradeline survey for the proposed left bank irrigation channel (it became the Selma Main Channel). This initial trial line survey used a level and staff (dropping a foot a mile), with a compass and chain traverse to locate the route. The country was rough and broken with numerous gullies. When the terrain did flatten out it was covered with thick undergrowth. The initial extent was through the undeveloped country from the dam to the western highway. The plotting of this route was done by yours truly onto graph paper, in the Weemah Camp Office, using a protractor and scale ruler.

With the clearing for the dam site completed, I was tasked to survey and profile the axis, and then traverse the diversion tunnel so as to set out the upstream and downstream portals. The technology was still very basic then – theodolite and steel band, measuring between steel pickets, driven down to be at waist high (at less than 300 ft intervals), so as to undertake measurements in full catenary, as the terrain was rough and broken and very rocky on the abutments.

Next came the set out and progressive check surveys for the downstream tunnel entrance excavations. This was followed by the set out for the tunnel alignment and continuous check surveys (in the initial weeks) as the rock excavations commenced in from the tunnel portal. The rock excavations had to accommodate the prefabricated steel work, yet minimise over excavation.

... continued on next page

Emerald Recollections (continued)

I was transferred to Brisbane in April 1969, after the Army would not extend my deferment of call up for National Service beyond October 1969. This enabled me to undertake my final Surveyors Board Examinations before commencing my two years stint in the Army. I returned to Emerald in 1972 for another 12 months, this time as an Authorised Surveyor, undertaking Cadastral Surveys for the Selma Farms and Channel Systems. By this time David Paice was the Surveyor in Charge at Weemah, as Trevor Sleep had moved to Brisbane as the Deputy Chief Surveyor.

Thanks very much Hein for these recollections. There must be other members out there whose memories have been jogged. - Ed.

SunWater Snippets

The Connors River Dam and Connors to Moranbah (C2M) Pipeline projects are proceeding as planned, following recent EIS approval by the Coordinator-General. The delivery team is now poised to hit the ground running to complete the project on schedule, once customers commit. The dam construction is expected to commence mid this year. The dam will have a storage volume of approximately 373,540 ML and a yield of around 50,000ML/a of high priority water for distribution via the C2M and M2A Pipelines.

A Thiess Barnard Joint Venture has been selected as the preferred tenderer for construction of the dam and John Holland Qld Ltd has been selected for construction of the C2M pipeline. Both are working with SunWater to finalise design, approvals and property requirements.

As part of the EIS process, 'offsets' of over 16,650 hectares of vegetation and local wildlife habitat areas have been set aside. Of this, around 13,000 hectares will be handed over to DERM as National Park to adjoin the Tierawoomba and Collaroy State Forests. Some 68 km of watercourse both upstream and downstream of the dam will be protected as habitat for the Fitzroy River Turtle. SW is contributing \$1,250,000 over five years to DERM for further turtle research and monitoring.

Further to the west, the investigation phase for the Moranbah to Alpha (M2A) Pipeline has been completed and further work also awaits commitment from the customers. John Holland Qld Ltd has been selected as the Preferred Tenderer for construction.

To the north, the construction of the Burdekin to Moranbah Pipeline Stage 2 Augmentation has just been awarded to North Queensland Civil Contractors and is scheduled for completion in October. Later in the year construction of a new pipeline from Gorge Weir to Byerwine is proposed.

Back to turtles – there is also a SunWater Dividend Reinvestment project to the tune of \$4 million for research and development of a turtle transfer system for improved design of future turtle passage facilities. The first stage of development of a prototype turtleway at Tartrus Weir has commenced.

Construction of the 20 km SW owned and operated Kenya to Chinchilla Weir pipeline was completed in December on budget and to schedule. It will be used to transport up to 100 ML per day of treated coal seam gas (CSG) water from QGC's central and southern 'Kenya' gas fields to the weir. An Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) process with the Principal Contractor, Moody Civil and Pipe, yielded many innovative construction techniques, including single and double vacuum lifts to pick up and place the MSCL pipes, removing the need for pipe slings and reducing manual handling. The project was also a first for SW in using Tyco Water's relatively new Sintalock joint, which is a rigid joint with an internal rubber ring and an external weld. A key benefit is the removal of an internal weld which earns big ticks from WHS and speed of laying perspectives. Use was also made of Tyco's new temporary manholes, which were pre-cut into the top of specific pipes which, having served their purpose during installation, were externally welded up and shrink wrap sleeved. The current focus is on transporting small water quantities to irrigation customers along the pipeline from April 2012 as the treatment plant comes on line, followed by releases into Chinchilla Weir around June or July. This will include supplementation of the Chinchilla township water supply, following approval of the Recycled Water Management Plan (RWMP).

The potential for CSG water transfer opportunities in the Wandoan area was briefly mentioned previously. Another beneficial use project similar to the Kenya to Chinchilla pipeline is slowly getting legs. The 110 km long Woleebee Creek to Glebe Weir Pipeline will potentially draw treated water from QGC's Queensland Curtis LNG (QCLNG) project site west of Wandoan. The water is flagged for medium term use by mining and irrigation customers along the pipeline route and the Dawson River. Once all approvals are in place, it is expected the pipeline will be operational in 2013 – a very big ask!

Rumour has it that the Richardson 'twins' – John and Peter – are thinking of kicking up their heels and retiring later this year. Peter has been seen flicking through cattle breeding catalogues and John has dropped hints about forming an Aussie equivalent of the 'Barny Army' and becoming a touring Rugby League groupie.

Despite retiring in June 2011, John Newell has shown that he still enjoys coming into work and helping out the drafting team to help deliver the documentation associated with Connors River Dam.

Mark Lepper

When he can tear himself away from fishing, Daryl Brigden still makes himself available to work for SunWater.

Robert Ayre, who is one of the 'gang of four' grilled by the commission of Inquiry, left SunWater towards the end of last year and now works for Aurecon (which in a previous incarnation was Connell Wagner).

Members may have read in the Press that Neil Turner Weir on the Maranoa River near Mitchell may be demolished. It is no longer used as a water supply source and has limited recreational use because it is almost completely silted up. There are also suspicions that it may have aggravated flooding in Mitchell.

The weir won an engineering award in 1984 for its innovative design by Maunsell McIntyre. Richard Morwood (son of David) was a member of the design team.

Aftermath of the Inquiry

The Interim Report

The Commission of Inquiry handed down its interim report some months ago. In response to the interim recommendations, the government and other agencies undertook a number of activities, principally aimed at making preparations for the 2011-12 wet season which was forecast to be wet, though not as wet as the previous season which had produced the major floods of January 2011.

Most notable of the measures taken was the lowering of the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe Dam to 75% of the nominal FSL (for water supply).

At the same time, the government established a "Wivenhoe and Somerset Dam Optimisation Study" to be undertaken by Seqwater, DERM, Queensland Water Commission, the Grid Manager and the relevant councils. Seqwater is chairing the overall study. Three technical working groups are currently addressing the following issues:

- ◆ Flood Management and Dam Operations
- ◆ Water Security
- ◆ Flood Plain Risk Management

The study will provide advice to the government to allow decisions to be made regarding future operations and management. Whether the Full Supply Level will remain at the 75% level or otherwise will be decided on the basis of the advice received.

Another interim recommendation of the Inquiry was for the Manual of Operations to be amended. This involved relatively minor modification to tighten the wording and to remove some of the perceived ambiguities. (It is to be hoped that John Ruffini, whose description of his ability with the English language raised the hackles of the Commissioner, limited his involvement to technical matters.) It is likely that further revision will be undertaken in the light of the final recommendations of the Inquiry.

Seqwater is legally required to have appropriately qualified flood operations engineers on staff. As a result of the Inquiry, the two engineers who had that role during the 2011 emergency became unavailable. Members may have seen the media release that announced the appointment of Peter Noonan to that role.

Neville Ablett, who now works for Seqwater, was another witness who was grilled at the Commission of Inquiry. He was asked in all seriousness by the Counsel Assisting as to how he logged into his computer in the flood room. A bewildered Neville replied "Do you want my password?", which caused laughter in the room and resulted in the Barrister losing his train of thought and moving onto another line of questioning.

The Final Report

The final report of the Commission of Inquiry was handed down on 16 March. It contained more than 170 recommendations, most of which required action from the State government. Both the contenders for the position of Premier have promised to implement the recommendations in their entirety. Obviously there isn't room here to list even some of them and, in any case, it would not be appropriate. Members are invited to seek their own edification through the media and web sites.

It is hoped that WRRRA may be able to gain some more insight into the workings of the Commission and pass it on to members.

The fallout from the Inquiry will obviously continue for some considerable time. At least two law firms are considering the possibility of mounting class actions and have announced that the scale and prospects of the action hinge on the value of independent flood modelling data, to be commissioned by the law firms and not expected for some months.

While a large amount of interest has related to the operation of Wivenhoe Dam, it must be remembered that the flooding was much more wide-spread than the Brisbane-Bremer catchment (and even there much of it was unaffected by the operation of the dam). The recommendations are much broader, covering state-wide issues. Of particular note is the recommendation relating to flood mapping. Already the comment has been made that this will involve an enormous investment of time and money.

There is, of course, nothing magic about a line on a map that purports to be the expected level for a particular flood recurrence interval. No two floods are identical and, as Geoff Heatherwick (retired BOM flood forecaster) pointed out in a recent interview there are only two certainties about future floods in Brisbane - there will be big ones and Wivenhoe and Somerset will be overwhelmed. Just building above the 1 in 100 flood level does not provide total flood immunity, it simply reduces the risk somewhat.

As Professor Trevor Grigg (who produced a report for the government prior to commencement of construction of Wivenhoe) noted in a radio interview on 16 March, the public had the expectation that Wivenhoe Dam would flood-proof Brisbane. While the experts never believed that, the message was not clear that flooding could (and would) still occur although it could be expected to be reduced in magnitude. Similarly, 1 in 100 year floods do not occur exactly 100 years apart.

Biographical Details

Phil Sternes reports "Over the last few days I've had reason to trawl through the past minutes of the Border Rivers Commission in which Fred Haigh features prominently. Thought I'd look him up in that invaluable resource the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* and to my surprise he is not there. Surely this is an omission that could be easily rectified.

I notice that one Harold John Alfred Wright is slated for an entry in the future."

Thanks Phil for your continued information flow. - Ed.

Legal Action

In the last Newsletter it was reported that Cougar Energy was suing the Government, John Bradley, Terry Wall and Jim Reeves seeking damages over the closure of their CSG activities near Kingaroy.

To date this action has not progressed.

HEALTH *and beauty*

Talk about the chicken or the egg coming first. A recent survey of couples aged 65 or over , reported to the Gerontological Association of America, found that 60% who engaged in sex more than once a month were very happy, compared with only 40% who had not had sex for a year. The conclusion seems to be that sex makes couples happy. I would have thought the more likely conclusion was that couples who were happy were more likely to make love.

Going bananas

Bananas are a very healthy component of diet - except when they are unaffordable. They started life about 10,000 years ago in south-east Asia. Some plants were sent to England in 1829. In 1834, a chaplain sent a banana to William Spencer Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire. The duke was so impressed that his gardener Joseph Paxton (the man responsible for the Crystal Palace) was successfully growing bananas at Chatsworth within the year. The Cavendish variety of bananas that we grow and eat in Australia is descended from a single plant he grew at Chatsworth 170 years ago.

How ever did lady fingers get their name? Did the first to apply it get a black eye for his trouble?

Are vegetarians deficient?

Iron deficiency is common among human vegetarians, so how do herbivores cope?

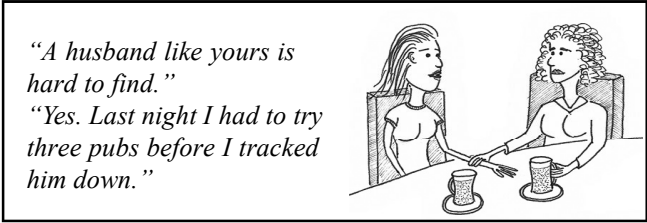
Vegetarians have dietary difficulties because they force their omnivorous physiology to cope with a herbivorous diet, mineral imbalances being only one of the consequences.

Herbivores survive in good health partly because they are not as vegan as we might imagine. They eagerly eat animal dung, old bones, incidental insects and the like. They are also not too proud to eat dirt wherever they find a salt lick. Also, practically all herbivores rely on a partnership with gut flora to supply micronutrients or improve digestion.

Then again, they need to eat huge volumes of vegetation to ensure they absorb sufficient quantities of minerals from the minute concentration in plants. After all, plants contain a little iron and manganese as well as micronutrients because these are needed for photosynthesis.

Humans trying to match the performance of specialist herbivores would need bellies like proboscis monkeys, and would be eating 18 hours a day just to keep up; never mind the consequent activity at the nether end, nor the tooth wear that, as brachyodont herbivores, humans would suffer.

- New Scientist 18 February 2012.



Exercise those Brain Cells

Three sailors were wrecked on a coral island occupied only by coconut trees and a monkey. They gathered all the coconuts they could find. The captain took for himself half the nuts plus half a nut. To the mate, he gave half the remaining nuts plus half a nut. To the deckhand he gave half the remaining nuts plus half a nut. There was one nut left, which he gave to the monkey.

How many nuts did they gather in the first place?

Disorder in the American Courts

Given the performance of some lawyers at the Commission of Inquiry, I am pleased to publish this material supplied by faithful correspondent Marilyn Caton. - Ed.

These are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and now published by court reporters.

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?
WITNESS: He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'
ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?
WITNESS: My name is Susan!

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of impact?
WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active?
WITNESS: No, I just lie there.

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?
WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the twenty-year-old, how old is he?
WITNESS: He's twenty, much like your IQ.

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

ATTORNEY: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th. And what were you doing at that time?
WITNESS: Getting laid.

ATTORNEY: How many of her children were boys?
WITNESS: None.
ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?
WITNESS : Your Honor, can I get a new attorney?

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?
WITNESS: By death.
ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?
WITNESS: Take a guess.

ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?
WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.
ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?
WITNESS: If not, he was by the time I finished.

... continued on the next page.



Solution to last edition's puzzle

XMAS	3784
MAIL	7860
EARLY	98205
PLEASE	109849

ATTORNEY: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

WITNESS: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practising law...

Thanks Marilyn. Keep up the good work! - Ed.

How Come – ?

Now that wine bottles are supplied with screw tops rather than corks (to the detriment of cork producers in Portugal), it is most unlikely that any bottle will have to be rejected because it is 'corked'.

Traditionally, the host of a dinner party had a little wine from a newly opened bottle poured into his glass for him to taste. This was to ensure that the wine was fit for his guests to drink, ie was not corked. Or was it? It could also have been done so that any loose pieces of cork fell into his glass and did not offend any valued guest.

But the custom predates the introduction of corks. Before that, the Italians used to fill the necks of wine bottles with oil, most of which was poured off before the wine was served. Any last vestige would be put into the host's glass rather than a guest's.

The custom also reflects the unfortunate mediaeval habit of poisoning of foes at the dinner table. It was not merely an act of courtesy for a host to take the first sip, but a demonstration of the fact that the beverage was not poisoned.

Perhaps this background to the custom explains why Jewish people for thousands of years have been using the toast 'For Life', *L'chayim* in Hebrew.

The Growth of Affluence



Jack Spratt
is far too fat
his wife's lard's quite obscene.
It's sad this pair
's no longer rare
in our Australian scene.

A Sign of the Times

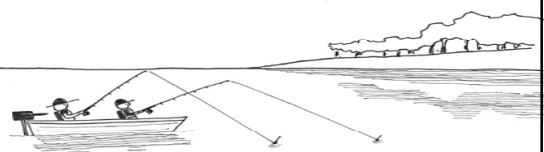
On a T-Shirt:

**I OWE, I OWE,
SO OFF TO WORK I GO**

Terry's Trivia

Some more trivia from Terry taken from the set posed at the Christmas luncheon. The answers are on page 2. - Ed.

1. The captain of the Queensland Cricket Team when it won its first Sheffield Shield in 1995 was (i) Alan Border; (ii) Matt Hayden; (iii) Trevor Barsby; (iv) Stuart Law.
2. The common name of which frog is also an Olympic throwing event: (i) Discus; (ii) Javelin; (iii) Hammer; (iv) Shot putt.
3. The Melbourne Cup has how many handles: (i) 2; (ii) 3; (iii) 4; (iv) 5.
4. Which sultry South American dance was for a time banned by the Catholic Church: (i) Tango; (ii) Rhumba; (iii) Cha Cha Cha; (iv) Mambo.
5. Who was the Australian Gallipoli Brigade Commander who had a University named after him: (i) Griffith; (ii) Latrobe; (iii) Monash; (iv) Cowan; (v) Murdoch.
6. Which country's flag is more than 90% red: (i) Algeria; (ii) Libya; (iii) Egypt; (iv) Syria.
7. Which Australian city holds the record of 15 consecutive days above 35 degrees (March 2008): (i) Melbourne; (ii) Darwin; (iii) Adelaide; (iv) Brisbane; (v) Canberra.
8. How many figures are in Da Vinci's 'The Last Supper': (i) 11; (ii) 12; (iii) 13; (iv) 14.
9. Jane Rutter is an Australian virtuoso of the: (i) clarinet; (ii) oboe; (iii) piano (iv) flute; (v) didgeridoo.
10. Who is on the polymer \$A100 note: (i) Cathy Freeman; (ii) Sir Marcus Oliphant; (iii) Dame Nellie Melba; (iv) Dame Edna Everidge; (v) Sir John Monash.
11. The US Vice President is: (i) Hillary Clinton; (ii) Joe Biden; (iii) Dick Cheney; (iv) Al Gore.
12. In which state is Mt Buggery: (i) Victoria; (ii) NSW; (iii) Queensland; (iv) Tasmania.



"This gambling addiction therapy is really tough"
"I'll bet it is!"
"How much?"

Letter to the Editor

Dear Ian

I just wanted to express my thanks for the fantastic website "Watery Sauces" and for the newsletters which I have just begun reading in the last few days.

My father was Bill Catling who spent all of his working life with the IWS. He was a senior works supervisor at the time of his retirement and died in 1990. My mother, Mary Catling, died in 2004.

My interest in the IWS was renewed again a few years ago with the publication of a book on Tinaroo Dam marking the 50th anniversary of the completion of the dam. I did contribute some information towards it and thoroughly enjoyed reading the book.

As I am now retired I have recently had the thought of doing some research on the IWS. Some preliminary research showed that this had already been done and published in the book "Watery Sauces: a people's history of the Water Resources Commission (Qld) and its predecessors 1881-1996" written by you and Margaret Cook. In the course of that preliminary research I also came across the "Watery Sauces" website and the newsletters.

I have seen some chapters of the book on the internet and have started reading the newsletters. I intend reading them all as each one of them contains information on people I used to know or names that I am familiar with from my father. I hope to read the book as well.

The IWS played a very significant role in my life as I spent all of my childhood and the first 17 years of my life living in the camps at various dam sites and irrigation projects. I lived at Tinaroo Dam, Callide Dam, Coolmunda Dam, Wuruma Dam and Maroon Dam as well as the Walkamin irrigation project and in my very early years at Clare and Dalbeg. My parents also lived at Beardmore Dam and Wivenhoe Dam and Dad did some work at Leslie Dam. Dad retired after his work at Wivenhoe Dam.

Given the impact on my life of the IWS I am interested in finding out more background detail of the IWS so will be reading your book as well as the newsletters.

Regards

Colleen Vanderstaay

Credits

My thanks are once again due to Helen and Jean; to Harvey Yates for his continuing cartoons; to the contributors; to Graham Bauer who printed it; to Ann Liekens and Rebecca Wall who made it available to departmental staff; and to Jon Henry who placed it on our website –
www.waterysauces.org.au.

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Watery Sauces No 67

Book Club

David Astle is the author of the daily *Word Wit* in the *Courier Mail* and is the letters expert for *Letters and Numbers* on SBS television. Using the nom de plume of DA, he has written a book called *Puzzled*, in which he describes his life-long fascination with words that led him to become the setter of cryptic crossword puzzles. The book commences with a puzzle and each chapter describes, among anecdotes, the various types of cryptic clues (such as anagrams, homophones, double meanings, spoonerisms and reversals) and solves a word within the grid.

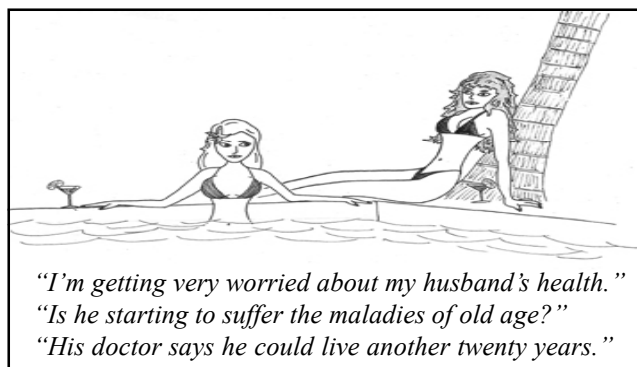
As an inveterate puzzler I found it fascinating, but maybe the accusation that anyone who can solve a cryptic puzzle must have a twisted brain is true.

Ian Pullar

Dangly Bits

I know I'm a pedant, but the omnipresent grammatical errors in the daily press get up my nostrils. These journalists are supposed to be writers. One particular solecism which upsets my normal morning equanimity is the dangling modifier. For example, an article in the *Courier Mail* in December about the flood aftermath in Theodore, included the following sentence. "Having resolved to pay for the repairs, the Shoecrafts' renovation work finally began before Christmas." How, I ask you, could the renovation work possibly resolve to do anything?

An even more mind-boggling passage appeared in an obituary on Judy Lewis, illegitimate daughter of Clark Gable and Loretta Young. "Acting clearly ran in her blood. As well as Gable and her mother, she was the niece of actresses Polly Ann Young, Sally Blane and Georgiana Young." For Gable to be the niece of anyone or for Lewis's mother to be the niece of her own sisters is biologically impossible – but this is what the writer claims!



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