Watery Sauces Oldies and Boldies

Newsletter No 75 **November 2014**

Newsletter of the Water Resources Retirees Association

On the Go

This has been a busy period for members of WRRA, as you will observe if you read on.

In August, our annual Bowls Day was held at Aspley, as reported by our President on page 2.

Fifteen of our members attended a tour of QIMR Berghofer facilities at Herston in September this year. The institute carries out research in three main areas: cancer, infectious diseases and mental health. They have benefited from generous donations by philanthropists Chuck Feeney and Clive Berghofer and now operate out of ultra-modern facilities at Herston. There are 53 laboratories in all and these depend on research grants and donations from the public for their continued existence.

After a presentation that included a brief introduction to genetics and the causes of diseases we toured one of the research laboratories. Our host was researcher Oscar and his specialty is T-cells, or more particularly, killer T-cells. T-cells are white blood cells that circulate around our bodies, scanning for cellular abnormalities and infections. Killer T-cells hunt down and destroy those cells that have been infected by germs or are cancerous. Oscar is researching ways to develop killer T-cells that target particular types of cancer in the patient's body. Oscar explained that their research requires them to sort body cells into one or more types. They do this using a FACS (Fluorescence- Activated Cell Sorter) machine. This has the ability to remove cells from a cell mix by electrostatically charging them and doing this in a very short time. As an example, it could separate one cell from a 57,000 cell mix in two seconds. The cost of one of these machines ranges from $100,000 to $2 million. At the end of our tour we presented the Institute with a donation of $600.

President Geoff Eades making our donation to the Institute.

In October we were treated to a most interesting presentation on the studies that have been conducted to determine the optimum procedures for the operation of Wivenhoe and Somerset dams during major flood events. A fuller account of the presentation by Michael Raymond can be read on page 9. Unfortunately only about twenty people turned up, but those who did could not fail to be impressed by the work – and the presentation. Naturally, most stayed for a convivial lunch.

And another convivial lunch – the normal end-of-year event was held at COTAH in November. More details on page 2.

From the Editor's Chair

The production of this, my 34th Newsletter, has been a sobering experience. I have now equalled Bernie Credlin's output. Stan Ross edited the first six and then Bernie compiled editions 7 to 41 inclusive. "But," you exclaim, "that makes 35 editions." And so it would appear. But there was no Edition 26. A notation in Bernie's distinctive handwriting on my printed copy of Edition 27 reads "Should be No. 26."

The second sobering realisation is that when I was invited to join the Management Committee in 2003, I was the youngest member. And now I am the oldest!

I guess time has a habit of passing.

Until next time, au reservoir.

Ian Pullar, Editor

Half full, or half empty?

Life's too short for all that psychology stuff!

AND THE VERY BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS FOR CHRISTMAS AND 2015.

Out and About

Annual Bowls Day

This year's annual bowls day on 8 August attracted twelve bowlers and eighteen for lunch at our traditional venue, the Aspley Bowls Club. Sadly, this was to be the last time for Norm White who passed away in September. Norm and the Aspley Bowls Club have been hosting this event for as long as I have been a member of the Association. In the early days Norm and wife Lindsay did much of the lunch preparation themselves. This only ceased when Norm became disabled a few years ago. Although numbers have dwindled slightly in recent years, I always found the event to be most enjoyable and a good opportunity to catch up with older members. On behalf of the Association I would like to pay tribute to Norm's efforts over the years and to thank Lindsay for her involvement.

Geoff Eades

Christmas Luncheon

November 27 saw a very pleasing attendance of 54 guests (including a goodly number of ladies) at lunch at COTAH. It was good to catch up with several new members as well as many of the "stayers" and, as usual, a good time was had by all.

Among the participants were our co-patrons, Peter Boettcher of SunWater and Dan Hunt of DEWS. Not only did they grace our gathering with their presence, they both addressed us on the changes and activities in the respective organisations. The last couple of years have been a time of major change, but both CEOs believe the organisations are settling down with a clear sense of purpose. We are very grateful to these gentlemen for their continued support.

Once again we were required to exercise our brains and collective memories to answer Terry Loos's Trivia, some of which can be found on page 11 for those who were unable to attend and enjoy our festivities.

Travelling About

As usual, many of our members have been jetting off away from home.

Lee and Denise Rogers have been to South America (see the article on page 7). Peter and Dianne Jones did Spain and Italy (see page 5). Trevor and Sue Ryan also travelled in Europe. Their tales will commence in the next edition of this publication. Ian and Helen Pullar took themselves off to Kangaroo Island and Adelaide in June-July and then had a most enjoyable coach tour from Darwin to Perth in August-September. Some of the tales they collected can be found on page 8.

Warren Shallcross is travelling across The Ditch, having accepted a two year contract to manage hydrologic data in New Zealand, no doubt drawing upon his extensive experience here.

Brownie

Recently, Kevin Brown celebrated his 80th birthday. When members were notified of this, several responded with treasured memories of the "character". The following is an amalgam of notes from Russ Robson and Dave Dempster.

"Brownie" as he was universally known was a driller operating percussion plants with the IWSC and WRC, for investigation/observation bores in areas including Biloela, Monto and Condamine. He started as an offsider to Oscar Blikharski in the Charleville area and was operating a drill rig and driving trucks etc before he passed a driving test. He would drive into town and park the truck close to the police station, do the weekly shopping and drive back to the drill site – all with no driving licence and an unregistered vehicle.

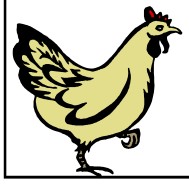
Brownie was a unique and entertaining character with a healthy disrespect for authority and always with a story to tell. He was well known as something of a bower bird with an eye for a bargain. He also was one of very few of the IWSC drilling fraternity (if indeed there were any others) whose partner (Audrey Black before she and Brownie were hitched) lived pretty much full time with him in the site caravan. The story goes that Audrey – "Aud" to everyone – was a better driller's offsider and truck driver than most, (she was known to be on the payroll as such under an alias). Most of all she had unsurpassed ability to keep Brownie in line.

When the WRC drilling program wound down, he was attached permanently to the Toowoomba office as a Foreman tasked with maintaining and manually measuring observation bores in the Lockyer Valley and the SW Region. Later, he was re-assigned to Gatton office to continue that role in the Lockyer and SE Region. The department had four chart recorders in the Lockyer Valley that needed changing every 31 days. Brownie would be the first to volunteer for the job; he would call it the 'vegie run'. On the way he would call at the first farmer who grew spuds, take a quantity and drive on to the next farmer who grew lettuce, take some lettuce and give him some spuds, etc, and do similar on the rounds through the Valley with the last call being the first spud farmer who would be given a range of vegies. Of course Brownie would skim some of each off for himself, in between changing those four chart recorders, and take some back for his mates.

Congratulations to Brownie on reaching this milestone and thanks for his efforts and the memories.

Remembrance

Westside News of 5 November included a photograph of Roy McArthur who, together with his brother and two sisters, laid poppies on the grave of their father Private John McArthur in Toowong Cemetery as part of the commemoration of Armistice Day 2015.



All I ask is the right to cross the road without this interminable analysis of a girl's motives!

Australian Dictionary of Biography

I was recently contacted by one John Moreman who has been given the task of preparing an entry for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* about Harry Wright who, as most of you would know, flew with Bomber Command (Pathfinders) during WWII. In his research, John had found that a certain Phil Sternes had posted information about Harry on a website and hoped I could put him in touch with Phil.

This having been done, Phil has responded with a wealth of information and more pointers. We look forward to seeing the biography in due course. In the meantime, Phil brought me up to date on his present condition as follows:

'Things are travelling well up here in Toowoomba with my formal retirement set down for 5 December after two years of various types of leave. Certainly don't miss struggling out of bed anymore on cold Toowoomba mornings. Ditto for Sue who took redundancy from USQ at the end of last year. Only problem now is who gets first dibs on the crossword each morning.

'We're about to start renovations again after the winter hibernation if I can get the builder here and then head down to Adelaide to see number one son, Peter who is working for the Australian Wine Research Institute as a bioinformatician (whatever that is). Had hoped that some free wine samples would turn up on the doorstop, however no luck so far and probably never. Number two son, David, still lives at home and works just around the corner at USQ (and why wouldn't he? – just like working on one of our construction sites in the old days). He's just been to Japan – two typhoons, one volcanic eruption but no earthquake therefore no "Japan Bingo" as they say. Came home with a small car's worth of camera lens in his backpack.'

Phil also provided me with his memories of Harry Wright's notable retirement farewell which I will share with you in the next edition.

Diamond Wedding

Theo and Beryl Ledwy celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 27th November. They travelled from their home in Zilzie to their son's home in Clermont to be joined by family members for the special occasion. Their wedding occurred at Atherton in 1954 when Theo was employed on construction work at Tinaroo Dam.

This information was provided by Lorena Pocock whose father Theo Ledwy worked for the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission for many years in Construction Branch. He was involved in numerous projects around the state and eventually retired as a Works Supervisor at Emerald in 1987. Congratulations to Theo and Beryl - **Ed.**

The Pruner

Peter Jones sent this as a classic example of problem solving in total defiance of Workplace Health and Safety considerations.

Travel Tips

Ross Stewart sent a number of tips for potential travelers to assist with preparing itineraries. Here are some.

GOEURO.COM

Start-to-end travel options across Europe can be searched for on this German-based site. Users type in the name of their city, town or village and their destination, and are presented with a variety of modes of transport, from public buses to planes.

ROME2RIO.COM

The Australia-based site generates door-to-door travel itineraries for air, train, coach, ferry and car, to and from any location in the world. It currently syncs with more than 360 train companies, 3,300 bus firms, 530 ferry operators and 670 airlines.

ROUTERANK.COM

This search engine, launched in 2006, integrates point-to-point air, rail and road options, and is designed specifically for business travellers. The search engine returns trip plans based on the traveller's schedule, and their desire to work or sleep while en route.

Male or Female?

Are non-living objects actually either male or female? Here are some examples:

Freezer Bags: They are male, because they hold everything in but you can see right through them.

Photocopiers: Female; once turned off it takes a while to warm them up again. They are an effective reproductive device if the right buttons are pushed but can also wreak havoc if you push the wrong buttons.

Tyres: Male, because they go bald easily and are often over inflated.

Web Pages: Female; they're constantly being looked at and frequently getting hit on.

Trains: Definitely male. Because they always use the same old lines for picking up people.

Egg Timers: Female. Because over time all the weight shifts to the bottom.

Hammers: Male; in the last 5000 years they've hardly changed and are occasionally handy to have around.

Remote Control: Female. Ha! You probably thought it would be male, but consider this: It easily gives a man pleasure, he'd be lost without it, and while he doesn't always know which buttons to push, he just keeps trying.

- *submitted by that reliable correspondent Marilyn Caton. Thanks, Marilyn* - **Ed.**

Vale Norman John White 25-3-1938 – 7-9-2014

Norman John White was born in East Brisbane on 25th March 1938 and grew up in the family home in Vulture Street. He was always a bright student, so at East Brisbane State School, he skipped two grades and ended up in his older sister Alison's class, which must have caused a stir! He then went on to Brisbane State High School, but left in Year 11 due to family commitments, and secured a job as a clerk with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission. Not content to sit on his laurels, he went to night school and in 1958 graduated with a certificate in Engineering Drafting, becoming the youngest qualified draftsman in the IWS to date.

Not long after, at Police Youth Club dances, Norm met a lovely young woman named Lindsay and the romance blossomed. They were married in October 1960. Like most young couples, they followed the Aussie dream and built a house at Mt Gravatt – then out in the sticks – where he began his career as a home handyman. He was always busy; but found time for weekend bivouacs in Moreton Bay with the crew from the Water Transport unit of the Army Reserve. Daughters Janelle and Alison were born in 1963 and 1964.

In February 1966, he was transferred to the Rockhampton office. Country life suited him well and before long, being the social person that he was, he was organising BBQs and card nights down at the depot for all the IWSC staff. He also joined the Central Qld army reserve. In 1968, Leanne was born, followed by Ian in September 1971.

He quickly became involved in the local community. He was the president of the Frenchville State School P&C for several years, even being voted in when he deliberately didn't go to the AGM! He also was the announcer for the Frenchville Swimming Club each week and was snaffled by the Central Qld Swimming Assoc to do the same at regional swimming carnivals. He managed Ian's soccer team and when not doing all those things, you could find him down at the SES headquarters, where he was a founding member of the Rockhampton SES. He served as local controller of the SES for 10 years. He also became a keen golfer.

After 19 years in Rockhampton, he was transferred back to Brisbane and the family moved to Bracken Ridge. His role at work changed a few times as he was progressively promoted and he ended up being an executive officer assisting the Commissioner for Water Resources. One notable project was writing an evacuation plan for Mineral House, which was then copied by several other government departments. In July 1991, he took early retirement and started his round the world travels, with a celebratory trip to New Zealand. In the following years, he and Lindsay travelled widely to America, Europe then around Australia in their caravan. Their last big trip was to Alaska, which was a highlight. He and Lindsay joined the Aspley Bowls Club in 1999. During his time there, Norm served as Chairman of the Board and treasurer as well as being an active committee member for several years. In recent years, he really looked forward to his Tuesday mornings at the club where he helped out with the accounts and caught up with friends.

He was always a proud family man and he and Lindsay celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2010.

Norm's association with Water Resources continued into retirement. He served on the WRRA committee for a number of years including a stint as President. He and Lindsay were regular and loyal attendees at WRRA functions and he took great pleasure in organising the annual WRRA Bowls Day at Aspley.

Thank you for your company and contribution, Norm. We offer our condolences to Lindsay and all the other members of his family.

- Compiled from the Eulogy delivered at Norm's funeral by his daughter, Janelle Rees

Regretfully, we have to report the passing of a number of our colleagues.

Kyle John Waye passed away in August, aged only 52. Kyle was a geologist working with Geoff Eades in several roles. He was suffering from ill health for some time.

John Clowes died in October. John was a Draftsman in Farm Water Supplies for many years. In the latter stages of his career he managed the WaterWise program with distinction.

Mick Sievers also passed away in October. Mick was part of the hydrography team within State Water Projects before moving to Seqwater.

Sandra Hazel died in November, aged 71, after being diagnosed with cancer in May. Sandra was the wife of Col Hazel.

Our condolences to their families and friends.

Travelling with a GPS

Peter Jones

Some time ago, I told you about our driving in Italy, Spain and Portugal in 2011. Well we were back at it again this year, this time through parts of France and Spain.

But having experienced travelling with a GPS on our last trip, we decided it was time to be much more organised this time. Let me say at the outset that GPS technology is one of the greatest boons for travellers in any country, including parts of ours that we visit rarely – no bulky maps, no collection of town maps, just the GPS and one small map to lay out our overall route.

We bought a portable GPS about 6 months before we left this time to get used to it and the way it gave instructions (and just what those instructions meant) – like "keep left", "bear left", "take the next turn left" and a few other variations on these. Just before we left we loaded up the data for Western Europe and played with this for a while to become familiar with how the foreign addresses were inputted.

While I can recommend this technology, there are a few traps for the unwary – and so long as you don't lose your sense of humour or shout at your navigator (usually the other half) they add to your enjoyment and leave a few stories to be told when you get home.

We picked up our car in Nice, plugged in the GPS and entered our destination. First problem – GPS units rely on satellite signals to determine their location, but we were in a basement car park and hence no signal. We had an idea of the direction we were to head so bravely headed off until the GPS could pick up enough satellite signals to determine where it was and start directing us. It took less than 5 minutes and only a few false turns before we were on our way.

On the open road it was great – told us where to go, never swore at us when we took a wrong turn, gave our speed, road speed limit, distance and time remaining to our destination. If we took a wrong turn or if we had to follow a detour, it got us back on course, albeit after telling us a number of times to "make a U-turn where possible" before finally setting a new route.

But beware of new works where the road has been realigned – it gets confused, usually in the first instance by trying to position us on the nearest road, but ultimately giving up until we were back on the old road. All fine except where the new works had repositioned the turn-off we were looking for. We soon learned to use a balance of the GPS and road signs.

The amount of information a GPS holds is amazing – speed limits, which lane to be in to make the next turn, an incredible range of service information (hotels, petrol stations, car parking – just about anything you need and then a few more to boot). Every road and path are shown, but in some cases it does not reflect road surface – on two occasions we had to make a detour as the "street" turned into a set of steps. Drive around for a bit and the GPS will soon put you on a new route.

Entering some of the old towns and villages always produced some new excitement – either the streets became very narrow (almost had to fold the side mirrors in in one case to fit through an arch) or they were narrow enough that the GPS unit could not receive strong enough satellite signals to get a fix on its position. The streets in the old towns turn, change direction and are usually one way (at least the one way streets were usually programmed into the unit). I think that is one of the reasons I loved Turin – its streets were laid out on a rectangular pattern.

The biggest issue was the loss of signal, usually at a critical point in our day's travel. It became habit each night for us to check our destination for the next day on the internet with the help of Mr Google to familiarise ourselves with the area (pick up a few land marks). Kept us out of trouble a couple of times.

We also learned to check the spelling of the town names we put in. We were heading from Lyon to Chambery, a trip of about 150-200km. We wondered why the trip was showing as taking about 9 hours. Did you know that there is also a town Chambrey somewhere in Western Europe, and that is where the GPS was taking us? All because of the reversal of just two letters.

Despite all this, I am now a committed GPS user for our travels. It has become an essential item in our travel kit and I hope that our experiences will help you avoid a few pitfalls.

Eating in the Fifties - *supplied by Marilyn Caton and Terry Loos independently*

Pasta was not eaten in Australia.
Curry was a surname.
A takeaway was a mathematical problem.
A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.
All potato chips were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.
A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.
Brown bread was something only poor people ate.
Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.
Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.
Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.
Fish didn't have fingers in those days.
Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.
None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.
Healthy food consisted of anything edible.
Indian restaurants were only found in India.
Cooking outside was called camping.
Seaweed was not a recognised food.
"Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food.
Prunes were medicinal.
Surprisingly, muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.
Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it they would have become a laughing stock!!

Employment After Employment

Chris Robson

I was fortunate to gain a 12 month role at QUT from September 2013 in a position titled Project Manager (Distributed Sites) reporting to the Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor. The role was to review all of QUT's distributed sites and identify opportunities and risks and priorities for change or improvement at these sites. There are some 32 such sites in total at the moment, some 17 being quite significant investments by QUT of staff and infrastructure and the others being much smaller in terms of investment and staffing. Most are focused on QUT's rapidly expanding research program mainly across its health, science, engineering and creative industries faculties and institutes of future environments and health and biomedical innovation.

The health related ones include QUT's participation through some 125 researcher staff, along with Qld Health and UQ at the Translational Research Institute on the grounds of PA Hospital - it is the large orange/ brown building at the western side of the Hospital precinct - doing cancer, trauma and addiction research, QUT's participation through some 80 research staff at the Qld Centre for Children's Health Research currently being built beside the new Lady Cilento Children's Hospital in South Brisbane: a unique medical engineering research facility in the grounds of Prince Charles Hospital at Chermside: and a genomics clinical trials facility at Mermaid Waters on the Gold Coast looking at biomakers for the risk of Alzheimer's disease as part of a 6 year world-wide trial. The science and engineering related ones include a renewable biocommodities pilot plant on the grounds of Mackay Sugar's Racecourse Mill designed to convert lignocellulosic biomass into renewable transport fuels and high value biocommodities such as chemicals and plastics; a research centre for aerospace automation beside the Brisbane airport looking mainly at the design of air traffic control systems that integrates unmanned aerial vehicles with the civilian airspace control and then potentially the military airspace control: an ecological research property at Samford; glasshouse facilities at Carseldine and Redlands; a high end music studio in Newstead; and a heavy engineering testing facility at Banyo.

As you can sense I had a lot of learning to do myself on the nature of the work done at each site and the risks and opportunities they presented now and in the future. I found all the staff I dealt with very helpful and keen to see opportunities carried forward. I was taken by surprise by the size and scope of QUT, with some 46000 students and some 7500 academic and professional staff and came to appreciate the heavy workloads many academics in particular have, covering their teaching, research and higher degree student supervision and mentoring roles.

I prepared a large interim report earlier this year which was adopted by the QUT Vice Chancellor and University Council, resulting in further work by myself and others up to September when I presented an Implementation Plan for improvement actions by the Faculties and Institutes. Along the way I became involved in related matters such as developing a QUT policy for distributed sites (their definition, decision making re approval of new sites, and management responsibility of existing sites), creating a register of distributed sites, developing and implementing a strategy for QUT's medium to long term needs for glasshouse facilities to provide for a tripling of available glasshouse space in the next five years, a strategy and plan for QUT to leave its small Carseldine research and storage site (QUT left the larger Carseldine campus in 2008 and it is now houses Qld Department of Transport and Main Roads), working with the Universities Audit and Risk team on several site reviews, working in a team to design the QUT implementation plan arising for a review of its WH&S practices and culture.

At the end of the 12 months in the Project Manager role, QUT decided to extend my term by two years, to do a different role. I am now working on examining the options and business cases for development, delivery and operation of strategic infrastructure projects on the main campuses, starting with consideration of student accommodation and new car parking. So my experience at QUT has been quite wide ranging in scope and in my network with staff, and of recent times have had the opportunity to visit other universities in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra.

My experience over the last two years only confirms to me that whilst we can have the best of intentions in our career and personal planning, I would not have been able to predict two years ago what I am now doing. I can say that it has returned me to a far better life balance, such that for example I now ride my bicycle to and from work, work normal hours, and have been able to learn about a lot of things and met a lot of people I would not have otherwise come across.

Thanks, Chris, for this interesting contribution - **Ed.**

Proverbs? - *supplied by Terry Loos*

Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

Always remember that you're unique. Just like everyone else.

If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.

A closed mouth gathers no foot.

There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.

Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

Travels in South America

Lee Rogers

Denise and I spent May this year in South America – in Chile, Brazil and Argentina.

The starting point for the trip was an invitation to a wedding in Rio de Janeiro – couldn't miss this opportunity could we? The wedding was an absolute "blast"– perhaps this could be another story.

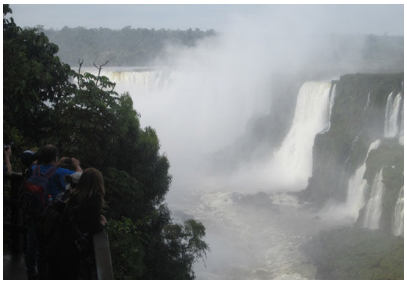
Flying in to Santiago one sees the Andes – an awesome sight – snow capped mountains that go on forever north south. Santiago is a big modern city of 6 million but unfortunately the smog was pretty thick – trapped by the Andes.

Heading up the Andes via 37 hairpin bends

From Santiago we travelled by bus across the Andes to Mendoza in Argentina which was breathtakingly scenic from our front seats in a double decker bus. Mendoza is among other things, a major wine production centre – all irrigated vines – and so we sampled their favorite malbecs.

A flight to Buenos Aires – huge – 16 million people – vibrant and quite European in parts. Not to be missed the opera house and a cemetery – Recolleta – where everyone seems determined to find the resting place of Eva Peron. Perhaps one musical has extended her fame far more than otherwise would have been the case.

We crossed from Argentina to Brazil at Iguacu – the falls – there are dozens of separate sections – extending for several kilometres. I think from memory that average flow over the falls is 12,000 cumecs but unlike at Niagara, the flow varies considerably depending on rainfall upstream.



Iguacu Falls

Then a long flight to Salvador – well to the north of Rio. Salvador has quite a history being the first capital of Brazil and the main entry point and trading centre for slaves brought in from Africa – and hence one sees more black people here than in Rio. Not a lot seems to have changed in the colourful historic centre – the Quirinal.

Rio de Janeiro is quite spectacular in many ways but clearly has problems that are well known. Coming up to the football world cup, the public transport workers were striking regularly and the city traffic gridlocked. Luckily we missed these days and enjoyed the wedding which was in an up market area- Niteroi – on the northern side of the bay – and then a few days at Ipanema beach. I think back to 1955 when my father lived in Rio for 9 months working for the United Nations. I wondered what the city was like then.

Back to Chile – perhaps the most intriguing of the three countries. A staggering 4,500 kilometres from the border with Peru in the north to Cape Horn in the south – but nowhere more than a few hundred kilometers east to west. Lush and green to the south and the driest place on earth – the Atacama desert in the north. The country experiences frequent earthquakes which probably explains why the cathedrals don't have the towering spires one sees in Europe. We spent a few days in the lake district to the south – an area where many German people were encouraged to settle and so there were a number of Lutheran churches amongst the many Catholic churches. Scattered through the Andes are quite a number of volcanoes – the one we got to well above the snow line – by chair lift – Mt Osorno – a near perfect cone shape. Thankfully, the last eruption in this area was 20 or so years ago.

In San Pedro in the Atacama, snow was on the ground. We wetre at about the same latitude as Rockhampton but more than 2,000 metres above sea level. In some areas the landscape is bizarre – perhaps like the moon. There are saline lakes with flamingoes. The area has major copper mines and more recently, lithium is extracted from groundwater. Steaming geysers at dawn in an area over 4,000 metres were mystical to see except that the minus 12° temperature was distinctly uncomfortable until the driver lent me his gloves.

San Pedro had numerous dogs – largish cream coloured animals – roaming the streets or sleeping in the sun – none with collars. I asked whether they had owners or were strays. "Mostly they are owned – in the morning after breakfast they jump the low adobe brick walls to spend the day with their friends and they go home at night."

Santiago also seemed to have many largish cream coloured dogs – particularly around the presidential palace area – the Moneda Palace – although here, many of them belonged to the security forces – it was clear that they were sniffer dogs to detect explosives.

Dogs in the main street, chased through the traffic madly barking at tires. Nobody seemed to mind them.

And so to the airport for our QANTAS flight back to Australia and a final glass of so nice Chilean wine. Taxiing out to depart, the pilot suggested "that we not be alarmed if our take off run is a little bumpy – it's just the condition of the runway." We line up and the pilot announces that "we will be holding here for a little while – there are a few dogs on the runway – staff are trying to clear them away."

We take off without incident. I imagine that the dogs were largish and cream coloured.

Thanks, Lee, for this account of what was obviously a very enjoyable trip. - **Ed.**

The Bombing of Darwin

As mentioned on page 2, Helen and I recently travelled on a coach tour from Darwin to Perth. While in Darwin, we had a most informative tour guide who told us tales of the bombing of Darwin in WWII which I thought could be of interest to readers. - **Ed.**

An attack on Darwin was not unexpected. After all, the Japanese had been steadily marching southward, conquering all before them including Singapore. And then there was the raid on Pearl Harbor. The attack on Darwin was expected from the North-west. On the morning of 19 February 1942, a fleet of planes were observed coming from that direction, but they flew to the east, bypassing Darwin. Then the planes swung in an arc to attack from the south-east, with the morning sun behind them. 188 planes headed towards the port and the multitude of ships anchored in the harbour, too close to each other. At 9:58 am the first bombs and shells struck, just as the wharf labourers were gathering for smoko. It was carnage - wharfies shot, bombed or blown into the harbour amidst burning oil, unable to be saved.

One wharf labourer who escaped was a member of the Cubillo family. He had been too sick to work that day, but was afraid non-attendance might threaten his job for which there was no shortage of applicants, and so had arranged for his twin brother Rocky to substitute for him. It was a rocky end for this brother.

Jimmy Yuen was blown into the harbour. He was of Chinese descent but, having been born in Darwin, spoke Australian. Covered in oil, he looked like a Japanese and only saved himself from being shot by identifying himself in Strine as an Australian. There is a Yuen Street in Darwin named in his honour. Other streets are named after the ships sunk in the harbour.

A principal target for the attack was the huge fuel storage tanks. The Japanese reasoned that cutting off fuel supplies would cripple the Allied fleet. An Australian named Freddie Wombey had other ideas - he stood on top of one of the concrete tanks, firing his machine gun at the Zeros, oblivious to his fate if the tank was hit. For this, he was awarded a Military Medal.

The USS Peary was hit and attempted to put out to sea where it would be safer. But its rudder was destroyed and it was unable to manoeuvre. It was sunk with the loss of 91 lives. Its resting place is now commemorated as a War Graves site and was visited by President Obama on his visit to Darwin.

One of the survivors of the Peary lived to a ripe old age in USA, but requested that his ashes be scattered at the site so that he could be with his mates.

MV Neptuna exploded at Stokes Wharf with great loss of life. The overall number of people killed is unknown - somewhere between 200 and 2000.

One soldier was in the shower when the alarm sounded. He leapt out, draped a towel around his nether regions, donned his boots and tin hat and grabbed his machine gun. Using a 44 gallon drum as a gun rest, he took aim at the Zeros, but as this did not give him a good angle, he commandeered another soldier and used his shoulder as his gun rest. In the meantime, his towel had disappeared. He was decorated for his efforts - presumably by then he had donned something to pin it to.

An American Captain Bobb Glenn had flown in with his commanding officer on 18 February and booked into the Darwin Hotel. As the sirens sounded on the morning of 19 February, they both took off to retrieve their plane and fly out. Discovering the plane was destroyed, they commandeered a vehicle and sped south to the next airfield from where they took flight. In Sydney, Glenn realised that he still had his hotel key in his pocket. Deciding there was nothing useful he could do about that, he took it home with him, finally donating it to the Darwin War Museum in 2014.

In preparation for a possible invasion, the Australian Government had established an anti-submarine net across the harbour - at 5.6 km, the longest in the world. It was successful and no submarine penetrated it. A large Japanese submarine was, however, torpedoed outside the net by HMAS Deloraine. Divers detected signs of life on the sunken vessel, but, despite the Geneva Convention, the navy was forbidden from making any attempt to save possible survivors. The site is still "off-limits" for unknown reasons.

Prior to the attack, signals had been observed between a submarine and an on-shore site. The authorities suspected at least one fifth-columnist and the finger was pointed at one John Gordon, a Scotsman who was known to have lived for some time in Japan. Sergeant Ron Brown was sent to bring Gordon in for questioning from his hut quite some distance from Darwin. Since travel by sea would be observed, Brown and aboriginal trackers made their way overland. In Gordon's hut they found pictures of Emperor Hirohito, which was taken as incontrovertible proof of his perfidy. In due course he was placed on a train under armed guard to be taken south to answer for his actions. He never arrived.

The commander of the Japanese assault was named Mitsuo Fushido - the same man who had led the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was an honourable man who never committed any atrocities. After the war, he became Christian and went to live in the USA. He wrote a number of books concerning his role in the war and his subsequent career, including “From Pearl Harbor to Calvary”. There is also a biography of him written by Gordon W Prange titled “God’s Samurai.”

To be continued in the next issue ...

Answers to Terry’s Trivia (page 11)
1.(i) Universal Serial Bus 2. (iv) 48,345 3. (iii) And the rest of the day to yourself 4. (iii) less than a quarter 5. (iv) 26 000 6. (iv) 7m 7. (ii) 1992 8. (ii) 19 9. (iii) 6 10. (iv) 12 11. (ii) 4 12. ed Cadeaux (for the third time) 13. (iii) 8

Wivenhoe Somerset Dam Optimisation

As noted on page 1, some lucky members were treated to a most entertaining address by Michael Raymond of Seqwater in October on the optimisation of the operation of Wivenhoe and Somerset dams in the event of future major floods. The following is an attempt to provide a very brief summary of the results of the studies, based in part on the published report and in addition from my interpretation of the presentation. For anyone who would like a more detailed description, simply google Wivenhoe Somerset Dams Optimisation Study. Since Michael's presentation, the Government has adopted a preferred strategy for the management of future floods.- **Ed.**

The Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams Optimisation Study was initiated in response to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry to investigate potential alternative operations of the existing dams during floods.

Much of the work undertaken is possible now because of the experience and learnings and the data that became available during and after the 2010 / 2011 wet season, and because of hydrologic and other techniques that are now possible with advances in computer technology. The current demands for water supply and recent upgrades of infrastructure capacity and configuration in south east Queensland provides a different context to those in 1977 when the original feasibility and impact assessments for Wivenhoe Dam were completed.

The study examined a vast range of potential flood hydrographs. These include the recorded major floods of 1893, 1893, 1974 and 2011 as well as many others generated stochastically (ie using the statistics of recorded floods) .

Perhaps not surprisingly, the study found that there is no one strategy of dam operation that will improve the situation for all floods; some strategies will improve the performance under some flood scenarios but exacerbate the situation for others. For example, given that releases from Wivenhoe Dam take a considerable time to reach the junction of the Bremer River, it is possible that rainfall over the latter catchment during the intervening period could markedly increase the flooding due to the combined runoff and release.

Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams only "control" part of the Brisbane River catchment. Major downstream inflows can occur in Lockyer Creek and/or the Bremer River, over which the dams exercise no control.

Essentially, assessment of the operational options available involves trade-off considerations between increasing or reducing:

- flood mitigation
- water supply security
- dam safety and
- the extent of disruption

Flood mitigation performance can generally be improved by increasing the available flood mitigation storage volume. This can be done in two ways that both involve trade-offs. One way is to lower the full supply volumes of the dams (which reduces supply security), the other way is to increase the dam safety strategy trigger level for Wivenhoe Dam (which increases the likelihood of both fuse plug initiation and flood overtopping of Wivenhoe Dam). Note that the last resort is to preserve the structural integrity of the dams because dam failure would not only be catastrophic in the immediate short term, the loss of storage would be totally unacceptable in the longer term.

For very large floods, flood mitigation performance can be improved by increasing downstream target flows during flood operations with a view to preserving the flood mitigation storage for longer. This approach carries with it the risk of flooding houses unnecessarily if the expected large flood does not eventuate.

The study has identified that there is no simple solution that demonstrates a marked reduction in total costs. Reducing the Wivenhoe Dam full supply volume

- reduces expected flood damage and impact costs, but
- the reduced flood cost is of similar order-of-magnitude to or less than the increase in bulk water infrastructure and operational costs.
- given the order of accuracy of the work completed, the total cost comparison does not support a permanent lowering of the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe Dam.

Separate assessment of new infrastructure alternatives to increase flood storage may be warranted to determine if there is a net benefit.

Only two operational alternatives provide a small reduction in net present costs from the Base Case – with the reduction in costs reducing as the dam levels are lowered. However the dam safety implications of adopting these options are not considered in the calculated net present costs.

The dams cannot eliminate flood inundation during moderate and major floods.

Wivenhoe full, almost to overtopping!

HEALTH *and beauty*

The stronger sex

Well, that's the end of all our illusions. We thought we knew that men are the stronger sex who never display their emotions. Well, British researchers claim that men experience greater levels of emotion than women when presented with heart-warming material.

A group of 15 fathers and 15 mothers were presented with images categorised into blissful, funny, exciting and heart-warming, such as a soldier returning from service and being reunited with his daughter, while their physiological reactions were measured using skin conductance electrodes.

Men demonstrated a marginally higher emotional reaction to the blissful, funny and exciting content but responded twice as strongly as women when shown heart-warming content.

Time Travel

Ramsay Health must have invented a time machine. In a brochure it is stated "You must ensure a responsible adult accompanies you home and looks after you for at least 12 hours after the procedure. **If this does not occur, your appointment may be cancelled**."

Sleep on it

It could well be that our sleep patterns are influenced by the phases of the moon.

An experiment by Sweden's University of Gothenberg kept 50 volunteers in total darkness with no windows to their room to measure how they responded to noise during their sleep. The results were also compared to phases of the moon.

It was found that female volunteers slept for 25 minutes less on average close to the full moon, while men lost a whopping 50 minutes.

All were more sensitive to noise around the full moon.

Scientists have yet to agree on whether the "circa-luna" rhythm - the impact of the moon on the body - exists.

Exercise those Brain Cells

Can you 'decode' this quotation from Oscar Wilde?

BMM1CBE2QPFUSZ3TQSJOHT4GSPN5HFOVJOF6GFFMJOH

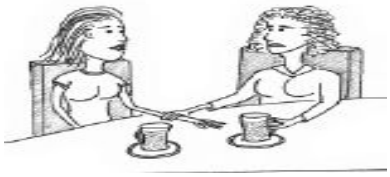
Teacher Arrested at JFK

A public school teacher was arrested today at John F. Kennedy International Airport this morning as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a compass, a slide-rule and a calculator. At a press conference just before noon today, Attorney General Eric Holder said he believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-Gebra movement. Although he did not identify the man, he confirmed the man has been charged by the FBI with carrying weapons of math instruction.

'Al-Gebra is a problem for us', the Attorney General said. 'They derive solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in search of absolute values.' They use secret code names like "X" and "Y" and refer to themselves as "unknowns" but we have determined that they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country. As the Greek philosopher Isosceles used to say, "There are 3 sides to every triangle." The Attorney General went on to say "Teaching our children sentient thought processes and equipping them to solve problems is dangerous and puts our government at risk."

Thanks to Ross Stewart and Jean Yates who both sent this.

Peter Jones found this in the Courier-Mail. He doesn't think all you retired engineers out there are about to make your fortune!



"I sometimes yearn for the dynamic, handsome, considerate man I married."

"You mean Jack wasn't your first husband?"

Answer to last Issue's Teaser

If the son is s years old, then Mary-Anne is s+21

In 6 years time, s+21+6 = 5(s+6)

s+27 = 5s+30

4s = -3

s = -3/4 years or - 9 months

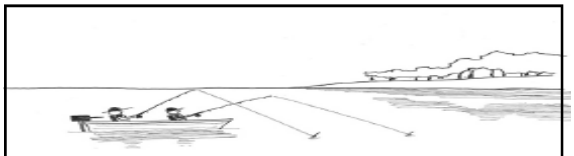
The father is therefore extremely close to Mary-Anne!

Ode To The Spell Checker

Eye halve a spelling chequer,
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques for my revue,
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea
Eye strike a key and type a word,
And weight four it to say
Weather eye am wrong oar write,
It shows me strait a weigh
As soon as a mist ache is maid,
It nose bee fore too long
And eye can put the error rite,
Its rare lee ever wrong
Eye have run this poem threw it,
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh,
My checker tolled me sew

Do you think English is easy?
1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
2) The farm was used to produce produce.
3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6) The soldier decided to desert his post in the desert.
7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the speech.
8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10) I did not object to the object.
11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
13) They were too close to the door to close it.
14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
20) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

Thanks to Ross Stewart for this contribution. - **Ed**



"What I don't understand is why society won't let me be a non-conformist like everyone else."

A Sign of the Times
On the Ladies rest room at a South Downs (UK) Riding School

Whoa-men

Terry's Trivia

Questions from the 2014 Christmas luncheon. Answers on page 8.

1. USB stands for: (i) Universal Serial Bus; (ii) University of San Bernadino; (iii) Utility Systems Broadband; (iv) Usain Bolt; (v) Unilateral Speed Bar.

2. Between 1848 and 1900 Emperor Franz Josef shot how many head of 'game': (i) 48; (ii) 483; (iii) 4834; (iv) 48,345; (v) 483,456.

3. The correct response to the Irish greeting "Top of the morning to you" is: (i) The same to you; (ii) Thank you; (iii) And the rest of the day to yourself; (iv) To be sure, to be sure, to be sure; (v) God be with you;

4. The average density of the sun is (i) ten times; (ii) one hundred times; (iii) less than a quarter; (iv) a thousand times; the density of the earth;

5. How far is the sun (in light years) from the centre of our milky way galaxy: (i) 26; (ii) 260; (iii) 2600; (iv) 26 000; (v) 260 000.

6. Your small intestine is approx:(i)700 mm; (ii) 70 cm; (iii) 0.7m; (iv) 7m; (v) 70m

7. Wally Lewis retired from football in (i) 1982; (ii) 1992; (iii) 2002; (iv) 1996

8. Doug Walters made 155 in 1965 at the Gabba against the Poms in his first Test. How old was he: (i) 22; (ii) 19; (iii) 28; (iv) 25; (v) 30.

9. Tracey Wickham once held how many world swimming records (400m to 1500m): (i) 2; (ii) 4; (iii) 6; (iv) 8; (v) 10.

10. How many Aussie men have won Wimbledon: (i) 6; (ii) 8;(iii) 10; (iv)12; (v)14;

11. How many of the G20 leaders are women: (i) 2; (ii) 4; (iii) 6; (iv) 8; (v) 10.

12. The runner-up in the Melbourne Cup 2014 was:

13. How many bits is a byte: (i) 2; (ii) 4; (iii) 8; (iv) 16; (v) 32

The Informed Citizen

The daily letters to the press
Will give a range of views;
But how, on earth, should one assess
The stance that one should choose?
But then, when all is said and done,
The planets will align;
I always know the wisest one —
His views are just like mine!

Book Club

Geraldine Brooks was born and raised in Australia but now lives with her husband on Martha's Vineyard. In 1665, a young man from Martha's Vineyard (then known as Great Harbor) became the first Native American to graduate from Harvard University. While there are few facts known about this man, Brooks has used it as the inspiration for her novel *Caleb's Crossing*.

The story is told by a fictional character, Bethia Mayfield, who grew up among a group of pioneering English Puritans on this remote and primitive settlement. As a young girl she meets the son of a local sonquem (Indian chieftain) who is also the nephew of the local pawaaw (akin to a witch-doctor). She learns from him his language and some of the local customs and religion which are naturally at odds with the puritanical Christian religion preached by her father who is setting out to Christianise the native inhabitants.

In due course, the young man, who is given the soubriquet of Caleb, is "converted" and sent to receive a classical education at Harvard, studying Latin and Greek beside the sons of the colonial elite. Bethia herself moves to Harvard to a menial position where, forbidden as a female to receive an education, she manages to overhear many of the lessons and so grow intellectually.

As she fights for a voice in a society that requires her silence and acceptance, she also becomes entangled in Caleb's struggle between the conflicting cultures of his ancestors and these newcomers with their alien views on what is important.

The book captures the spirit of the age with its language and depiction of the social conditions. There is no doubt Brooks is a fine author. Previously I reviewed her *People of the Book* which I would thoroughly recommend. I also very much admired *Caleb's Crossing.*

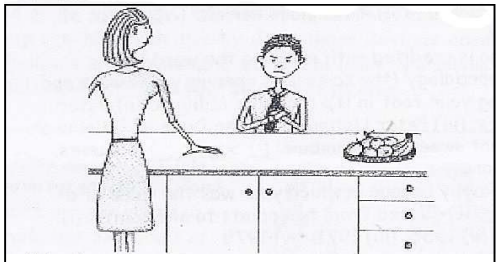
Ian Pullar

In a *Courier-Mail* article, Mary Rose Maccoll recently quoted some disturbing information about reading.

According to British research, a third of children don't own a book. Not one. And they're not relying on libraries either. Even libraries are in decline with collections withering and librarians becoming few and far between. Library budgets are being continually cut and there is a growing belief that the book is dead - replaced by IT. More than half of Queensland parents of three-to-eight-year olds do not read to their children.

Yet data from a British Child Development study showed that Maths and reading ability trump intelligence, motivation, length of education and parental socio-economic status in predicting a child's likelihood as an adult of getting a better job, housing and income. If you read one grade better at age seven, you increase your middle-aged income by $7750. And you'll probably need a lot less psychotherapy.

So tell you kids and encourage your grandkids to read. Not only is it fun, it's economically rewarding!



"I found your driver's licence in your wallet, so I know you're 43. I also know you got an "F" for sex.

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.

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