



WATERY SAUCES OLDIES AND BOLDIES

Newsletter No 72

November 2013

NEWSLETTER OF THE WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Journeying to Paradise

Association stalwart David Morwood and wife Judy expected to be updated on repair works at Paradise Dam during the association's recent visit to Bundaberg. What they didn't expect was an update on the Morwood family history. For there, on a plaque at the visitor's centre, was an old photograph of Elsie Bilbrough who later became David's grandmother. Elsie had arrived in Queensland from England in 1889 and then applied for work as a teacher. Her first posting was Mt Shamrock in 1890. Mt Shamrock, like the town of Paradise itself, was an isolated, short-lived mining settlement in the Biggenden area. The photograph on the plaque shows Elsie and her students outside the schoolhouse that had been moved from Paradise to Mt Shamrock.

The Bundaberg visit took place on 10 and 11 September and was well supported by 23 members and their guests.



The trip had been prompted by SunWater CEO Peter Boettcher's address during our AGM in April this year. His description of flood damage to SunWater assets raised a lot of interest among the members who attended.

On the first day we travelled by bus to Paradise Dam, then to historic Chowey Bridge, Mount Perry and Boolboonda Tunnel. Our SunWater hosts at Paradise Dam were Phil Webber and Andrew Maughan. After viewing photographs taken during the 1 in 200 January flood event we were able to inspect the flood damage from the dam itself. Although repairs were well advanced, we were left with a good appreciation of the extent of the damage to the apron slab, the dissipater sill and the rock in the riverbed downstream of the dam.

Chowey Bridge is a reinforced concrete arch bridge on the old Biggenden – Gayndah railway line. It was built in 1905 and is one of only two of its type in Australia. The design features a main arch with spandrel arches supporting the deck above the main arch. The main arch spans 26.8 m.

Boolboonda Tunnel was built in 1883-84 for the Bundaberg – Mt Perry railway line. At 192 m in length running through strong granitic rock, it is the longest unsupported tunnel in the southern hemisphere. The tunnel is now home to a colony of bentwinged bats. We were able to drive through the tunnel in our 28 seater bus but there were no takers to venture through it on foot.

On the second day we visited Fred Haigh Dam, Don Beattie Pump Station and Ben Anderson Barrage before a farewell lunch at Barga. Fred Haigh Dam was upgraded in 2006 by a 2 m raising through the construction of a concrete wall and watertight gate to allow access to the pump station.

- continued on page 2

From the Editor's Chair

I well remember – as I'm sure many of you do too – the aftermath of the 1990 state election when, after many years, there was a change of government. "Oh well," we thought, "there may be a change of government, but nothing much else will change." How wrong we were.

Once again, there has been a change of government and there have been changes within government departments. Some of these changes have already been noted in this chronicle and this edition records others.

In particular, significant change is occurring in SunWater as reported on page 8. Of course, history is the record of change, as well as achievement. I am always happy to record events in these pages and welcome your contributions.

Until next time, au reservoir.

Ian Pullar, Editor

Journeying to Paradise (continued)

SunWater's Artie Stevens hosted our visit which included an inspection of the pump station – a lavish construction compared to modern versions. Once again it was nostalgia time for Nev and Marilyn Caton when they were able to view their old Commission house from the time Nev worked on construction of the dam in the 1970s. Not surprisingly Marilyn's garden had disappeared but one of her original bottlebrushes was still flourishing.

SunWater's Peter Munckton hosted our visit to Don Beattie Pump Station and Ben Anderson Barrage. During the drive from the dam to the pump station, Rod Terry and others entertained us with anecdotes from the early construction days of the Bundaberg Irrigation Area.

Don Beattie Pump Station was severely affected by the January flood. Although the pump station itself was not damaged, siltation at the inlet took weeks to clear during a period of high water demand. The deck of the pump station was a good place to view the flood damage along the river with most of the riparian vegetation stripped to flood height.

Out and About

WRRRA has welcomed a number of new members – Terry Roos, John Ridler, Peter Hodgkinson, Garry Grant, Gary Corbett and Rolf Rose. An application for membership has been received from Warren Shallcross while Kerry Marler's application is in the mail.

We (the Pullars) recently had the great pleasure of travelling with friends on the *Spirit of the Outback* train to the Longreach area. In Longreach, we stayed in a motel very close to a water tower with a sign advising the reader that it was constructed in 1937 by the Irrigation (sic) and Water Supply Commission. We spent not nearly long enough in the wonderful *Stockman's Hall of Fame* where we particularly enjoyed the tributes to the Unsung Heroes. One who received a longer than normal tribute was our very own Charlie Ogilvie.

While there, we bought a book of poems by Banjo Paterson, beautifully illustrated by Hugh Sawrey whose idea the Hall of Fame had been. The poems had been chosen by two of Paterson's granddaughters who had loved his verse but had always been puzzled as children as to why the stockmen in *The Man from Snowy River* had mustard overnight.

The jet-setter Joneses have been round the world in (less than) eighty days visiting Dubai, Moscow, St Petersburg, Helsinki, Stockholm, Oslo, Bergen, Copenhagen, Berlin, Boston, Cape Cod and Cleveland Ohio. Nice work if you can get it.



Dave Pollard, Dave Morwood and John Morse engaged in detailed technical discussions.

The trip would not have been possible without the detailed planning of Jon Henry and Peter Jones. Thanks to these members and to SunWater representatives who safely guided us through the visit.

Geoff Eades

In the absence of our Secretary, the newest member of the Committee, Pat McCourt, took on the position of Acting Secretary. We are most grateful for his sterling performance.

Vice President Brian Shannon has safaried with his wife Joanne and friends. Those not overcome with jealousy can read of their adventures on page 6.

Closer to home, both the Davises and the Catons have changed their addresses – but to essentially the same one. They have moved into the same retirement village.

The annual Christmas luncheon was held at CO-TAH (as usual) on Thursday 14 November. There were 55 in attendance – more than in the recent past. This number included quite a few recent retirees, although we were very conscious of the fact that only a few of the 'older' members were able to come. Of course George Beran was there (with his wife Merle) – he has attended every Christmas lunch since 1987!

It was a very pleasant occasion, as it always is, with very congenial company and good food. Terry Loos provided us with his usual trivia challenge (half of which can be found on page 11). Patron Peter Boettcher was unable to attend but Tom Vanderbyl joined us and addressed the assembled multitudes about the state of the SunWater nation.

Following the reorganisation of government departments described briefly on page 9, we have a new co-patron, Dan Hunt, who is the CEO of the Department of Energy and Water Supply. Unfortunately, he was unable to join us on this occasion.

Very sadly, we have to report the deaths of three former engineers:

Ian Alexander ("Charlie") Chalmers who spent much of his career in construction and retired from Planning.

John Boyd Cantor whose principal area of activity was in the advisory area culminating in his appointment as Director of Client Advisory Services.

Bevan James Faulkner, a tribute to whom can be found on page 3.

Vale Bevan James Faulkner 17 August 1940 – 5 October 2013

Bevan James Faulkner was born in Brisbane on 17 August 1940 in Gayndah. His family moved to Brisbane and he attended Kelvin Grove, Morningside and Norman Park State schools and Industrial High.

In 1957 he took the first step in what was to become his entire life's professional journey – he joined the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission as a Cadet Draftsman. Through diligent studying, he qualified as a Draftsman and then in 1967 he completed further studies and graduated as an Engineer from QIT. But prior to this change in his life, he effected what may have been an even greater one when he married Wendy to whom he was entirely devoted throughout. They had two children – Joanne born in 1968 and Russell born in 1970.

As an engineer, he served the Commission, in its various guises, in a number of roles and in a number of arenas. He was a Construction Engineer on Wuruma Dam and Atkinson Dam. He served as District Engineer in both Mackay and St George. Later, he acted as Regional Engineer South East for a year.

In 1978 he transferred back to Head Office and took up the cudgels in Construction. His main role during this period was the management of a large number of smaller projects such as establishing construction camps and site infrastructure. For example he was responsible for the sealing of the road from Ravenswood to Burdekin Falls Dam. He managed the construction of Boggabilla Weir.

With the reorganisation that created Water Commercial, he became Director Asset Management and continued that role into the separate entity of SunWater. After he retired in 2002, Bevan continued to support the water industry undertaking consultant roles with SunWater, Seqwater and the Department of Natural Resources. A major activity was assisting the Dam Safety area in setting up a program for monitoring referable farm dams.

But Bevan's involvement in the various departments for which he worked was not limited to work. He was, in his youth, a player for the Sharks Rugby League team. He was a member of the informal tennis and bridge clubs. He was involved in the Commission's Social Club, serving a term as President. In his retirement he became a Committee member of the Water Resources Retirees Association, serving as Treasurer for six years until his ill health forced him to relinquish the task which he had carried out so cheerfully and efficiently.

Of course outside the department, Bevan was heavily involved with community activities, particularly the Queensland Lawn Tennis Association (where he regularly took leave to oversee the Media Room for Davis Cup and Open Tennis Tournaments at the old Milton tennis courts) and Service Clubs, both Rotary and Lions. For the latter, he was a Charter Member of the Calamvale Club and served as Cabinet Secretary at District level. His efforts were always praised. His high regard by the community at large was exemplified by the extremely large attendance at his funeral.

Those who knew him and worked closely with him knew him as very much a team player with tremendous loyalty to the Commission and its offspring. Peter Allen, Director of Dam Safety, respected him highly as a very competent engineer who was just so easy to work with. John Potts often thought that if Bevan had been in the army, he would have been an adjutant – the competent officer who keeps the place running including managing the officer above him. John quoted the late John Cantor as defining a friend as someone who will tell you things you need to hear but do not want to. Bevan proved on many occasions that he was such a friend.

Bevan was our mate and we will miss him.

The Eternal Tennis Club

Observant members will have seen Bernie Pramberg's article on the fifty years of tennis enjoyed by the Water Resources Thursday Night Tennis Club of which Bevan was a member (and noticed that he got the names listed in the wrong order).

The adjacent photo (pkf Terry Loos) shows elder statesman Lee Rogers addressing the multitudes celebrating the fifty years. What an achievement! (the fifty years – not Lee's address)!



‘Water Resources Drafties’ Fishing Trip reaches 30-year milestone

by Gary Corbett

In August this year, a group of ex-Water Resources ‘old boys’ who see themselves on the younger side celebrated 30 consecutive years of an annual fishing pilgrimage to Fraser Island. The tradition commenced when engineering drafting staff from the then merged Local Government/Water Resources Commission teamed up for a five-day fishing trip in August 1984, over a long weekend which commenced on Exhibition Wednesday and finished on the following Sunday.

“Some of the Local Government drafting staff (amongst them Ken Wright, Bob Hade, Ray Jamieson) were experienced in tailor fishing as they already had a few trips under their belt, so some of us from the Water Resources side joined them to learn the ropes and the rest is history,” says recent retiree Gary Corbett. Gary goes on to say that the trips to date have retained the hunter-and-gatherer tradition of camping under canvas and all that goes with it, and that there is never a trip that goes by where the folklore surrounding events of past trips is not revisited and embellished in some shape or form – as with most fishing trips, some things seem to happen around the camp that never seem to happen anywhere else. The timing of trips these days is influenced more by the tides and the moon, than by the prospect of a five-day long weekend commencing with the public holiday on Exhibition Wednesday and an application for two days off.

Twelve old boys were there in August this year to celebrate the 30 year milestone, by far the biggest roll-up for a number of years. Tee-shirts were also printed to commemorate the occasion. Amongst the highlights of each trip is ‘Pots and Pies at Orchid Beach’ where anyone wanting to have a short break from the toils of

fishing is welcome to enjoy a feed and a well earned drink at the public bar at the fuel outlet behind the air strip at Orchid Beach. In 1984, Pots and Pies took place on the seaward side of the airstrip at the then Orchid Beach Resort, with the highlight being to sit on the large jawbone of the humpback whale at the top of the sand dune in front of the resort, and to take in the spectacular view from there. The resort along with the jawbone are long gone but their memories aren’t.

While the photo below was being taken, minding the camp was Peter Gilbey, who over recent years has kept culinary standards high, with his selection of fine wine and food. Peter’s pantry, however, took a bit of a hit this year when an enterprising dingo somehow got into his seemingly secure icebox and helped himself (assumed to be a male dingo) to a dingo’s smorgasboard. However, one of the group (tongue in cheek) has his own theory on the sex of the dingo – “It must have been a female, as it put the lid down after it had finished,” he said. This comes hot on the heels of a dingo making off with the inner lining of my ugg boots left outside my tent last year.

Most of the group in the August 2013 trip have retired, but the group’s numbers are inflated from time to time by currently serving employees of successors of the original IWSC/Water Resources organisations (ie the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, SunWater and the Department of Energy and Water Supply). Amongst those other Water Resources old boys who have enjoyed past trips with the group are Nev Caton and Eric Davis.

While tailor fishing was ostensibly the main reason for the trip, the main purpose now is to catch up with old colleagues as we move into our retirement phase, and this will become increasingly important as part of the wider network of water old boys!

Thanks for the story, Gary. -Ed.



Those who attended ‘Pots and Pies’ this year were (left to right):-

Lindsay May; Ray Jamieson; Gary Luck; Bob Bell; Mike Studley; Perry Molloy; Phil James; Bob Thwaite; Gary Schramm; Gary Corbett; Mick Garvey.

A Travellers Tale

Early in the 19th century, Sweden had, for various reasons, run out of heirs to the throne. A senior Swedish minister sought advice from Napoleon on obtaining a suitable candidate. A certain Field Marshal Jean Baptiste Bernadotte had become surplus to requirements, so Boney gave permission for him to be ap-

proached. Despite the fact that he bore a tattoo reading “death to the king”, he accepted the job as heir. His wife Desiree (who had previously been engaged to Napoleon) arrived in Stockholm in November, hated the place and headed back to France.

In due course, Bernadotte became King Karl XIV John. Every monarch since is a direct descendent.

A Decent Holiday (Part 3)

by Patrick McCourt

The main roads in southern Ireland are of a very high standard although the country lanes are not so good. However, we found the Irish drivers to be absolutely mad. I still have visions on a number of occasions of two cars careering down the highway side by side in the same lane clearly above the speed limit. However, we escaped Ireland with our car unscathed. We had a diesel sedan because petrol is quite expensive at about €1.60/litre or more. Diesel was about €1.50/litre and lasted longer. For the mathematically minded amongst you, one Aussie dollar was buying about €0.74 at the time. Our *Renault Fluence* proved to be a roomy and reliable vehicle, and we spent far less on diesel than I had budgeted for.

We spent our days wandering through villages like Adare, Croom, Mallow, and Dromina, and towns like Tipperary, Roscrea, Gneevgullia, Barraduff, Navan, and Charleville. We crossed the Shannon River and roamed the Cliffs of Moher on a blustery and squally day, and drove up towards Galway to plunge into the depths of Doolans Cave after crossing the Burrens. Ros's relatives took us down to the national park at Killarney which features wonderful gardens, Muckross House, and the Torc waterfall.

Ros had set her heart on seeing the Hill of Tara because one of our grandchildren is named after this historic site. This also suited me because I wanted to see some neolithic tombs and historical sites along the River Boyne. So off we went to Kilkenny where we found another wonderful B&B. We liked the town of Kilkenny as well, and we spent quite some time wandering around on a grey and wet day before having a meal at the famous High Street Hotel. However, we had no idea where to stay next.

Now I know that everyone is supposed to use a GPS to tell them what to do and where to go. This infernal machine is a bit like a mother-in-law in that respect. But we didn't have one. What we did have was an atlas of Ireland which I had bought in Brisbane and which was only about 18 months old. This proved to be amazingly accurate down to the level of country lanes, and we only got bushed twice. So I consulted my trusty atlas and found a town or village called Trim which was quite near everything we wanted to do. So off to Trim we went.

The small town of Trim and its district is a little gem. We could see the castle for which the town is justly famous from our B&B up the road, and we were beside the equally famous River Boyne. This B&B was slightly more expensive than the others we stayed in, but it was very well appointed, and it is owned by a wonderful couple who took good care of us. We spent many a happy hour strolling through Trim; hiking along the river; and eating at the pubs and cafes. But what of the Hill of Tara and the tombs? I hear you cry. Well, that's where we're going next.

Anyone who has read anything about the history of ancient Ireland will have heard of the Hill of Tara. This is where the *Ard Righ* or High King was anointed, crowned, and acknowledged by the clan chieftains. There is a stone still there from those times called the *Lia Fail* or the Stone of Destiny which is supposed to roar even today when the rightful king touches it. It didn't even whimper when I placed my hand on it. It's a magical place, and there are possibly kings there still today, although they are long since buried beneath the many mounds.

*Here once stood the Royal Seat
And here once trod the Fianna feet
Silent now but not forlorn
For this is still the Ard Riogh's home.*

There is no cost to access the site. However, previous owners had the right to charge 6d at the gate up until the 1970s. One of these owners was the British Prime Minister, Lord John Russell, who had inherited the hill as part of his Irish estates in 1839.

While the site may be the last repository of the old gods, there is the deconsecrated church nearby together with a statue of St Patrick to remind us that the old ways are long since gone. Or are they? There's a fairy tree near the mounds which was bedecked with new ribbons and bells in the old style the way they did when the proud Celts roamed the land. Maybe the old customs and beliefs are not too far away after all.

We moved on to visit the neolithic tombs at Newgrange and Knowth. We got a little bit lost on our way to Navan, so we stopped beside a postman in a country lane to ask for directions. We asked whether there were any sign posts and he replied, "*No, this is Ireland*", and gave us directions which turned out to be absolutely wrong. I was reminded of an old Dave Allen joke where a tourist following directions from an Irishman gets hopelessly lost only to find later that the directions weren't from where they were then to where the traveller wanted to go. They were given as if the Irishman was travelling from where the visitor wanted to arrive at to where they were at the start. I wondered how the mail got delivered to the right houses. Maybe it didn't matter. After all, "*This is Ireland*". Ah well, *Eirinn go brach* (Ireland forever).

I had read about the tomb at Newgrange many times and how the morning rays of sun enter the passageway in the tomb during the winter solstice. While the outside of the tomb at Newgrange has been extensively and controversially restored, the inside is still the same as it was thousands of years ago. You can go inside and it's quite an eerie feeling being in there. They reenact the rays of sunlight creeping up the floor towards where you stand near the burial chambers, and they do this particularly well. But it's not the departed ancients that I'm thinking of now. We're off back to Dublin to see some sights and to meet more of my relations.

*- and we'll learn more about these relations
next issue. Once again, many thanks, Pat. - Ed.*

Into Africa

Brian Shannon

Checking- off the bucket-list, we decided that Africa was high on our list of travel priorities. The final decision was made when friends, with whom we had travelled before, agreed that they too would be interested. Neither of us being “groupies” by nature, we set out to identify an itinerary that would meet our mutual wants.

As with any project, the success of an endeavour is established at the planning stage; so we identified our “must-sees” as a first step and, with a couple of exceptions, identified that all our wishes were mutually compatible.

Our first step, after personal research, was to consult a travel agent whom we had used previously to put some form to our plans. Of course we had a budget in mind but the travel agent’s proposal quite blew our minds, being more than twice our expectation. We then undertook to use the internet for bookings either directly or with in-country travel agents who had been recommended to us or who satisfied our plans. Such a strategy had worked for us previously; the local travel agent was then used to co-ordinate our air travel.

Inclusions:

From personal knowledge or by recommendations from family and friends, we decided that we wanted to include East Africa (Masai-Mara, Kenya the Serengeti and Tanzania), South Africa and the Okavango Delta (Botswana). A self-directed tour in RSA seemed appropriate whereas conducted private safari tours elsewhere were the only practical means.

Itinerary:

Based on geography, it seemed logical at first to travel continuously south to north, beginning with RSA. Scheduling of the trip was to prove decisive, as the best times for safaris (in the north) seemed to be August/September before the “short rains” but August around the Cape is quite damp and cold. So, it was decided to begin in East Africa entering via Nairobi and only then to travel to RSA. Finally we visited Botswana ending-up at Victoria Falls on the Zimbabwe/Zambia border.

Kenya/Tanzania:

The first hiccup for our plan came about a fortnight before our landing in Nairobi when the airport arrivals hall burnt out. Fortunately in a little over a week the airline schedule had returned to normal and we avoided any re-routing.

From Nairobi we headed first northward towards Lake Nakuru famed for its flocks of flamingos. Unfortunately the water level in the lake was extraordinarily high so the flamingos had mostly relocated. However we were compensated in the national park by our first sightings of giraffes and rhino, including one relatively aggressive black one close by our path. That evening we were treated to the sight of pigmy hippos grazing outside our cabins around Lake Navasha – a great start to a safari.

From then on across the Masai Mara N.P. we were treated to a regular fare of game animals on our twice daily game drives, typified by prides of lions alongside isolated streams; groups of elephants devastating foliage as they made their way to water; leopards elusively resting in trees and giraffes loping along or eating small shoots amongst thorny acacia. The roads were rough and the vans were mostly “Tarago” style apparently not modified for the conditions. After a day’s drive, refreshment and a comfy bed at the grand-style lodges was most welcome.

The highlight of the Mara came as we arrived at the western border and the river where we encountered the tail of the great migration of wildebeest and zebras. As we crossed the river, we witnessed the numerous carcasses of wildebeest that had perished there.

A pleasant break to the relentless travel was afforded by a two-night stay on an island in Lake Victoria (in Tanzania) which is fed by the Mara R and is one source of the Nile R.

Heading east again across Tanzania, we traversed the Serengeti (endless plain) which is a southern extension of the Mara. We were upgraded to a 4WD but, more importantly were treated to better roads. The wildlife experiences were similar but more intense as we witnessed a feasting of lions on a buffalo kill and stalked pairs of cheetahs on two occasions across wide expanses.



*Cheetahs
in the
Serengeti*

We saw random leopard kills stored in trees. The final wildlife experience was in the Ngorongoro Crater which, as the name suggests, is an extinct volcano with an enclosed environment.

The lodges where we stayed were also impressive classic structures built in a rustic fashion about a century ago by Germans. They were appropriated after WW1 by the state and are now privately operated.

Back to Arusha, the centre of Tanzanian safaris, we kept heading east toward the coast and Dares Salaam, the capital. However we terminated our safari on the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro at a villa where mountaineers prepare for the least arduous ascent. A leisurely amble amongst the mountain villages gave us some appreciation of local life.

Returning to Arusha, we prepared for our trip into South Africa.

- to be continued

The Best Years (Part 3)

by Don Best

Up to the end of the Rocky Creek contract I had spent basically all of my Tinaroo service working not on the dam. I got more involved with Col Lewis's team in relation to the diamond drilling and pressure testing of the foundations of the dam. From time to time Dr Bill Nimmo, former Commissioner, visited Tinaroo. He was particularly interested in Col's results and occasionally requested additional pressure tests.

Norm Butler, the Chief Designs Engineer, visited Tinaroo on one occasion to carry out some tests to check the effectiveness of the bulk head gate on the river outlet. Our extensive tests, involving closing the cone valves and operating the bulk head gate, proved that the system was very effective.

Norm also asked to see what happened when the outlet was powered down from fully open to shut normally. I climbed down into the valve room and listened to the noise and felt the vibrations of cavitation. He also wanted a test of the automatic siphon and chute located about 1100 feet downstream of the dam. We shut down the channel gates about 1200 feet downstream of the dam and opened the valves to allow water to flow from the dam into the West Barron Main Channel. It was good to see water flowing for the first time from the dam into the West Barron Main Channel. The water level in the channel slowly rose and water started overflowing at the automatic siphon but siphoning did not occur. No matter how high the water got in the channel the siphon did not start. It became clear that it was the depth of flow downstream of the siphon which was important. I placed a length of timber across the exit and the siphon started. Problem solved! In due course, I replaced the 3 x 2 with a shaped steel section welded in place and painted with a bituminous paint.

The major construction work for Tinaroo Dam was nearing completion and the workforce at Tinaroo was being reduced either by natural attrition or relocation to other projects. Several men went to Walkamin or Mutchilba to work on the construction of roads, channels, drains, bench flumes and channels required for the Mareeba – Dimbulah Irrigation Area.

The only day labour construction work at the dam that I was responsible for was the lookout adjacent the site office.

While still living at Tinaroo, I was asked to work under Allan Taylor at Walkamin on the construction by day labour forces of about thirty check-and drop structures on the West Barron main channel from the Mareeba-Atherton Road to Granite Creek. The work had not been progressing satisfactorily financially or time-wise and I was asked to fix it. Each day I travelled from Tinaroo to Walkamin. The standard procedure each morning was to strip the formwork from the previous day's section by undoing all the connectors and then load all the formwork components on to a truck, move them to the next site and then reassemble

the units. My examination of the plans and locations for the remaining structures enabled me to come up with a way to improve production and thereby reduce time and costs. There were a lot of similar sized check and drop structures: for example, there could be, say, five with a 3 foot drop, and six with a 4 foot drop. My solution was to undo only enough clips to allow a mobile crane to lift assembled sections of formwork and load them on to the back of the truck which had been intended to move all the disassembled components. The gang could then move on to the next same size drop structure and the mobile crane would simply pick up the individually assembled sections and lower them into place. In a very short time the site would be ready for concreting. When it became necessary to change to a different size drop structure the necessary changes could be quickly made. We were able to get costs down and reduce the time to complete each drop structure. Head office had been getting ready to call tenders for a number of the structures to get back to the programmed completion for this section of the West Barron Main Channel.

The Commission's role in the area was changing from being primarily a large government construction organisation to an organisation providing water to existing farmers to irrigate crops or to new landholders wishing to become irrigators. The Commission also had a commitment to provide water for power generation.

In Mareeba there was a design office which was designing farm layouts and the channels and drains and roads to service the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area. Initially the design office was an old army hut with louvres close to and parallel to the railway line. Naturally there was great difficulty in keeping drawings and documents clean. Eventually a new government office was built away from the railway. Stan Ross was the Engineer in Charge of the design office. Henry Hannam was the senior IWS officer in Mareeba area.

Head office decided that Mareeba should have an Operations and Farm Advisory Section. I became the Operations and Maintenance Engineer. Charlie Julian was appointed as the Water Superintendent. Fred Schwenke was the Water Officer in charge at Tinaroo. George Rodwell was Water Officer for the Mutchilba-Dimbulah Area. Col Lewis was Water Officer for Mareeba and Tiny Nunn was Water Officer for Walkamin.

To prepare me for my role, I was required to go to Brisbane to learn about what the Commission did in farm advisory in South East Queensland. David Morwood was the expert and he took me on a tour to show me some of the farms that he had provided with advice and designs for spray irrigation. He also introduced me to Pump Curves and the right operation pressure for various spray nozzles.

- to be continued

Once again, thanks to Don for these memories of the 'Good Old Days' - Ed.

Coal Seam Gas

On 24 October more than 40 members and their guests attended a presentation by Randall Cox on coal seam gas extraction with special reference to the Surat Basin groundwater modelling. Randall commenced his career in 1971 with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in Townsville as a hydrogeologist. He later worked on water policy and was closely involved in the development of the *Queensland Water Act 2000*. He is now General Manager of the Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment (OGIA). This is an independent government body set up to manage the cumulative impacts to groundwater from coal seam gas (CSG) extraction.

Randall used the Surat Basin as an example to illustrate the cumulative effect of CSG extraction. In that basin CSG is mostly produced from the Walloon Coal Measures. Its production involves the extraction of large quantities of water from coal seams to reduce pressure and release the gas that is attached to the coal. Currently water extraction by CSG producers is 18,000 ML per year compared to 215,000 ML per year for consumption by agriculture and industry from the cumulative management area. Water extraction from CSG will rise significantly in the coming years with estimates ranging from 75,000 to about 100,000 ML/a.

Realignment of SunWater

The organisation of SunWater as we retirees know it, is currently undergoing major change as a result of a realignment initiative.

Earlier in the year, the Queensland Commission of Audit made four recommendations relating to Regional Bulk Water, all of which have been accepted by the State Government and include the following:

- SunWater finalise the transfer of its irrigation channels to private irrigators and withdraw fully from this activity.
- SunWater's dedicated water supply infrastructure servicing commercial and industrial clients be offered for private ownership and/or private operation, depending on which solution provides the best value for money outcome for the Government.
- SunWater remain as a GOC with a residual function to retain ownership and management of existing bulk water assets in regional Queensland.
- Any future bulk water storage facilities be developed by the private sector, unless there are compelling public good or market failure reasons not to do so.

As a result, the SunWater Board and Senior Management team have undertaken the development of a strategy and timeline to align SunWater (which will remain a Government Owned Corporation) with these recommendations.

SunWater's business realignment is not only about the QCoA recommendations. A major impact on the proposed business structure has been the declining economic conditions for existing and potential customers in Queensland, especially over the last year or so.

The extraction of water from the coal measures will have an effect on the groundwater aquifers above and below depending on the degree of interconnection. Randall's group have set up a groundwater model to predict the drawdown effects on these aquifers. The model is large and complex with 19 layers and more than 3 million individual cells. Within 3 years it is predicted that water level decline will exceed threshold levels in 85 bores. More than 500 bores will be affected in the long term. Regulations require that the CSG producer has to enter a 'make good' agreement with the bore owner.

Interestingly OGIA is funded by CSG producers. Obviously it is impractical for each producer to set up their own groundwater model. After some initial concerns it seems the predictive modelling is being accepted by producer and consumer alike.

Randall's polished and professional talk was well illustrated by diagrams and graphs. It was well accepted by the audience and question time had to be cut short to enable lunch to be served. As Terry Loos said in his vote of thanks, there seems to be a hunger for this sort of function. Future committees will no doubt consider having similar presentations.

Geoff Eades

This has made it difficult for SunWater to generate new business, particularly in Infrastructure Development which is a group geared for growth. Unfortunately, SunWater has no new major infrastructure projects after the Wooleebee Creek to Glebe Weir Pipeline finishes in June 2014. There has been a concerted effort to pursue consulting activities to fill the gap, however this is a difficult market and the utilisation rates are declining.

The economic downturn, combined with changes in the Queensland Government's focus on directing public funding into social infrastructure has impacted on the Infrastructure Development business model. The Government has signalled a preference for private funding of commercial infrastructure projects and this has placed limitations on how SunWater, as a Government Owned Corporation, is able to use its capital.

The new organisational arrangements will reduce the current four business units to three: infrastructure development, infrastructure management and corporate. It is intended that the realignment will be completed by Christmas this year to ensure that next year's business planning and budget process is completed with the new structure in place.

It was expected that the Senior Manager appointments would be completed by September and Manager appointments by the end of November.

Regrettably, there will be significant reductions in staff numbers (515 down to 405) and the closure of two offices (Ayr and Toowoomba). However, new depots will be opened in Chinchilla, Goondiwindi and Townsville.

- Information provided by Peter Boettcher CEO of SunWater

More Changes

It isn't easy for outsiders to keep track of the changes occurring within government agencies. Occasionally information can be gleaned from the press. For example, as a long term Ipswich resident, your editor was interested to learn that Seqwater is to relocate to a new central office building in that fair city. This would appear to fit in with an earlier announced plan of trying to have two-way train lines instead of one-way ones operating in different directions in alternate peak periods.

Members may not be aware of a reshuffle of CEOs within government departments: Jon Black (who was our co-patron) is now CEO of Environment and Heritage; Dan Hunt has moved from Natural Resources and Mines to Energy and Water Supply; and the new CEO of DNRM is Dr Brett Hayward, formerly employed in Health Department (but not a medico). It will be interesting times for them all and their new departments.

DEWS is now a relatively small department with around 250 staff covering both energy and water sections.

A major and urgent activity within the water area is the development of Emergency Action Plans for dealing with floods etc. Under the requirements of the Commission of Audit, all dam owners are required to prepare such plans for approval by DEWS. Awareness sessions will be held in various communities during next Winter. The Dam Safety area is also monitoring the repairs being undertaken at Paradise Dam by SunWater. All those involved are collectively hoping that this "wet season" will be comparatively dry while the

site is still vulnerable to major outflows.

In the Planning Area, work is progressing on the development of a Thirty Year Water Plan. This activity requires liaison with both SunWater and Seqwater. Also in progress are optimisation studies for both Wivenhoe-Somerset and North Pine systems. A number of community consultation meetings have already been held.

This department also has responsibility for the management of the State's non-commercial assets.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines is also adapting to change. Not only is there a new CEO, there is also a new Deputy CEO - Susan Ryan. There have been other changes in senior management, with the incumbents of four of the top five positions being changed.

The main focus of DNRM is meeting the government's agenda of ongoing legislative reform with a transition from administration to encouraging market processes to operate. For example, the department is undertaking a program for the release of unallocated water from the Great Artesian Basin by tender. The Flinders and Gilbert area was the first to engage in this process. The department is also preparing for Stage 4 of the GAB sustainability initiative; a joint State-Commonwealth project. With a new federal government, the negotiations are under way regarding funding etc. The Murray-Darling Plan is also ongoing.

Footnote: Chris Robson, recently retired from DNRM, was at the WRRRA luncheon looking well and happy. He has a new job working for QUT.

The Gospel Truth

Jorge Mario Bergoglio was not the Cardinals' first choice to be the new Pope and to become Pope Francis. Their first choice was, interestingly, Cardinal Hans Grapje.

Grapje was raised in a Catholic school in The Hague and, as a young man, aspired to become a priest but was drafted into the Army during WWII and spent two years co-piloting bombers until his aircraft was shot down in 1943 and he lost his left arm. Captain Grapje spent the rest of the war as a chaplain giving spiritual aid to soldiers, both Allied and enemy.

After the war, he became a priest, serving as a missionary in Africa, piloting his own plane (in spite of his handicap) to villages across the continent.

In 1997, Archbishop Grapje was serving in Zimbabwe when an explosion in a silver mine caused a cave-in. He went down into the mine to administer last rites to those too severely injured to move. Another shaft collapsed and he was buried for three days, suffering multiple injuries, including the loss of his right eye. As well, the high silver content in the mine's air gave him purpura, a life-long condition characterised by purplish skin blotches.

Although Cardinal Grapje devoted his life to the service of God as a scholar, mentor, and holy man, church leaders felt that he should never ascend to the Papacy. They felt that the Church would never accept a one-eyed, one-armed, flying purple Papal leader.



Answers to Terry's Trivia on page 11

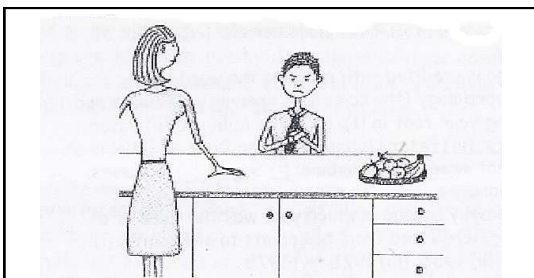
1. (iii) ping pong
2. (iii) a tablespoon
3. (iii) 1987
4. (i) Hip replacement
5. (iv) 6.24×10^{18}
6. (v) 150 kl/a
7. (iii) 18
8. (i) the strength of the wind at sea
9. (ii) 5 minutes
10. (iii) Linus Pauling
11. (iv) Madrid
12. (i) two

HEALTH *and beauty*

Health and Religion

Members will be aware of the current struggles by the US President to get his proposed Obamacare through Congress. At present, USA has by far the least developed healthcare and social security networks of all developed economies. In a letter to *New Scientist* of 19 October, Rev. Derek Suchard, a theologian, draws an interesting inference from this and the fact that USA, one of the most economically developed countries, also has by far the highest percentage of religious adherents. He concludes that the poor social security regime leaves millions facing catastrophic illness and abject poverty so that, in despair, citizens see a deity as their only hope of providing emotional and tangible support. He postulates further that if USA did introduce a reasonable form of national health care, within a short time – probably only one generation – the percentage of religious adherents would decline to similar levels to those in the developed European countries.

Incidentally, the Czech Republic claims to have the greatest percentage of atheists in the world.



"Why doesn't Santa let us see him delivering presents so we'll know he really exists?"
"Don't forget Christmas is a religious holiday."
"Actually I've got the same questions about God."

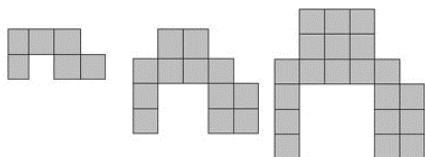
Exercise those Brain Cells

The first three members of a pattern are drawn below.

The first member contains six small squares.

The third member contains twenty small squares.

How many small squares are contained in the tenth member of the pattern?



Explanation by Analogy

Understanding political systems can be a real cow. So here is an explanation that makes perfect sense.

SOCIALISM:

You have two cows. You give one to your neighbour.

COMMUNISM:

You have two cows. The State takes both and gives you some milk.

FASCISM:

You have two cows. The State takes both and sells you some milk.

NAZISM:

You have two cows. The State takes both and shoots you.

TRADITIONAL CAPITALISM:

You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull. Your herd multiplies, and the economy grows. You sell them and retire on the income.

A FRENCH CORPORATION:

You have two cows. You go on strike, organise a riot, and block the roads, because you want three cows.

AN ITALIAN CORPORATION:

You have two cows, but you don't know where they are. You decide to have lunch.

A SWISS CORPORATION:

You have 5000 cows. None of them belong to you. You charge the owners for storing them.

A CHINESE CORPORATION:

You have two cows. You have 300 people milking them. You claim that you have full employment, and high bovine productivity. You arrest the newsman who reported the real situation.

AN INDIAN CORPORATION:

You have two cows. You worship them.

A BRITISH CORPORATION:

You have two cows. Both are mad.

AN IRAQI CORPORATION:

Everyone thinks you have lots of cows. You tell them that you have not one. No-one believes you, so they bomb the hell out of you and invade your country. You still have no cows, but at least now you are part of a Democracy...

A NEW ZEALAND CORPORATION:

You have two cows. The one on the left looks very attractive...

THE US REPUBLICAN PARTY

You have two cows. Your neighbour has none. So?

Answer to last Issue's Teaser

Answer: 3 planes will suffice.

All three take off simultaneously and travel $\frac{1}{8}$ of the way round. One refills the other two and returns to base. The other two fly to the $\frac{1}{4}$ point where one fills the other and returns to base. The third plane is now full and can fly to the $\frac{3}{4}$ point, where it is met by another plane which shares its fuel, providing enough for both to reach the $\frac{7}{8}$ point. Here they are met by the third plane which has enough fuel for all three to fly home.

Planned Obsolescence

When nylon stockings were first launched on to the market they were advertised as being strong enough to tow a car. But they were too strong. The engineers were ordered to make a weaker fabric so that women would buy more stockings – and men more tow ropes!

When an American firm invented a superior type of potato peeler, these essential items were produced in vibrant primary colours. They sold like hot cakes – until it appeared almost every household had and treasured one. The company realised that few of them were being thrown out with the potato peelings, so they proceeded to manufacture peelers in the colour of the peelings. They didn't sell until they were packaged on a vibrantly coloured cardboard sheet whereupon they sold steadily.

Customers like to purchase items with a warranty period. For a two year warranty, failure after 25 months is manufacturer's heaven, but after 23 months, it is economic hell – like Mr Micawber in *David Copperfield* who opined "Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen ninety six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds nought and six, result misery."

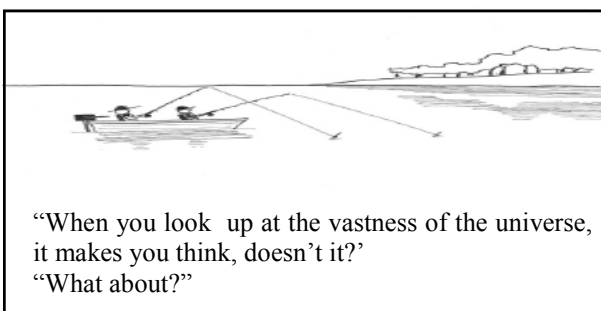
Today's obsolescence has very little to do with items physically breaking down but them being constantly superseded. So the proud possessor of iGismo1 finds himself having to respond to the latest fad and upgrade to iGismo2 without question.

A Monopoly - but only just

By far the biggest selling board game in the world is Monopoly. It was invented by Charles Darrow, an out of work US salesman during the Depression. He submitted his prototype to Parker Brothers, the biggest game company in the world. They had already invented more than a hundred games – or more accurately a hundred variations on the one game. The Parker Bros executives decided Monopoly had no future because, among '52 fundamental errors', there was no finishing line and no discernible goal.

Undeterred, Darrow made up some games himself and took them to a store in Philadelphia where they became a small sensation. So Parker Bros decided to give the game a go on an experimental basis. In the first year, Monopoly sold more than a million sets, a figure unheard of before in the world of games. So much for the '52 fundamental errors'.

Darrow retired to the country where he grew orchids and counted his money.



A Sign of the Times

On a yacht in an Adelaide marina:

She got the house

Terry's Trivia

Questions from the 2013 Christmas luncheon. Answers on page 9.

1. The rules for football, athletics, swimming, tennis, cricket, rugby, boxing and rowing all originated in Victorian Britain/London, but the one sport that is wholly indigenous to Britain is: (i) lawn bowls; (ii) dressage; (iii) ping pong; (iv) snooker;
2. If the entire world's water were to fit into a 5L can, the fresh water available for use would equal about: (i) one litre; (ii) a cupful; (iii) a tablespoon; (iv) a teaspoon.
3. A wooden racket was last used at Wimbledon in: (i) 1967; (ii) 1977; (iii) 1987; (iv) 1997.
4. Currently the most common orthopaedic operation is: (i) Hip replacement; (ii) Knee replacement; (iii) Shoulder repair; (iv) Elbow surgery.
5. In one second the number of electrons that pass any given point in an electrical current is: (i) 6.24×10^3 ; (ii) 6.24×10^6 ; (iii) 6.24×10^9 ; (iv) 6.24×10^{18}
6. A large tree can evapotranspire: (i) 15 L/a; (iii) 1500 L/a; (iv) 15000 L/a; (v) 150 kL/a
7. Stomach hydrochloric acid has a pH of 1. In 2005 a NZ chemist invented a boron-based acid (carborane) with a pH of MINUS: (i) 1; (ii) 9; (iii) 18 (iv) 27.
8. The Beaufort Scale is a device for measuring: (i) the strength of the wind at sea; (ii) the historical importance of Manor Houses; (iii) the noise of jet engines; (iv) the strength of chillies; (v) the consistency of cheeses.
9. After consumption water leaves the stomach in (i) five seconds; (ii) five minutes; (iii) five hours; (iv) five days;.
10. The only person to win two unshared Nobel prizes is: (i) Isaac Newton; (ii) Albert Einstein; (iii) Linus Pauling; (iv) Patrick White; (v) Ian Pullar.
11. The highest European capital is: (i) Vienna; (ii) Rome (iii) Berlin; (iv) Madrid; (v) Paris.
12. How many verses in the National Anthem: (i) Two; (ii) Three; (iii) Four.

The Spirit of Christmas

Ding dong merrily on high
in stores the musak's ringing,
sing song, urging us to buy
so that we will be bringing
glor –or –or – or – or – or –or – or –
or – or – orious
returns we find excessive.

Book Club

The Hare With Amber Eyes

Edmund de Waal is a London-based ceramist with an international reputation for his porcelain ware. Somewhat unexpectedly, he inherited a collection of 264 Netsuke (Japanese wood and ivory carvings no bigger than a matchbox) from his great-uncle Iggy (Ignace) Ephrussi. Edmund knew that these little gems had been passed down the family for several generations and set out to learn the story behind them.

The Ephrussi family originally came from Poland, but moved to Odessa where they established a successful business as grain merchants. This was expanded into banking with the family headquarters moving to Vienna with a branch office in Paris. It was in Paris that Charles Ephrussi first amassed the Netsuke collection. De Waal became fascinated to discover the history of these pieces and devoted much of his time over many years tracing his ancestors and where and how they lived.

This book is the tale of his discoveries and it paints vivid pictures of the life of the wealthy in late 19th and early 20th century Paris. It then moves to an equally opulent life in Vienna - until the advent of the World Wars when being rich and more particularly Jewish did not make for easy living. The very survival of the netsuke collection is extraordinarily remarkable.

The Hare With Amber Eyes was the winner of the Costa Biography Award in 2010 and the author was named New Writer of the Year. One critic described the book thus: "Part treasure hunt, part family saga, Edmund de Waal's richly original memoir spans nearly two centuries ... Combines all the charm of a personal memoir with the romance of world history."

Ian Pullar

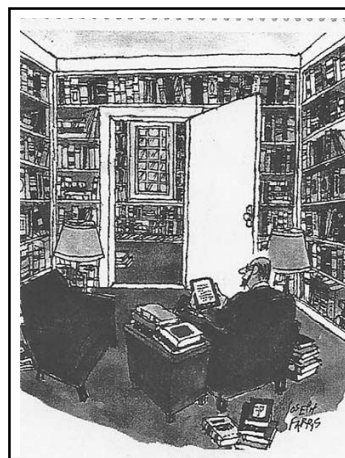
Credits

My thanks are once again due to Helen and Jean; to the contributors; to Olga Kakourakis who printed it; to Ann Liekens (DNRM), Rebecca Wall (SunWater) and Jennifer Lawrence (DEWS) who made it available to departmental staff; and to Jon Henry who placed it on our website – www.waterysauces.org.au.

An Utterly Impartial History of Britain or 2,000 Years of Upper Class Idiots in Charge by John O'Farrell was a book I found very hard to put down. Apart from being laugh-out-loud funny, it gives a remarkably comprehensive history of Britain, complete with numerous Quite Interesting facts. The narrative covers the full period, from prehistory to modern times. While the author's biases are obvious - for example, he is no fan of Margaret Thatcher - he argues cogently that the modern Britain evolved despite, as well as because of, its leaders.

Also recommended is *The Scent of Death* by Andrew Taylor. The setting is New York during what became known as the War of American Independence. New York itself was a loyalist city (ie loyal to England) but it was surrounded by the Debatable Lands. The protagonist, a London based clerk sent to the colony to report to the British government and to assess compensation claims, is far too close to a number of deaths, the cause of which he attempts to determine. Although this is a thriller - the author's normal genre - one of Taylor's objectives was to portray the reality of the conflict with particular reference to the conditions of the loyalists who remain overlooked by history. As the author points out in his epilogue, England deserved to lose the War. In fact, it was probably in its interests that it did.

Ian Pullar



Seasons Greetings to all our members and their families

Office Bearers

President	Geoff Eades	6 Gleason St MCDOWALL 4053	33530629	geades@ozemail.com.au
Past Pres	Hein van der Heide	18 Bamburgh St CARINDALE 4152	33952084	hv.vanderheide@bigpond.com
Vice Pres	Brian Shannon	14 Trebonne St THE GAP 4061	33002823	bbj@bigpond.net.au
Secretary	Peter Jones	PO Box 297 PADDINGTON 4064		secretary@waterysauces.org.au
Treasurer	Ross Stewart	37 Edith Street SUNNYBANK 4109	33456973	rstewart@bigpond.net.au
Executive	Terry Loos	7 Codford Pl CHAPEL HILL 4069	33788656	tloos@bigpond.net.au
	Pat McCourt	22 Greenaway St LAWNTON 4501	32857028	patrick.roslyn@bigpond.com
Auditor	Ray Sutherland			
Editor	Ian Pullar	21 Lansdowne Way CHUWAR 4306	32814437	hpullar@bigpond.net.au
WebMaster	Jon Henry			webmaster@waterysauces.org.au