



WATERY SAUCES OLDIES AND BOLDIES

Newsletter No 74

July 2014

NEWSLETTER OF THE WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Steady as She Goes

The Annual General Meeting was duly held on 24 April. Attendance was down this year with only around 19 turning up. This may have been in part attributable to the proximity of Anzac Day and Easter with the prospect of a long break.

Among the attendees were our co-patrons, Peter Boettcher from SunWater and Dan Hunt from the Department of Energy and Water Supply. Not only were they both generous enough to give of their time, they provided very informative addresses on the activities of their respective agencies. These addresses were summarised by Secretary Peter Jones and can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

Elections were held, resulting in no change as the outgoing committee was re-elected. A proposed amendment to the Constitution to allow for the appointment by the Committee of a Webmaster (as well as a Newsletter editor) was carried. So at its first subsequent meeting the Committee gave due consideration to these appointments and honoured Jon Henry and Ian Pullar as their selections.

From the Editor's Chair

Over the next bit of time the world will be holding events to mark the commencement of World War I, or the Great War, as it is also known. This war was billed as "the war to end all wars" yet, in the last 100 years, there has not been one day where there has not been armed conflict somewhere in the world.

Lest we forget.

Very recently, the world remembered the D-Day landings which occurred 70 years ago - on 6 June 1944. This was also a personally memorable date for your editor who was born on that exact date.

Until next time, au reservoir.

Ian Pullar, Editor

P.S. Those of us with Scottish blood in our veins remembered in June the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn when Robert the Bruce defeated "Proud Edward's army" as the Scots of today sing on sporting occasions.

The full list of Office Bearers can be found, as usual, on the back page.

Some discussion was held on the possibility of moving towards making greater use of emails instead of snail mail in future as our means of communication. It was agreed that as more of our members move into the electronic age, this will happen in order to reduce the cost of postage and paper and the labour required to print, collate and envelope our missives. However, mail-outs will continue for some time yet.

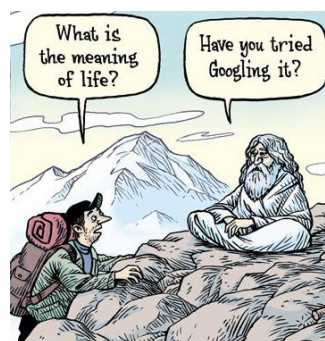
The minutes of the meeting can be found on our website.

The meeting was followed, as usual, by lunch and convivial conversation. These occasions are always pleasant and enjoyed by those who come along.

Program for the Year Ahead

At its first meeting, the incoming Committee agreed on the following program for the year:

- 19 June 2014 - Midyear lunch at COTAH (already held)
- 9 August 2014 - Bowls Day at Aspley Bowls Club
- 18 September 2014 - visit to QIMR Berghofer
- October 2014 (date TBA) - Technical presentation on 30 year plan or Flood Studies
- November 2014 (date TBA) - Christmas luncheon at COTAH
- February 2015 (date TBA) - informal lunch at Club Central
- March 2015 - Possible visit to Hinze Dam
- April 2015 (date TBA) - AGM at Club Central



I need copy for the next newsletter. PLEASE. - Ed.

Out and About

WRRRA's mid-year lunch at COTAH on 19 June was highly successful, even though the attendance of 28 was a little below average. But the food was excellent and the company, of course, beyond compare. There were no departmental representatives on this occasion, but the highlight was again Terry's Trivia some of which, for those of you who couldn't make it, appears on page 11.

Norm and Lindsay White had booked to come, but at the last minute Norm was not well enough. We certainly hope he is on the mend.

Among the attendees were Bruce Pearce who, having reached Joe Hockey's preferred retirement age, is on pre-retirement leave before finally pulling the pin in January. Bruce Edwards was due to finish up that week.

Ken Watson has reported that on 24 June, there was an item on Channel 9 about the importance of dialing 000 if someone has signs of a heart attack. A recently retired 65 year old named Frank van Schagen experienced chest pains and his wife dialed an ambulance through 000. Luckily she did, because Frank's heart stopped in the ambulance but the paramedics managed to revive him. Frank is now home again and telling the tale. Best wishes Frank.

I had an e-mail from Trevor Fiedler - remember him? His daughter was buying a house in Kordick Street, Carina and the vendor was Elizabeth Credlin. Because Trevor had only ever known one man of that name - Bernie - he googled it and found that the Water Resources Retirees Association existed, although this was news to him. It was good to hear from Trevor after all these years.

I was in Toowoomba last year attending the performance of my prize-winning play when a member of the audience made himself known to me - Trevor Fuelling. It's even longer since I saw him.

Another correspondent was Jeanette Loxton, granddaughter of George Clewett and a third generation civil engineer herself. Her father, Murray Clewett, was my contemporary and he passed away 14 years ago. Jeanette was seeking a copy of my People's History. She reported that George's widow Beth (now in her nineties) still lives on the property mentioned in the book. Both Jeanette (with her husband Toby who is a hydrologist) and her brother John live on either side.

A Long Retirement

Greg Long recently retired from NRM after a long career. He joined the Commission in January 1972 as a



Leon Leach and Dave Schmiede with Greg Long at his retirement function

cadet hydrographer. He worked his way up the hydrography ranks, becoming Supervising Hydrographer in 1993. In 1997 he moved into resource management, progressing through Principal Policy Officer to Director Water Accounting (later redesignated Water Monitoring and Reporting). He received an Australia Day Award in 2011 for management of the state's ground and surface water quantity and quality, as well as outstanding commitment during the 2011 floods.

We wish him a Long and happy retirement.

Ted Dunlop was good enough to send me some memorabilia from the collection of his brother Bob, who (for those who came in later) was the Commission's famous geologist. The material included brochures etc from the Dawson and Tinaroo projects, a copy of *Splash* of 1953, an article on brewing beer by Ernie Melville from an *Aquarius* and several newspaper clippings. There were also two letters of appointment - one in 1956 increasing his salary above the award rate to £1342 per annum, and the other in June 1957 promoting him to Engineering Geologist Division II at the rate of £1366.10.0. I also have one of Bob's (in)famous diaries written in his very small writing, but Ted notes "the typing pool were not disinterested in the tall quiet bachelor." Thanks, Ted.

Very sadly, we have to report three more deaths.

Cornelis (Kees) Kalf passed away on 27 April. Kees was a water officer in many parts of the Irrigation system but for a long time in the Mutchilba area of the Tinaroo to Dimbulah system. He lived most of his life in Walkamin (between Mareeba and Atherton) but more recently was in the Herberton Home just to the West of Atherton for some time.

Fran Kennedy, wife of Ken, passed away peacefully on 19 May following complications from surgery she had undergone.

Eric Robinson passed away in June. His passing was not entirely unexpected as he had been unwell and had been on dialysis for the best part of 20 years. Eric was a clerk who served in various locations including the Survey Section and Construction.

Our condolences to their families and loved ones.

Field Work Was Never Like This

Jon Henry

Most members will be familiar with the breakwaters extending into the ocean from Yamba and Iluka at the entrance to the Clarence River. Jon Henry gives us some background and recounts a humorous story.

Works to assist shipping at the entrance to the Clarence River were first mooted in 1854. Merion Moriarty, New South Wales Port Master, wrote to the Clarence Heads Pilot, Captain Freeburn, suggesting the construction of a "pier" to shelter ships. Freeburn replied that what would be required was quite beyond the resources at his disposal.

The first design for river training works was done by Edward Moriarty in 1860. Edward Moriarty was Engineer in Chief for Harbours and Rivers and a son of Merion Moriarty. Moriarty's Scheme comprised north and south breakwaters to control the bar and internal rockwalls to stabilise the river channel. At this time, a sand spit extended across the river entrance from the north side leaving a navigable channel on the south side. Moriarty's design included a rockwall around the north spit to keep the channel on the south side. Work began on the south side in 1862 but a spasmodic supply of funds meant that progress only occurred in a piecemeal fashion. By the time construction began on the north side in 1875, most of the north spit had eroded away. At this stage, Moriarty's brother, Merion Moriarty Jnr, was the Resident Engineer. In the absence of the rock protection designed by Moriarty, the erosion of the spit continued. Moriarty eventually had to construct a special remedial rockwall to arrest the recession of the spit and save his partially constructed breakwater. The spit was an essential component of Moriarty's Scheme and, without it, a stable channel could not be maintained. Moriarty's works were blamed for the natural deterioration in conditions at the river entrance and construction was suspended in 1886.

A revised design for river training works was produced by Sir John Coode in 1887. Coode was an English consultant and the most eminent coastal engineer of the time. Coode's Scheme included breakwaters in approximately the same position as those from Moriarty's Scheme. The new south breakwater was an extension of Moriarty's incomplete south breakwater. Coode's Scheme differed from Moriarty's Scheme in that its internal works were designed to keep the channel on the north side. Moriarty pointed out that much larger rocks would be required than those specified by Coode. In 1890, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works decided not to proceed with the breakwaters proposed by Coode. Construction of the

remainder of Coode's Scheme commenced in 1893 and concluded in 1903. The work on the north side included the demolition to low water level, of Moriarty's walls and the reuse of the rock for the new walls.

Without the breakwaters, the bar on the seaward side of the river entrance continued to frustrate shipping. Frequent dredging was required. As soon as dredging ceased, the channel through the bar silted up again. There were periodic calls for the construction of the breakwaters.

Eventually, in 1950, the Clarence Harbour Works Act was passed to authorise construction of the breakwaters. Tidal studies resulted in a slight alteration of the alignment of the north breakwater. The breakwaters of the Harbour Works Act Scheme were completed in 1971. That was 111 years after Moriarty's original design.

There is a further irony to the rubbishing of Moriarty's Scheme. In later years, hydraulic model tests indicated the need for a further restriction in the width of the channel. Moriarty's remedial wall of 1882 was reinstated and supplemented with an extra spur wall. It is known as "Moriarty's Wall."

Jon Henry has been making historical tours for people to read on their mobile phone while visiting the relevant sites. The tours of Yamba and Iluka include inspections of the river training works.

Recently, Jon and a colleague were doing some field work at Iluka when a humorous event occurred. They were accosted by a young bloke of about 10 ten years old. "Are yews looking for old stuff?" asked the young bloke. Jon explained that the rocks they were inspecting were the remains of old rockwalls that had been demolished long ago. Jon's colleague asked the young bloke when he thought the original walls might have been constructed. "About 1975" was the reply. That was exactly 100 years after construction of the original walls actually began. Jon's colleague asked the young bloke how he knew they were looking for old stuff. The kid replied: "Because yews look old."

Readers who are interested in what Jon is doing can scan the following graphical code with the scanning software and camera in their mobile phone. The mobile phone will display the history tour of Yamba.

Thanks Jon for this interesting (and amusing) contribution. Maybe a few others of us look old too. - Ed.



An 89 year old woman was charged with shop lifting a can of peaches in Cincinnati. The judge asked why she had stolen it and she replied that she was hungry. The judge asked how many peaches were in the can and she replied 6. The judge said, "Then I will give you 6 days in jail."

Before the judge could actually pronounce the punishment, the woman's husband spoke up and asked if he could say something on his wife's behalf. The judge said, "What is it?" The husband said, "She also stole a can of peas."

Sent by Dave Morwood.

A Decent Holiday (Part 5)

by Patrick McCourt

We really enjoyed our time in Germany in places like Mannheim and Heidelberg, the Black Forest, and a cruise up the Rhine River. Germany seemed to be such a neat and well ordered country, and the villages and towns were quite picturesque. I guess that, like everyone else who's cruised up the Rhine, we were taken with the sight of castles which were impossibly perched on small plateaus of rock peering up and down the river for possible enemies. Of course, the people in the castles these days are only anxiously awaiting another horde of Australians and worrying whether there's enough beer in the cellars. Vineyards on extremely steep slopes had us wondering how the grapes were harvested.

And then there was the *lorelei*. Now, I don't know how many of the sexagenarians like myself who seem to make the membership of our august Association can remember this, but I can clearly recall people when I was young naming their homes *Lorelei*, particularly holiday homes near the beach. Of course, I had no idea what the name meant then, and it wasn't even the answer to a clue in crosswords then either. But I've now seen the *lorelei* perched on her rock in the Rhine River. However, the captain of our cruise boat seemed to be immune to the lady's charms, and he didn't pay any attention to her alluring song which I'm almost sure that I could hear.

Our next country to visit was Switzerland, and we were in Lucerne for something over two days, and a prettier place you've never seen. There were many highlights in and around this city, and one of them was a visit to Mount Pilatus which hulks protectively over the city. We were lucky to have perfect weather during our two hours on the mountain where we romped in the snow. We spent several hours strolling around the city and ended up walking along the old city walls before repairing to a restaurant beside the lake.

We went to a dinner and a show where I was encouraged onto the stage to try to blow an alpine horn. The technique is quite similar to that required for playing a didgeridoo which I can play a little, and I was able to get a good sound out of the horn much to the surprise of the Swiss entertainers and the Americans in our tour party.

We had enjoyed Switzerland very much, but we were quite excited about staying in Paris for a while. We spent two days in Paris as part of our coach tour, and another week by ourselves. We'd been warned that Parisians may be somewhat reluctant to speak English, and we found this to be the case. On the other hand, we found an excellent standard of English particularly in Germany and Switzerland, but it was also available to a slightly lesser extent in Holland. We were just able to muddle our way through with my school standard French learned many years ago, but it wasn't easy. Nevertheless, we did enjoy our time in Paris.

We stayed for most of the time in a small hotel in the 16th Arrondissement in the Trocadero district. We found that this was brilliantly located for tourists because it is very close to the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe. The area was quiet and safe, and well serviced with restaurants, a Post Office, a convenience shop, Metro stations, a self service laundry, and even a very good hair dresser for Ros.

We did all the usual things that tourists do in the City of Lights like a cruise on the Seine River; visits to Notre-Dame of Paris and the basilica of Sacre-Coeur; going up the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe; strolling through the Bois de Boulogne; attending a show at the Moulin Rouge; parading down the Champs Elysees pretending we were locals; and seeing if Mona Lisa's eyes do really follow you around the Louvre. While all this was enjoyable and interesting, we decided to get out of Paris for a day and visit the Palace of Versailles and Monet's garden. But how to do this?

We finally settled on a minivan company which was recommended by the Manager of our hotel. This wasn't cheap, but it proved to be a great choice. The driver leapt out of the minivan to announce that he was "Stan the Man". Oh no, I groaned, this was just what we needed. Stan was fantastic. He obviously spoke French, but he also had good Spanish and Italian, and his English was excellent. We spent half the day at the Palace of Versailles which was probably not enough, but we were there on a public holiday as it turned out and the place was packed up to the ornate baroque ceilings by an estimated 50 000 people. It wasn't so bad out in the grounds and we were able to see quite a lot there even though rain was threatening.

Then it was time for lunch at the *Le Moulin de Fourges* (The Water Mill for the Forge) which proved to be a picture post card restaurant with excellent food and service. Stan had some trouble dragging us all back to the minivan, but we had to go off to Giverny to see Claude Monet's garden.

The garden was in magnificent condition and it was a joy to visit. The famous *Pont Japonais* was in very good condition and was framed overhead by wisteria. There was an incredible variety of flowers all of which seemed to be in full bloom. The house that Monet lived in has been well preserved and it's much as it was when he lived there. Monet also lived in another house quite some distance from Giverny, and "Stan the Man" showed it to us later as we passed by. There is also a very good shop attached to the house and we bought some prints by Monet there at quite reasonable prices. The village of Giverny was well worth a walk around afterwards as well, and we visited an exhibition by Maurice Denis at the American Gallery.



A Decent Holiday (cont)

It was time to leave the City of Lights and Europe, and it was with some sadness that we trundled out to Charles de Gaulle airport to begin the journey home. The airport was the worst presented that we saw in all our travels. The air conditioning was just about non-existent; almost none of the shops were open; and the food court was limited in the choice and quality of food. We had planned to spend our last euros here and we spent almost nothing. Perhaps the facility was in some stage of refurbishment. We have excellent memories of France and Paris, but this busy airport isn't one of them.

We landed in Dubai again in the middle of the night for a few hours. We couldn't believe how busy the airport was during these early morning hours, and there was an enormous press of people. All the shops were open and we passed a pleasant couple of hours checking out what was on offer and making some last purchases. I'd heard about coin operated machines in the airport which sold small bars of pure gold but, much to my chagrin, I couldn't find them. Perhaps the streets are paved with gold instead.

We had wanted to break the air flight back home somewhere just as we had in Dubai on the way to England. Flying non-stop for about 23 hours isn't something to be enjoyed by older people like us. Hong Kong seemed to be a good destination as we had been there four years ago and we had enjoyed our time there very much. However, we hadn't been to Singapore before, and so that's where we decided to visit and rest up for a while. I really didn't know much about Singapore although Kipling's jingoistic views were intriguing.

*Hail, Mother! East and West must seek my aid
Ere the spent hull may dare the ports afar
The second doorway of the wide world's trade
Is mine to loose or bar.*

I don't know about shipping and trade, and I have no idea which was the first doorway, but another visit to the Orient excited us. We had arranged for a tour of the city area before leaving home, and we found this to be a mixture of quite good and somewhat ordinary. We'd used the same tour company in Hong Kong and we had been delighted with that tour. We were a little disappointed with the Singapore tour for a number of

reasons. However, the botanic gardens was an absolute highlight and was well worth the visit. We wandered around the well preserved Raffles Hotel and thought of colonial times. Chinatown was a lot of fun and we bargained furiously. We tried one of the many restaurants along the river one night and were greatly disappointed by the extraordinarily aggressive touting; the small portions on the plates; and the extraordinary expense. However, we found Singapore to be an exceptionally clean, safe, and well presented city, and we're happy to be able to say we were there.

One of the things that surprised us a little was the lack of good English in our hotel, and this hotel was of a high standard. It's true that some of the problems with English were due to accent and pronunciation in some cases, but the lack of English within some parts of our hotel was something that we found surprising. On the other hand, the standard of English and service which we encountered in places such as a 7 to 11 shop and Robinsons emporium was very good indeed. In fact, we bought quite a few things in Robinsons and were very happy with the assistance and advice given by all the staff we dealt with.

The funny thing was that I had left Australia determined to buy a new watch which I needed quite badly. I was confident that I could find what I wanted in London, Paris, Lucerne, or Dubai. But what I saw was either not what I wanted, or horrendously expensive. I was in a mild state of panic by the time we reached Singapore. I'd spent seven weeks on Toad's road and I was running out of time. (Yeah, I know. Bad pun). However, the staff in Robinsons finally found just the watch that I'd spent so much time (Strewth! I've done it again) looking for.

While we had really enjoyed our time overseas, we were now happy to turn out thoughts to home. We hadn't taken a single day off for seven weeks, and constant touring had taken its toll at last. And so it was that we found ourselves touching down at Brisbane airport near the end of May having enjoyed the holiday of a lifetime.

People have asked us where we will go to next. Well, there's always that foreign place called Melbourne.

And that, gentle reader, brings us to the end of the tour. Again, many thanks to Pat and Ros for providing us with such good vicarious entertainment. - Ed.

A Letter to the Editor 7 April

PREMIER Campbell Newman has cited plans for multiple new dams for Queensland. Was there not a proposal many years ago called The Bradfield Scheme, to pipe water from North Queensland to protect drought-prone areas? It is a simpler and cheaper proposal than dams.

C. Banks West End

I trust the Government has hired this 'expert' - Ed.

From The Courier Mail

Serial pest Peter Hore has left a police officer in hospital after storming a NSW corruption inquiry.

The special constable was bleeding from the head after trying to restrain Hore after he barged into the ICAC hearing room screaming about his "brother" and a death in Newcastle.

The body of Hore's housemate was last week found hog-tied and

half naked at a cricket ground in the city....

Hore was led away in handcuffs.

Notorious serial pest Hore was once a draftsman in IWS. When he got married, he changed his name to Howard because he did not want his wife to be a Hore. He stood for election against Kevin Rudd in 2007 and scored a remarkable number of votes - possibly because he was Howard, PM - Ed.

Driving the Cape (Part 3)

Brian and Joanne Shannon

OKAVANGO DELTA AND VIC FALLS

Exiting South Africa via Jo'burg, we had a moment's embarrassment on the tarmac when Joanne's luggage was isolated, in full-view of a bus-load of boarding passengers only to be told that her bag was "vibrating". Having located the offending toothbrush in full view, we continued on our way to Maun (Mown) in Botswana.

We had booked a three-stop safari in the Okavango Delta on-line but it required us to find the first night's accommodation in Maun. To our surprise, despite three months forewarning, we were unable to find a room in town (which testified to the peak season) but booked in a camp with limited wildlife several kilometres outside. The transfers worked a treat despite our apprehension since communications had been problematic.

On joining our first air transfer to a safari lodge, we breathed a sigh of relief about our soft-pack 60cm luggage. When we realised that bags were to be stowed in the underbelly of a single-engined plane, our efforts to restrict ourselves seemed worthwhile. Not that it solved everything as a honeymooning European couple, who thought that they were travelling business class, had the full kit. Fortunately no air-safety incidents were encountered.

Air-transfers, while essential because of the poor standard roads, provided an opportunity to appreciate the expanse of the swampland. It is unusual geologically as the whole delta has subsided and captured the pre-existing streams of the land. It then floods extensively during the wet and drains only slowly thereafter. Our trip was in the dry season when game drives are most practical.

Our first camp was along-side the Savute stream most notable for its herds of elephants. Not only does the surface water draw the herds but the lodge pumped groundwater which the elephants seemed to prefer to drink. There was a non-stop parade of elephants from before mid-day until well after darkness; perhaps fifty in sight at any one time. Thank heavens for the protective electric fence around the lodge. On the downside, the devastation of the vegetation is almost complete.

As we found everywhere, Botswanans are very hospitable and provided cultural entertainment as well as normal services.

The game drives were fairly hot and dusty affairs and Joanne appreciated a scarf she had bought as head

cover. Conditions were compensated by sundowner refreshments which for us were G&Ts. On arrival back at the lodge we were greeted with cold towels.

Our second stop was at Camp O, one of the oldest established. Here we were treated to a canoe (mojo- a fibreglass replica of a wooden dugout) ride. As we returned to dry land we were greeted by wait staff plus linen service in the water for the obligatory sundowner. The following morning we went for a walk amongst the lions on an isolated island. With a guide front and back and a rifle just in case, we walked freely around three prides of lion who thankfully were not distracted.

A final treat at Camp O was power-boat tour amongst the reed-lined channels. We waited patiently while one elephant and its calf had their fill of reeds and slowly found their way out through a regular passage. At the end of our run we found a pool full of hippos lazing mostly below the surface.

Another 20minute air-lift transported us to Xakanaxa Camp, a recent addition to the Delta Safari group who were our hosts. A highlight here was a leopard lying in wait up a tree. The impala enjoy the fallen flowers of the sausage tree and they circled the leopard closer and closer. Unfortunately, a brash tour guide, late arrived on the scene, spoilt the drama for the patient watchers by trying to barge in.

The very last leg of our African adventure was Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. We were escorted across the border at Kisane where I handed over my remaining pula (Botswana currency) to our guide. To my surprise, Zim no longer supports its own currency and instead uses foreign denominations (even pula). As a result of the final rampant inflation, 1million notes are collectors' items and reproductions are offered as tourist souvenirs.

We stayed at the Kingdom Hotel alongside the historic Falls Hotel but without the view down the gorge. Kingdom supports a casino which was virtually deserted but is otherwise very well appointed. The walk to the river was relatively short and afforded a view of several cable rides across the gorge and bungee jumps. Vic Falls is an adrenalin heaven with helicopter and ultra-light plane rides above the falls and shooting the rapids in the gorge.

The low flow of the river meant that the "smoke that thunders" was not at its most spectacular. Nonetheless, the enduring mist is enough to sustain a small area of rain forest along the rim. One dare-devil stunt (for the young!) involved being escorted to swim in pools right at the lip of the falls; guides would even take happy-snaps looking down into the gorge.

As we departed, we returned to Jo'burg to board a Qantas flight home and were quite looking forward to our first taste of Premium-Economy seats. At the gate, we were side-lined (sigh!) – only to be advised of an upgrade to Business. Bugger! We are still yet to discover Premium-Economy.

Many thanks, Brian and Joanne, for this fascinating account of your safari - Ed.



Addresses to AGM by our Co-Patrons

(summarised by Secretary Peter Jones. Thanks, Peter. - Ed.)

Dan Hunt, D-G, Dept of Energy and Water Supply

The following is a summary of Dan's address:

Dan has held the position of D-G, Dept of Energy and Water Supply for 7 months. He has held various roles in the Queensland Public Service since the 1980s, the most recent being the D-G, Dept of Natural Resources and Mines.

DEWS has a total of about 241 staff, 111 in Energy and 130 in Water Supply.

The State's 30 Year Water Strategy is close to release. It is being reviewed for alignment with The Queensland Plan which foresees 50% of the state population living in the regions.

SEQWater did excellent work in the Wivenhoe and Somerset optimisation studies looking at how the dams could be best operated to minimise downstream flooding. Thousands of flood scenario models for Wivenhoe-Somerset Dams were undertaken. The acceptance that the low-level Brisbane River crossings could now be inundated earlier and the acceptance of increased rural flooding has given much more flexibility in managing flood storage capacity in the lead up to a flood event. An increased flexibility will enable better optimisation of the outcomes for very large flood events.

Not surprisingly, the media picked up on the discussion of the approx. eight dam-sites in SEQ and the option of raising Wivenhoe by 8m. This section represented only a very small part of the overall report.

The means of best using the alternative sources of water that have been constructed in recent years (desalination and recycling plants) is also under consideration. Presently, the policy is that these alternatives should be "turned on" when the storage in the dams falls to 40% capacity.

There were 12 submissions from SEQ on the proposed 'levels of service' strategy - to which SEQWater is responding. This may amend the operating policy for the alternative sources.

DEWS still manages 24 dams and weirs that are 'non-commercial' (and which didn't go over to SunWater). DEWS is looking to call upon the dam management expertise in SunWater to assist in meeting its responsibilities.

The Government policy is that the State won't be building dams anymore. This will be left to the private sector. It poses the question as to how DEWS will maintain an appropriate skills base to meet its responsibilities and to respond to future requirements of Government.

Answers to Terry's Trivia (page 9)

1. (iv) 4000 2. (iv) Padua 3. (i) Emmmental 4. (iii) Arsenal 5. (iii) 350 6. (iii) 161 7. (iv) Hobart
8. (i) George 9. (iv) Machiavelli 10. (iv) 10 million
11. Zero. (USSR boycotted the LA games) 12. (iv) Brian McKenzie 13. (iv) Plato 14. (i) Sao Paulo 15. (ii) Nellie Melba.

Peter Boettcher, CEO, Sunwater

Peter's address is summarised below:

2013 was a tumultuous year for SunWater. It included the significant flood damage to Paradise Dam (and the necessary repairs); it also included the proposed move to Ipswich (this has since been rescinded).

Based on the Commission of Audit's findings, SunWater is proposed to be restructured to align it with the outcomes of that audit. It will divest itself of the ownership of pipelines (subject to government decision post election) and of local irrigation management areas. Its future primary function is expected to be the management of 19 dams and 53 weirs.

The realignment of SunWater's functions, and the changed market conditions as the mining boom slows, necessitates that SunWater rationalises its numbers. Recently there was a reduction of 100 FTEs. The current staff number is 407, however, in future this could drop to as low as 150 if the proposed divestments proceeded.

Dam safety will continue to be a key issue. Eungella Dam review is scheduled for completion in the coming year.

The Ayr office has been closed – but a new office managing CSG field water pipelines has been opened in Chinchilla.

The Woleebee to Glebe Weir pipeline is nearing completion. This has come in \$60M under budget.

Financially, SunWater anticipates showing a \$40 million profit for the year. Next year, its budget is expected to be around \$280 million and will yield a profit of around \$63 million and a payment of dividend and tax equivalents of around \$60 million.

The coming year will see completion of the investigations of Boondooma Dam leading to the preferred solution to address damage which occurred during the 2012/13 wet season. Upgrade of Kinchant Dam will be completed.

The Government has a strong commitment to local management and is being clear on what is and is not the role of Government. SunWater is working to ensure that it is able to respond to future Government decisions on its charter and structure – whatever that decision.

Thank you to our Co-Patrons

The President thanked Dan and Peter for giving us their time and for the openness in their presentations.

A number of (remarkable?) facts

341 is a brilliant number. It has two prime factors, 11 and 31. Numbers with two prime factors of equal length are known as brilliant numbers and are used in cryptography.

It is also the sum of the squares of the divisors of 16 (1, 2, 4, 8, 16).

How on earth did anyone realise this and why would they want to know? - Ed

HEALTH *and beauty*

Our Health authorities are rightly concerned about the effects of binge drinking and over-indulgence in alcohol and are searching for solutions. However, it is imperative that they note the lessons of history and don't go down the path of Prohibition as introduced by the USA.

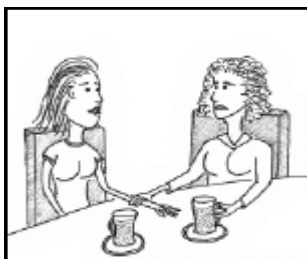
A popular myth has it that President Hoover stoutly defended Prohibition as a "noble experiment". He didn't. He called it "a great social and economic experiment, noble in motive and far-reaching in purpose." Even by the time Hoover made his utterance in 1928, Prohibition was an obvious disaster.

During its period, American wine consumption actually trebled and Californian vineyards expanded from less than 100,000 acres to almost 700,000 acres. Winegrowers discovered that there was nothing illegal about labelling bottles 'WARNING; WILL FERMENT AND TURN INTO WINE' and providing step-by-step instructions for the careless consumer. Sacramental wine, excluded from bans, showed a curious leap in sales, with cynics suggesting that not all of it was ending up in devout stomachs.

Seldom has any law led to greater hypocrisy or been more widely flouted. People not only continued to drink, but in greater numbers than ever. Before Prohibition, New York had 15,000 legal saloons: by the end of Prohibition it had over 30,000 illegal ones. Detroit had no fewer than 20,000 *speakeasies*, as illegal drinking establishments were curiously known. Hardly anyone took the law seriously. In 1930, a journalist testified that he had attended a party in a Detroit roadhouse where he had seen a State Governor, a Chief of Police and four court judges drinking lavishly and enjoying the entertainment of a troupe of young ladies who were dancing the *hootchy-kootchy* without benefit of clothing.

Not only did Prohibition produce large quantities of boot-leg liquor of dubious quality, it produced an upsurge in organised crime which was more immediately injurious to health. Eventually sanity prevailed.

- adapted from *Made in America* by Bill Bryson



When I complained that he just expects me to cook, cook, cook all the time, he said that's not right at all. There's the washing, ironing and cleaning as well.

Exercise those Brain Cells

Mary Anne is 21 years older than her son.

In six years she will be five times as old as him.

Where is the father in this equation?



A Travellers Tale

Viva Verdi

Last year, we had the great pleasure of visiting the Arena in Verona to witness a performance of Giuseppe Verdi's *Aida*. This was the one hundredth consecutive year in which this opera has been performed in this venue.



Here is a story about the great composer.

At the conclusion of the premiere performance of Verdi's twenty-first opera *Un Ballo in Maschera* in Rome on 17 February 1859, the audience rose en masse shouting "Viva Verdi!" But this was not just applause for their beloved composer. The letters VERDI could also stand for Vittorio Emanuele, Re d'Italia. Nationalistic fervour was sweeping the country with the desire to create a united nation of Italy under Victor Emanuel who was then King of Sardinia and to oust the foreign powers that had occupied the lands for so long.

Italy had not been a unified whole since the fall of the Roman Empire. It had sometimes been a mass of frequently warring City-states and had often been occupied by foreign powers – France, Spain, Austria. When Verdi was born in 1813 in Le Roncole, near Parma, his birth was registered in French – Joseph Fortunin François instead of Giuseppe Fortunino Francesco – because the Parma region was controlled by the French. A year later, Russian and Austrian troops moved into the area trying to oust the French. When word came that a band of Russians was about to arrive in Le Roncole, Verdi's mother Luigia fled with him and hid in the bell tower near the inn she and her husband ran. Fortunately they both survived, unlike a number of women who had sought refuge in the church but had been dragged out and raped.

So by 1859 "Viva Verdi" became a two-edged battle cry, a slogan that appeared on walls from one end of the country to the other. It was painted on banners, displayed on buildings and shouted out publicly. How could the Austrian Police prove that the words did more than hail the great composer?

Answer to last Issue's Teaser

Answer: M

There are 13 letters in "Mathematics". If we divide 1 million by 13, there is remainder of 1. Therefore, the millionth letter must be the first of the sequence i.e. M.

Congratulations to Hector Macdonald who had this solved within minutes. - Ed.

How Come?

Continuing on from the Bannockburn issue mentioned on page 1.

For centuries Scottish kings had been crowned at Scone on a sandstone block variously known as the Destiny Stone, the Coronation Stone or the Stone of Scone. The stone was traditionally believed to have been Jacob's pillow; described in the bible as having been the stone on which Jacob laid his head when fleeing Esau's wrath. The story goes that when Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon destroyed the Israelite's Temple, refugees fled to Ireland with the stone. The Irish chieftains used it in their coronations after one married an Israelite princess. Fergus, first King of Scots in Scotland, brought the stone with him and he and his successors were crowned on it.

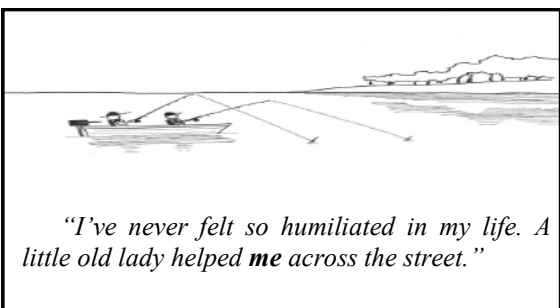
In 1296 Edward I of England, to demonstrate his dominance over the Scots, stole the Stone and took it back to Westminster Abbey where it was built into King Edward's Chair on which all subsequent Monarchs of England and the United Kingdom of Great Britain have been crowned.

In 1950, five Scottish Nationalists stole the stone and managed to get it back to Scotland, but in two pieces after it broke. Coincidentally, Edward I was the 21st grandfather of one of the Nationalists. The stone was discovered at Arbroath where it was in the safe-keeping of the Church of Scotland. Symbolically, in 1996 the stone was returned to Scotland except when it is required in London for a coronation.

But the authenticity of the stone has been questioned. Is this the real thing or a substitute? Even the original stone may be suspicious. Geologists have decided that the red sandstone was quarried quite near Scone and so is not Jacob's Stone. But there is also a possibility that the stone stolen by Edward was not the real deal either, but a substitute made by King Macbeth when he hid the real stone during the troubles of his time.

In the words of a Scottish street song:

*"If ever ye come on a stane wi' a ring
Just sit yoursel' doon and appoint yoursel' king
For there's nane will be able to challenge your claim
That you crowned yoursel' king on the Destiny
Stane."*



A Sign of the Times

On a south-side shop being renovated as a restaurant

Positions Vacant –

Chef, Waitress, Barrister

Nothing like anticipating trouble!

Terry's Trivia

Questions from the 2014 Mid-year luncheon. Answers on page 7.

1. Approx. how many people have stood on the top of Mt Everest?: (i) 200; (ii) 500; (iii) 2000; (iv) 4000;
2. The oldest botanical gardens still in existence are in: (i) Lyon; (ii) Salzburg; (iii) Vienna; (iv) Padua; (v) Brno
3. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's favourite cheese is: (i) Emmental; (ii) Blue; (iii) Colby (iv) Brie; (v) Bra.
4. The 2014 FA Cup was won by: (i) Man United; (ii) Man. City; (iii) Arsenal; (iv) Hull; (v) Wigan.
5. Approx. how high is Uluru?: (i) 150m; (ii) 250m; (iii) 350m; (iv) 450m; (v) 550m
6. How many laps is the V8 Supercars Bathurst 1000?: (i) 61; (ii) 121; (iii) 161; (iv) 181; (v) 221.
7. Which is Australia's second oldest city?: (i) Bathurst; (ii) Ballarat; (iii) Brisbane; (iv) Hobart; (v) Melbourne.
8. What was Don Bradman's middle name?: (i) George; (ii) Guthrie; (iii) Gerard; (iv) Gerald; (v) Geronimo.
9. Who was the first to argue that good government needed conflicting views?: (i) Socrates 400BC; (ii) Confucius 500BC (iii) Descartes 1600; (iv) Machiavelli 1500; (v) Voltaire 1750;
10. The estimated number of galaxies in the universe is of the order of?: (i) 1000; (ii) 100,000; (iii) one million; (iv) ten million; (v) ten billion.
11. How many medals did Russia win at the 1984 LA Olympics?
12. Who was the NZ batsman who faced the underarm delivery? (i) Russell Crowe; (ii) Lance Cairns; (iii) Dayle Hadlee; (iv) Brian McKenzie; (v) Paul Bracewell.
13. Who said, "It was a wise man who invented beer"?: (i) Ernest Hemingway; (ii) Marcel Proust; (iv) Plato; (v) Fidel Castro; (v) Henry the 8th.
14. The most populous city in the S. Hemisphere is: (i) Sao Paulo; (ii) Buenos Aires; (iii) Rio; (iv) Jakarta. (v) Kinshasa; (vi) Lima; (vii) Santiago; (viii) Sydney; (ix) Melbourne; (x) Johannesburg.
15. Who is on the front of the current issue of the \$100 note?: (i) Patrick White; (ii) Dame Nellie Melba; (iii) Peter Cosgrove; (iv) Shane Warne; (v) Dawn Fraser.

A Contemporary Troglodyte

I have a mate who's up to date
With every i-device he's shown.
This techno friend can't comprehend
The strangest thing he's ever known –
He can't conceive or quite believe
I do not need a mobile phone.

Book Club

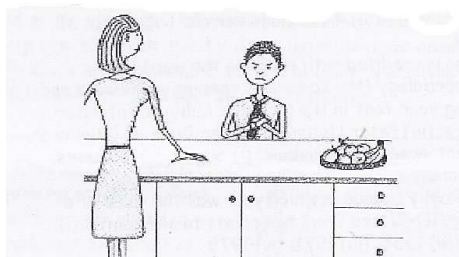
Paris, by Edward Rutherfurd, is a big, sprawling historical saga (at 800 pages in a large format volume, it is certainly on the big side for reading in bed). Not surprisingly, it is set in Paris and covers events in the lives of a number of interwoven families from the reign of Sainte Louis (13th century) through to just after World War II.

The ongoing story is engrossing and this reader was keen to learn what would happen next. But the historical context was at least as fascinating for me. It covered such epic events as the expulsion of the Jews, the religious persecutions of many groups of protestants such as the Cathars and the Huguenots (with Henri of Navarre's conversion because "Paris is worth a mass"), the reign of the "Sun King" Louis XIV, the French Revolution, the construction of the Eiffel Tower, la Belle Epoque and two World Wars.

I thoroughly enjoyed it – but then I love historical fiction.

Rutherfurd is also the author of a number of other similar epics including *London* (which I particularly enjoyed), *Sarum*, *Dublin: Foundation*, *Ireland: Awakening* and *Russka*.

Ian Pullar



"It's not my fault your favourite vase got broken. It was an accident."

"Kids! Why did I ever have a kid?"

*"Dad says **that** was an accident."*

The Rosie Project is a first novel by Melbourne writer Graeme Simsion. As first sentences go, "I may have found a solution to the Wife Problem" has possibilities as an instant classic. The narrator, professor of genetics Don Tillman (39, tall, intelligent and employed: "Logically I should be attractive to a wide range of women"), is an undiagnosed Asperger's type who Simsion uses to explore how a grown man might approach a romantic relationship. Friendships are rare enough: Don has a total of two – his colleague at a Melbourne university, Gene, and Gene's psychologist wife, Claudia (the pair have an open relationship, which allows Gene to pursue his ambition of sleeping with a woman from every country in the world). Gene and Claudia try to help Don find love but "unfortunately their approach was based on the traditional dating paradigm, which I had previously abandoned on the basis that the probability of success did not justify the effort and negative experiences". And thus *The Wife Project* is born.

To choose a suitable wife, Don designs a detailed questionnaire that filters out unpromising candidates: women who are unpunctual, overweight, vegetarian; who drink or smoke or have STDs. And then he meets Rosie, who fails on almost every score (except BMI and, one hopes, the STD criterion). Although, on past form, it looks like there is no chance of love blossoming (viz. Don rejecting the advances of a sexy French nymphomaniac on the grounds of her drinking and smoking), when Rosie enlists Don's genetic expertise to help find her natural father, otherwise known as *The Father Project*, the two are thrown into an entertaining series of comic set pieces and occasionally life-threatening situations.

I found this book hilarious and very rewarding.

And the good news is that a sequel will be published soon.

Ian Pullar

As an acknowledgement of the times, distribution of the WRRR newsletter will increasingly be done electronically with a corresponding reduction in the number of hard copies mailed out. However, we will do our best to ensure that all our members still have access to it. For those with internet access, newsletters, including all past editions, can be found at www.waterysauces.org.au.

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	hf.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	0458056768	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