



# WATERY SAUCES OLDIES AND BOLDIES

Newsletter No 77

July 2015

NEWSLETTER OF THE WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION

## 31st Annual General Meeting

As advertised, the AGM of our Association was held on Thursday 30 April at Club Central. Attendance was a little disappointing with only 17 members, plus two wives and our two Co-patrons present. There were 18 apologies from members who were unable to attend.

The highlight of the meeting was again the presentations by Peter Boettcher, CEO of SunWater, and Dan Hunt, CEO of the Department of Energy and Water Supply. Members were particularly interested to hear the news in view of the change of Government and possible changes in direction. Summaries of these presentations (prepared by Secretary Peter Jones) can be found on page 9, and make interesting reading. Once again we are very grateful to our patrons for finding the time to join us.

President Geoff Eades reported on the many activities of the Association over the preceding year, noting that it has now been in existence for thirty years.

### From the Editor's Chair

*As President Geoff pointed out, the Water Resources Retirees Association has now been in existence for thirty years - no mean achievement for such an association. We are, of course, greatly indebted to our former colleagues who established the organisation and then proceeded to pass the baton to later arrivals.*

*It was the camaraderie of the old IWSC that inspired the founders to perpetuate the collegiate spirit and until very recently all our members had served in the Commission (by whichever name and which ceased to exist twenty years ago). But now, we have received our first application for membership from someone who worked in the Water Industry, but not in the Commission. Does this augur well for our future?*

*I speculated in the People's History that "inevitably, in time the Oldies and Boldies will reach their use-by date as the number of retirees who identify with the Commission dwindles". Perhaps we will have a new lease of life.*

*Until next time, au reservoir.*

**Ian Pullar, Editor**

To mark the thirty year milestone, it had been decided to invite as many past members of the committee to attend the mid-year luncheon as possible. A report on the success of that venture can be found on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Elections to the management committee were held, with only one change in office-bearers (the full list can be found on the back page). Brian Shannon, who has relocated to the north coast, did not seek reelection. In his stead, we have welcomed a new Vice-President in Mike Merrin. And just in case some of you are wondering who Mike is, here is a brief profile.

Mike spent the first 25 years as an engineering draftsman, initially in Brisbane (1965-69), then in Rockhampton (1969-90), where he was involved mainly in the design and documentation of on-farm water supply projects, initially for stages 2 and 3 of the Brigalow Development Scheme and later into broadscale irrigation systems. During this time, he also had a few short term stints in irrigation area design work in Emerald and Bundaberg.

He took over the drawing office in Rocky from Norm White when Norm moved to Brisbane in 1985 and he completed a degree in regional planning that same year.

He was transferred to Innisfail in 1990 to run the first Queensland Integrated Catchment Management Pilot Study for the Johnstone River Catchment (1990-94) (interesting story about that, perhaps some other time). *Continued on page 2*

### What Lies Ahead?

With the mid-year luncheon behind us, the treats ahead for us are:

- 7 August - Golf Day at Keperra
- September/October (date to be advised) - visit to Hinze Dam
- November (date TBA) - Christmas luncheon at COTAH
- February 2016 (date TBA) - informal lunch at Club Central
- April 2016 (date TBA) - AGM at Club Central

**Late News:** It has been announced that Dr Paul Simshauser, Professor of Economics at Griffith University, will become DG of DEWS in late July.

*Continued from page 1*

He was also involved in the development of Sugar Industry Infrastructure Package Projects in the wet tropics (1994-1996), before moving to the brand new WA Water Corporation in Perth for 12 months or so as their Principal Catchment Planner.

He went back to Rocky in late 1997 where he worked with Mike McKenna initially in regional management and then in statewide service delivery management (1997-2003), before an 18 month stint as CEO of the Fitzroy Basin Association, then back to DNRM as Regional Manager, Catchment & Regional Planning, before a belated return to Brisbane in 2007 to work with Greg Claydon on national water reform. He took a VER in October 2012, but was asked to go back to DNRM in May 2014 for a 12 month stint to assist with the development of the new Water Act (which is still in abeyance following the change of government early this year). He is now retired!

## Mid-year Luncheon

More than 40 members and partners attended the mid-year luncheon at COTAH on 25 June. As usual, it was a very enjoyable occasion, the food being of a particularly high standard.

We were delighted to have as our honoured guests, twelve former members of Management Committees, who posed for the photo below.



*L to R: Grahame Bertram, Heather Clarke, Allen Seabrook, Jim Uhlmann, Peter Bevin, Bill Eastgate, John Connolly, Col Hazel, Brian Shannon, Lee Rogers, Eric Davis, Roy MacArthur.*

We were also very pleased that Joan Ross and Lindsay White (wives of former Committee members Stan and Norm) were able to join us on this special occasion.

Photographs of a number of former Committee members were displayed via Powerpoint on a screen throughout the luncheon

On 8 October, Ben Russo will turn 90 - and he is still working! This must be a record even Joe Hockey would be proud of. Best wishes, Ben, from all your colleagues over many years.

President Geoff Eades paid tribute to all the members who had served on committees over the 30 years, keeping the organisation alive. He singled out Bernie Credlin and Dave Morwood for particular recognition for their long-term contributions. He recalled that WRRRA started from a suggestion by Bernie Credlin at an executive meeting and was followed up by George Pearce and Don Beattie Noel Ullman, the first President, is credited with coining the phrase Watery Sauces Oldies and Boldies after seeing a letter from a country client soon after the change from IWSC to QWRC addressed to the Watery Sauces Commission.

We also welcomed, as our guest, Tom Vanderbyl from SunWater who delivered a very informative address about the activities of his organisation. He was pleased to report that there has been an upsurge in the need for professional skills such as engineering.

Geoff and Helen Eades, having returned from their European trip which included a cruise down the Dalmatian Coast, were able to be in attendance.

Terry Loos was absent as he had departed on another European tour – this time of a sporting nature. Among his activities, he will attend Lords to view one day of the Australia/England Test Match, St Andrew's Golf Course to catch part of the British Open and view a stage of the Tour de France. Even though he was absent, he had provided his usual Trivia questions. However, we ran out of time in which to conduct the competition. We were all having too good a time! A selection of Terry's questions can be found on page 11.

Among the attendees was Bruce Pearce, who is about to retire just four months short of 50 years service. He has run out of long-service leave, but has decided that enough is enough and he is near enough to the record.

Col Hazel was there, too. Even though he has been "retired" for years, he is still running Groundwater Schools. Lee Rogers is still working part-time with DEWS.

Bill and Robyn Eastgate were able to combine attendance at the luncheon with a trip north to escape the bitter cold of a Tenterfield winter.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable event with the chance to catch up with former colleagues. Members are encouraged to come along to the Christmas Luncheon to be held on the second or third Thursday in November.

Winifred (Wyn) Olive Chamberlain, widow of Jim, died on 13 June 2015, aged 95.

John Charles died in June, aged only 60. John joined IWSC as a cadet Engineering Surveyor in the early 1970s, initially at Weemah in the Emerald Irrigation Area. He worked in various areas of the state before settling down in Mareeba until his premature passing.

## Out and About

*By hook or by crook, we have managed to obtain some current news of members - in their own words! - Ed.*

### Warren Shallcross

After leaving SunWater, I did a bit of contracting, setting up Flood Warning Systems and the like. But then I applied for and got a job with Horizons Regional Council in Palmerston North. The work is somewhat similar ie Data Collection, Database Administration and Development, setting up systems and some hydrological modelling.

The big difference is the New Zealand rivers; the ones around here are quite braided, with plenty of bed movement. So after any significantly high flow, we have a change of rating curve, which means re-rating station flow is very frequent!

I have joined the Manawatu Golf Club in Palmerston North. It was established in 1895, and is the oldest original course in NZ. 'Tis a good honest golf course, except when the wind blows, (as it does quite often here in Palmy) and then playing the course is unbelievable!

*see also Warren's golfing story on page 5.*

### John Moreton

In 1988/89, I was having difficulty in gaining Head Office agreement to my proposed programme for the management of water resources in Central Queensland. Just at this time, retirement at 55 became possible, so I decided to retire.

I had no real idea of what I would do in the future. However, immediately after I retired, I was approached by the Central Queensland University who told me the current Dean of Engineering had returned to Europe to confirm his qualifications. Could I fill in for him for a short period?

I had carried out considerable work about floods and water conditions already, so I agreed to stand in as Dean. I thought it would be a chance to introduce a new subject on Resource Management, covering water, soils and trees.

After a short period, the Dean advised that he would not be returning. The Uni asked me to continue. After two years, a replacement was arranged and I moved on to become a Consulting Engineer. I was taken on by the Institution of Engineers who covered my financial arrangements. This continued until I reached 65 and I moved to Brisbane and retired. This retirement meant that I could no longer undertake works for the Bowls Club or church so I became fully retired.

*Some years later, as John and Jill had two children working as doctors in Dubbo, they decided to relocate there, in proximity to their grandchildren. Now those grandchildren have grown to adulthood and have left Dubbo. John is still happily ensconced in Dubbo, living in a gated community where, at the age of 81, his daily duties require him to open the gates at 5:30 am. I had a very enjoyable chat with John via telephone and thank him for his contribution. - Ed.*

### Greg Claydon

Greetings Oldies and Boldies!

I am pleased to share some comments about water in Western Australia, based on my time so far here in Perth with the WA Department of Water. I have been Executive Director, Science and Planning with the Department since January, 2013.

Some of you may also know Tad Bagdon, who was in Queensland for many years. Tad has been Executive Director, Policy and Innovation, with the Department of Water since November, 2012. He and others, with some involvement from me, have been working on getting new water resources management legislation up and going in WA – the third attempt to do so over the last decade or so. Without these reforms, which most other states progressed 15 years ago, we still do not have statutory water allocation plans and long term water access entitlements in WA. Our Department still issues shorter term water licences under (admittedly significantly reworked) 1914 legislation.

So, one of the first things to keep in mind is that people in Perth, the most isolated capital city in the world, do not take too kindly to so-called “wise men from the east” touting to be “wise men from the east”. There is a strong feeling among many that “we are, things are, different in the west”. This means that, just because some policy, program, infrastructure, piece of kit, scientific theory, model or legislation works well somewhere else, don't assume it will work in WA. It will have to be clearly demonstrated first, and then it might, just might, be adopted.

And, indeed, there are a number of things in water that are different in WA, and I have been fortunate enough to be heavily involved in most of them to keep me challenged and busy.

For one thing, the south-west of the state, where by far the majority of the growing population lives, has been experiencing a progressively drying climate since the 1970s. Annual average rainfall over the last decade has been about 15% less than that prior to the 1970s. Our assessments indicate that annual average groundwater recharge in the shallower aquifers on the Swan Coastal Plain has decreased by about 30% and inflows to Perth Hills dams have decreased by up to 50%.

Looking forward, every global climate model in the world suggests that rainfall in the south-west will continue to decrease for at least the rest of this century. Even the most optimistic “wet” future climate scenario is drier than the historical climate of the last century. The “dry” future climate scenario suggests an annual rainfall decrease of about 50% across the south west by the end of the century.

*I asked Greg to give me a brief summary of his activities in WA. I found what he sent me to be of considerable interest, but more than I had allowed space for. So this will be continued next edition. -Ed.*

## Vale David Longley Morwood 24 February 1932 – 21 April 2015

David Morwood was the second eldest child of eight born to Roy and Ethel Morwood. His primary education began at Harristown State School, Toowoomba. His secondary education was at Toowoomba Grammar School (TGS) from 1946-1949, following in the footsteps of his father, and other Morwood family members, as a dayboy 1946/47, and boarder 1948/49. He enjoyed many academic and sporting activities. With a musical background, he played and studied violin to Senior exam level, leading to a long lasting appreciation of classical music.

In 1949, David achieved 24<sup>th</sup> place in Queensland at Senior Matriculation. He was awarded an Open Scholarship to the University of Queensland, entering the Faculty of Engineering in 1950. He also gained a Queensland Government cadetship with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission.

David's university life varied between Kings College, Kangaroo Point, University at St Lucia and the Brisbane River. Rowing became his major sport. He won numerous club and interclub rowing medals, culminating in being a member of the rowing crew which won the prestigious Queensland State Eights Championship in 1953. Also in 1953, David was in the first TGS Old Boys rowing team, with his brother Robin as cox, to race in the GPS Head of the River Regatta.

Following his graduation with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1953, David married Judith (Judy) Thornthwaite with whom he had two sons, Richard and Derek. Ten years later in 1963, David completed an Economics Degree at University of Queensland, studying at night.

His working career was in the field of farm water supplies and irrigation including 41 years with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission and Water Resources Commission. In 1954, his work was in North Queensland where he was responsible for construction in the Burdekin Irrigation Area at Millaroo and Dalbeg. He returned to Head Office, Brisbane in 1957, taking leading roles in the Commission in planning, design, management and development of Farm Water Supplies and Irrigation Area Design. He was appointed Chief Engineer and Director of Operations and Marketing in 1985.

During his career, he represented Queensland at both National and International meetings in this field, including major study tours in France. Finally, in 1990-91, he served as Acting Commissioner and Commissioner of Water Resources. He retired in 1991.

For five years, 1992-1997, David served as Chairman of the Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission, a joint QLD NSW Water Management authority. He finally retired in 1997.

David greatly enjoyed his time in the Water Resources Commission. He was well known for his encouragement and support of younger staff joining the organisation.

He was always "Dave" for everyone at work. His association with colleagues continued as an active member of the Water Resources Retirees Association.

Besides his working life, David maintained close involvement with his family, two children and four grandchildren, siblings and friends. Education and adventure were paramount. He, with his sons, developed great sailing skills in various craft, including 42 years in his prized "Mark Twain". He was an active member of the Wynnum Manly Yacht Club from 1972 including periods as Vice Commodore, Commodore and Rear Commodore from 1972 to 1982 and roles on various committees. After winning five annual sailing trophies, coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the prestigious St. Helena Cup in 1976, he won it in 1982. He was elected a Life Member of the Club.

With their extensive interest in natural history, David and Judy joined the Queensland Naturalists' Club in 1967. With the family, they enjoyed camping, bushwalking and observations of plants, birds, the environment and the stars. From 1980, accommodation was in a campervan, hand furnished and fitted out by David in his craftsman-like workshop. He contributed to publications and management of the Club and served 20 years as Treasurer, retiring in 2012. He was made a Life Member of the Club.

Classical music was a major interest and inspiration in David's life. In retirement, he occasionally played his violin and became an active contributing member of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra Society from 1992-2002. He continued to support the Orchestra until the end of 2014.

His active life spanned many interests and skills accompanied by a great capacity for physical and mental work. David shared this life generously with his deeply loved family, siblings and his many friends. His loyalty, kindness and so much more will be remembered by everyone he touched.

- This tribute was provided by Judy, for which we are very grateful.

*Dave was an extremely valuable employee of the Commission, much loved and respected by his colleagues and subordinates. The WRRA is also greatly indebted to David. He joined the Association before he retired and was elected Vice President in 1992. After three years, he stepped up to the Presidency which he held for two years. He then served two years as Past President, a further year as Vice President and then eight more years as a member of the Executive. His contribution, friendship and advice were invaluable. - Ed.*

## A Bottler of an Afternoon

It happened in the early 1970s – I don't remember which year. Col Hazel had returned from exile in Longreach and the Granite Belt wine industry was just starting. A group of oenophiles – at least that was how we thought of ourselves, but we were probably just imbibers – heard that we could buy a 44 gallon drum of Gino Zanatta's best Red Ned. We decided to do just that and bottle it ourselves. Ron McMahon, who was a genuine wine connoisseur, was right behind the venture.

The participants were instructed to obtain their own supply of bottles – I remember raiding a local bottle bank to get mine – wash them thoroughly and sterilise them with sodium metabisulphite.

On the appointed day, we arrived at Col Hazel's place at Wynnum where he was ready, armed with the drum, a supply of corks and a corking machine manufactured by person or persons unnamed in the Commission's Charleville workshop – don't ever let anyone suggest that Hazel's tour of duty in the west served no great purpose.

We set to work. Quite a deal of the wine went into the bottles and there was **some** spillage. After a very enjoyable, convivial afternoon, we set off home with our booty. The asking price for Gino's best was \$1 per gallon and it was overpriced at that. If you chilled it so it was nearly solid and then held your nose, you could get it down. Not that it mattered much – within a month, every bottle became totally undrinkable. Our sterilisation can't have been complete!

I suppose the lesson I was supposed to learn was "don't drink cheap wine." But somehow I never got that message – the cheaper it is, the more I can afford. This means I have had to throw out remarkably few bottles of red wine throughout my life. Occasionally I have encountered a doubtful bottle and have had to sample it several times to make sure it wasn't really drinkable.

Of course the Stanthorpe industry has long since matured – even if my palate hasn't!

**Ian Pullar**

## Birthplace of Federation

Tenterfield, in far northern NSW, lays claim to being the Birthplace of Federation because it was there that Henry Parkes, "The Father of Federation" (and former State Member for Tenterfield) delivered the first oration calling for a Federation of Australian states with the slogan "One Country, One Nation" in 1889 before reboarding his train and hot-footing it to Sydney.

Part of the impetus for Federation was the desire to have one Australian navy to protect the country from invasion – particularly from the Russians who were seen as the greatest threat. Because of this threat, it had been decided that a Federal capital should be sited in-

land and Tenterfield was for a time considered a likely candidate. An additional reason for choosing this site was due to its proximity to Queensland. The border could readily be relocated so that the capital lay within Queensland – a move designed to appease those Queenslanders who were strongly opposed to Federation because of kanaka labour on the cane fields (virtually slave labour) which would certainly be outlawed nationally.

In Tenterfield, there is a magnificent Italianate mansion, built during the 1880s by John Reid, a Scottish migrant who had made a fortune through mining and smelting tin and who, by his early 40s, was able to afford his lavish mansion –

not surprisingly named Stannum House. The timber work was mostly locally harvested cedar, but all the iron for the roof and much of the decoration was imported from Europe – including an elaborate spiral staircase carved in Ireland that was so big part of one of the triple-brick walls had to be demolished to get it into the house.

It is locally believed that part of his motivation was to provide a residence grand enough for a Government House, in the event of Tenterfield becoming the Federal capital.

**Ian Pullar**

*Just in case, the Latin for tin is Stannum (chemical symbol Sn) -Ed*

## Playing a round

*Contributed by Warren Shallcross*

Recently I played with the President of the local Iwi (Maori tribe). He told me a (true but unlikely – *his words*) story when we were half way down the 15<sup>th</sup> (a par 5 at Manawatu Golf Club).

A few years ago, he was playing with a low marker who hit a good drive (on this par 5) about 270m. The Player then overcooked a 2 iron which would have sailed over the green but for hitting a blackbird directly above the flag. It killed the bird, and both bird and ball dropped down to within a few feet of the hole. The player got both a birdie and an eagle on the same hole!!

## Liberty or Licence

*Contributed by Peter Jones*

My niece from USA is arriving in the next couple of weeks and thought she might like to try driving in Australia. So I called into local Police Beat to ask if she could drive here on a foreign licence. Young officer on the desk said he thought that would be fine, but turned to Sergeant behind him and asked "That's right isn't Sarge?" "Yeah," said the Sarge, "that's what all the taxi drivers are doing"



*"I think I'm beginning to get old"*

*"Why do you say that?"*

*"Why do I say what?"*



## Waterways of Europe continued from Edition 76

**Trevor Ryan**

### **Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg, France (June 2012)**

Route: - Amsterdam to Metz (14 days)

Total Distance: - 670k      Average day: - 50k  
Longest day: - 67k

Vessel: - Zwaantje (Little Swan) – this was its maiden voyage after being refitted.

Age of the group: - 55 to 82  
Average Age: - mid 60s

Cycling Terrain: - mostly flat especially in the Netherlands with some hills in Germany, Luxembourg and France.

Cycling: - The route went through the Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg and France.

We commenced from Amsterdam and went upstream along the Rhine River to Koblenz, where we had a rest day, and then up the Moselle River Valley to Metz, which is in France.

The cycling was mostly along sealed bike paths beside the river and on back roads through the surrounding countryside except when we rode into some of the cities such as Bonn and Cologne where the bikes were usually tied up together and we had a couple of hours of free time to wander or enjoy a tour such as the Cologne cathedral.

Sometimes we would cut across farms, along headlands, to link up with another back road and on one occasion when I was the sweeper I was offered a job harvesting asparagus. I had pulled up to watch them in action and a man came over to me and said “arbeit”? (work). I don’t know how I would have gone, but they made it look pretty easy.

Koblenz is an interesting city with the massive fort on the opposite (high bank) from the city. The fort can be accessed across the river by a cable car and contains a very good museum.

The People: - This tour was booked through a US company and we were the only Australians amongst all Americans and Canadians. They were a nice bunch of people mostly retired professionals. There were a couple of retired air force fighter pilots, several engineers, a doctor and retired business people. The oldest was 82 and still working. He and his wife rode a tandem along with two other couples who were well into their 70s.

There was one lady who had a hip replacement only three months prior. She only rode every second day and stayed on the barge the other days and enjoyed the cruise.

The Americans were interested in our Kookaburras more than anything else about Australia.

Highlights: -

This whole tour was just fantastic every day, with some beautiful bike paths covered by a canopy of trees overlooking the Rhine River.

Berthing under the “Bridge too Far” and learning about what happened in Arnhem during and after the battle.

The Rhine River was really interesting especially the way the flow is controlled with locks and of course the variety of river traffic.

Visited some very well preserved Roman baths in Trier (birthplace of Karl Marx).

Travel Trivia: - There is a small church in Koblenz which witnessed the execution of a descendant of Charlemagne around the 10<sup>th</sup> century. He was a murderer and after his head was cut off he is said to have rolled his eyes and poked out his tongue.

There is a face above the door on the front of the church and every hour when the bell tolls the face rolls its eyes and pokes out its tongue. Not sure why they would want to commemorate him but it is an interesting story.

There is also a statue of a rascal, in the old part of the city, which you don’t stand in front of, because every few minutes he pees. I watched a few unsuspecting people get wet while taking photos.

Who said Germans don’t have a sense of humour?

This tour was booked through the website below, although they no longer offer this tour (don’t know why). They do offer plenty of others, mainly in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Becky and Lowry Snow are the owners of this company and she is very easy to deal with. They were on this tour with us, because it was the maiden voyage for the vessel.

<http://bikebarge.com/>

### **Belgium, France (Sep. 2010)**

Route: - Bruges to Paris (14 days)

Total Distance: - 650 k

Average day: - 50k

Longest day: - 60k

Vessel: - Fenik

Age of the group: - From 40 to 79

Average Age: - late 60s

Cycling Terrain: - Mostly flat in Belgium and northern France with some climbs toward Paris.

Cycling: - This was our first bike and barge and we were a bit anxious about what to expect. Although we had done a fair bit of preparation, we were worried we might be a bit old for this, and be joining a lot of pros, and wouldn’t be able to keep up. Not the case, we were nearly the youngest and had no trouble keeping up.

We travelled to Bruges by train after spending a couple of days in Brussels.

The Fenik was the smallest vessel we have been on, but was still comfortable and the food was excellent. There was a resident dog and parrot on board. The parrot took a liking to me after a couple of days and wanted to sit on my shoulder whenever I was in the lounge. Got embarrassing; maybe I am a reincarnated pirate or parrot.

*continued overleaf*

## Waterways of Europe *continued*

There were a few flat tyres on this tour, because we spent some time on dirt trails and on forest tracks. I fell off twice while trying to handle the cobblestones. The first time I landed in a hedge unhurt and the second time, somehow, I landed on my feet. Sue thought I was putting on a circus act of some kind.

The tour finished right in the heart of Paris on the Seine River. We re-joined the barge that day for the entry to Paris and we docked less than 300 metres from the Bastille monument.

C sickness could easily be a problem on this tour.

The People : - This was a tour booked through an Australian company based in Bright, so the whole group, with the exception of one couple from the US, were Australians. We even had an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist and his wife from Melbourne travel with us. We didn't need to call on his services though.

Highlights : -

Once again everyday was a new adventure. The guide was particularly good

The beautiful countryside of Belgium and northern France

Picking real poppies in Flanders fields. They were growing beside the road.

Chantilly Chateau – fantastic, it also contained an impressive art gallery, which contained two works by Rubens, and the horse stables were opulent beyond belief and capable of housing 350 horses on two levels. We had a beautiful ride through forest for many kilometres to get there. (Google it for photos).

Chateau de Pierrefonds – another magnificent castle in a very picturesque setting. Lots of movies have been made using this castle as a location (Google it for photos).

De L'Armistice – rode through a lot of forest again to the clearing where the armistice ending WW1 was signed in a railway carriage. Very good little museum there with an exact replica railway carriage and thousands of photos which can be viewed in 3D

Battlefields of the Somme – Including Peronne and Villers Bretonneaux on our rest day. Felt very proud to see a large Australian flag next to the French flag above the town hall and a huge sign above the school saying 'Don't forget Australia'. Had a beer in the Melbourne Hotel. Villers Bretonneaux was liberated by Australian troops.

## For Readers to Read

We often wonder how many of our members and friends read our material. More than 130 of our members now receive all our communications electronically. Our webmaster has provided the following figures to illustrate the website's effectiveness. In the six days following the announcement of the meeting papers for this year's AGM, there were 41 downloads of those papers. After the announcement of the most recent Newsletter there were 131 downloads in six days. So it appears that almost all of our members with email addresses are accessing the website for the newsletter. The website is also being accessed to a lesser extent by staff of government departments and SunWater when they are advised by management.

How much is actually read remains unknown!

Re-joining the Barge one morning to go through a 4.5k canal tunnel through a mountain. Construction commenced on it before WW1, when it was captured by the Germans and used to store ammunition. It was completed after the war. The barge went through over 50 locks on this tour and a lot of the tour was along canals.

Palace of Versailles – what can I say – extravagant beyond belief; can see why the starving peasants revolted and cut heads off. Nice ride through the Kings forest to get there.

Travel Trivia :-

The King (one of The Louis) apparently got very jealous when he first saw Chateau Chantilly, which was built by one of his cousins.

The smell of blood was so bad that the horses and cattle (pulling carriages) resisted entering the square in Paris where the beheadings took place on a daily basis during the French Revolution.

German war cemeteries are all under shady trees and have black crosses (apparently that's what they wanted).

The Australian website below contains a large list of bike and barge holidays.

[http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/bike\\_barge\\_holidays](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/bike_barge_holidays)

## Last Word

This truly is a nice way to see some of the world. We often reflect on each of our European holidays and the highlight for us is always the bike and barge segment.

I have included the age and distance stats to give some understanding of the difficulty of the cycling. The distances might seem large but the kilometres pass by without really noticing and remember a whole day is taken to cover these distances, so the pace is leisurely with many stops for rest, photos, coffee and pastries, lunch and tourist attractions. And as they say, you are never too old.

I would also recommend getting a bike and doing some preparation before doing one of these or you will suffer the dreaded sore posterior for sure, (as some people did).

We have been inspired by the people on these tours and hope to do more.

*-Thanks Trevor, for this very interesting account. - Ed*

## Answers to Terry's Trivia

page 11

1. (v) none. 2. (iv) humerus.
3. (iii) Sri Lanka. 4. (iii) Lady Godiva. 5. (ii) Egyptian Tomb.
6. (ii) Brandy. 7. (iii) 7 judges.
8. (iii) Bangalore. 9. (iv) Glasgow. 10. (iii) Vermicelli. 11. Lord Byron.

## Roman Holiday

Pat McCourt

Ah, Venice. What a magical place. I remembered Lord Bryon's words as we wandered through the winding alley ways and travelled the canals in a gondola, an adventure around every corner.

*I stood in Venice, on the Bridge of Sighs,*

*A palace and a prison on each hand:*

*I saw from out the wave her structures rise*

*As from the stroke of the enchanter's wand.*

The old part of Venice will probably sink into the lagoon in about 500 years. But what the heck! Anyone can have a bad half millennium.

Our tour then headed for the lake district after visiting Verona and Milan. We stayed at Lake Maggiore, but we also toured Lake Como where George Clooney owns a villa. Rumours abounded about when he would marry Amal Alamuddin and where. All of them were wrong because they were married in Venice on 28<sup>th</sup> September, just after we left to go home.

Our touring companions were sampling a lot of Italy's justly famous wines by this time, and I did too. But I mostly imbibed the beers and generally found them to be very good. I was in one hotel which actually ran out of draught beer after serving me the last one. There I was guarding my beer just like Publius Horatius (Horatio) Cocles defending the Pons Sublicius bridge in Rome against the Etruscan hordes led by Lars Porsena, and just as heroically too. I was proud to be an Australian.

But we're now in the Piazza dei Miracoli (Field of Miracles) in Pisa. While the location is famous for the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Cathedral, Duomo, the spectacular Baptistry, and the Monumental Cemetery are also on the site. The tower is traditionally famous for Galileo's experiment which consisted of dropping two balls with different masses to prove that the time to reach the ground was the same for each ball. Unfortunately, there is considerable conjecture about whether the experiment ever took place. But who cares?



*The Duomo and Leaning Tower at Pisa*

Our last stop before returning to Rome was in Florence in Tuscany. Art aficionados in our party enjoyed visits to galleries and museums which included the

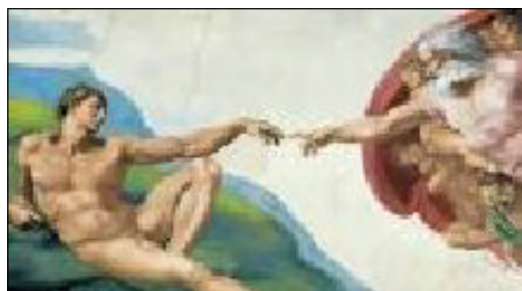
almost compulsory visit to see the statue of David which was sculpted by Michelangelo in the 1500s. We experienced a storm in Florence where the thunder reverberated over the city with a strange booming sound and a somewhat frightening series of staccato echoes as the thunder bounced back and forth in the Apennine Mountains.

Then we stayed in Rome for four days in a different hotel which had the best standard of service that we have ever encountered anywhere. The hotel is located between the Spanish Steps and the Piazza del Popolo, and there were plenty of restaurants and other service shops nearby as well as a Metro station. We visited the Pantheon, temples, churches, took the city bus tour, and walked to the Trevi Fountain. What we didn't know was the fountain is being extensively refurbished and there was no water in it. Now I had kept a 500 lira coin for about 40 years which we were going to throw into the fountain after making a wish. Well, it went clunk instead of splash, and then we noticed the sign that forbade tossing coins into the fountain. Ah well, it was only for advice.

Then it was time to turn our heads for home and go out to the airport. There was the now familiar shambles at passport control again. People were jumping the queue this time, and I actually thought there was going to be some fisticuffs. That didn't happen, but tempers became very frayed in the large crowd. We finally got onto our flight and off we went home.

So, how did we find Italy? No, not by flying to Cairns and turning left. We were very impressed by the friendliness of the Italian people; the excellent standard of service; and quite reasonable prices. We were equally impressed by the high quality of English almost everywhere. Italy may have its political and financial problems, but people generally seemed to be happy and living a good life. The majority of cities, towns, and villages we visited were clean and well presented. Farms looked neat and tidy too. All in all, Italy compared more than favourably with some other parts of Europe that we toured two years ago. We would definitely consider going back. If only we could avoid those pesky passport people.

- Once again, Pat, thanks for this fascinating account and the wonderful turn of phrase. - Ed.



*"Adam, I could make you a companion, perfect in every respect. And it will only cost you an arm and a leg."*

*"What can you give me for a rib?"*



## SunWater Summary

*- a summary of Peter Boettcher's address to the AGM*

As could be expected, the change in Government in January led to some changes in focus for SunWater with some slight adjustment to its structure; particularly in respect of integrating staffing arrangements (put in place to reflect the policy directions of the previous Government) back together in SunWater.

Meetings with the shareholding Ministers have been positive. Organisation stability is a focus of the Government. The proposed sale of water pipelines is not on the current Government's agenda. In respect of local management of irrigation schemes the position is not yet clear, with the government reserving its position on this at this stage.

The market position is soft with, apart from the Adani mine development, no major resource project commencing development in the near future. Even discussions with Adani are not current.

Further work is to be carried out to complete the restoration of Paradise Dam. As well, there are other storages where work is required to repair damage.

The Wandoan to Glebe Weir pipeline has been completed. It was brought in under budget. The long term contract with QGC provides a stable base for the future operation of the pipeline and use of water from the weir.

Investigations are continuing on Nathan Dam, primarily on environmental issues raised by the existence of a rare boggomoss snail that lives in small swampy areas where artesian groundwater reaches the surface. A number of additional sites where the snail occurs outside the dam have been identified but these have not been appropriately taken into account in the recovery

plan for the snail. Consequently, amendments are required to the recovery plan. The primary focus at present is to get the environmental approval in place, experience having taught that this is essential to provide certainty to potential customers.

The Government is undertaking the review of Callide Dam, in particular to understand whether the release of water resulted in flooding of houses in Biloela and Jambin. It is important that the review be transparent and open to the public. The rainfall event that caused the gates to operate automatically was an extreme event, now estimated to be a once in 4000 year event. With a small catchment, the resultant flood was of short duration, but high and rose very fast.

The Callide event held some wider lessons for SunWater that are applicable to other storages. These lessons fall within a number of categories, viz, dam operation, communication, media management and education. In respect of the last of these, SunWater has met and will continue to meet with the emergency response agencies in the smaller centres that are host to a major water storage. The objective is to improve knowledge of how the storages operate in a rain event and hence improve emergency response.

Being able to respond quickly to the effects and damage of the flood events of 2014 has shown the value of the model under which SunWater now operates. It was able to finance the remedial work of flood damage from its own financial resources requiring only the approval of its Board rather than of Government before proceeding with remedial work. It also reflects the strength of SunWater both financially and commercially that these financial demands could be

## News from DEWS

*- a summary of Dan Hunt's address to the AGM*

The election result in January and the consequent establishment of a new Government had come as a surprise to many people. Despite this, the transition to the new Government has been one of the smoothest experienced with only a few impacts from the machinery of Government (MOG) changes. A guiding principle of the new Government seems to be stability. No jobs have been put at risk, although, as all are aware from the media, all Directors-General positions have been advertised.

Within the first two weeks of the new Government, Queensland faced the impact of Cyclone Marcia. There was a steep learning curve for the new Ministerial line up as they came to grips with dealing with a natural disaster and the roles each had to play in a co-ordinated response. The 24 hour staffing of the emergency centre at Kedron proved its worth and overall the disaster management process worked well.

The Government initiated an inquiry into the operation of Callide Dam following the flooding in Biloela and Jambin. An initial need was to explain the operation of a water storage during a flood event to help the

Ministers understand the process of managing a flood through a dam and the implications of it. The immediate need for this slowed the induction of the new Ministers into the wider responsibilities of their portfolios.

The previous Government had proposed the construction of three new dams in Queensland. This proposal is subject to review by the new Government but funding constraints may limit further work. It is anticipated that a decision will be forthcoming towards the middle of the year.

The new Government appears to be positively disposed to the local management of the irrigation areas but as yet has not had the opportunity to fully consider it. One likely outcome is that a trial process may be undertaken on a limited number of areas.

Within the Department, the investigations into regional water security continue. Reports have been released for the Townsville and Cairns areas. Reports on the Maryborough and Hervey Bay areas are expected to be completed in the near future.

Implementation of recommendations of the Flood Commission of Enquiry continues. To date, some 30 of the 46 recommendations have been implemented.

# HEALTH *and beauty*

## Green is Great

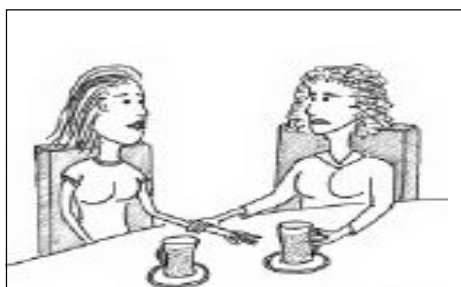
Broccoli may not be the most popular vegetable - particularly for children - but its benefits are indisputable. It is at the forefront of fighting cancer. This super vegetable has a chemical called diindolylmethane (DIM) which shields healthy cells – but not cancerous ones – from radiation. Scientists from Georgetown, USA, believe the chemical will allow higher doses of radiation when treating cancer, while protecting healthy cells. The chemical could also prevent or treat radiation sickness.

## Food for Thought

The Nordic Food Lab was set up in Copenhagen in 2008, developing tasty dishes from insects. The researchers have realised that bugs are high in protein, low in fat, cheap, environmentally friendly and defiantly abundant. There are estimated to be 10 quintillion of them on the planet – about 40 tonnes of insects for every human. It is 20 times more efficient to raise protein in insects than in beef and it takes up to 1000 times less water. The humble caterpillar packs 28 grams of protein per 100 grams – more than most fish – and is loaded with iron and vitamins. And it is basically fat free.

Swapping beef and pork for crickets and locusts could cut gas emissions by as much as 95%, it's claimed. The only problem might be the "yuck factor".

The scientists believe that by 2023 we won't believe we weren't eating insects so they have set out to create tasty dishes. Apparently certain ants taste like seared lemon rind, a puree of fermented grasshoppers and moth larvae tastes like a fish sauce and bee larvae make a good mayonnaise. Leafcutter ants taste like a cross between bacon and pistachio.



*"How is your self-assertion course going?"*

*"Very well, but I can't decide if I want to enrol again."*

## The Environment Wolves

Wolves were integral to the ecosystem of Yellowstone National Park for millennia, but they were wiped out there by settlers by about 1920. The effects of removing the wolves were striking. Coyotes formed larger, more wolf-like packs, while elk populations soared, changing the vegetation close to rivers by eating young trees and shrubs. Pronghorn antelope populations dropped as more coyotes preyed on their offspring; beavers disappeared from the park and songbirds declined in number.

Reintroducing just 31 wolves in the mid-1950s transformed the ecosystem again. Wolves targeted their closest competitor, killing coyotes in confrontation over carcasses and consuming enough prey to hinder their survival. Coyotes avoided areas favoured by wolves and shifted to smaller prey. Coyote packs fragmented and their overall population declined sharply. More pronghorns survived; elk herd diminished; and riverine vegetation came back, encouraging the return of beavers and songbirds.

- from *The New Scientist*

## Getting Over It

The 50,000 inhabitants of Chernobyl were evacuated in 1986 when the world's worst nuclear disaster occurred.

By 2013, Chernobyl had become home to an amazing number of creatures from wild bear to beavers, wolves and wild horses. Lynx and brown bears had also returned to make the area one of Europe's best wild life preserves. The reason is the lack of humans, even though a day in Chernobyl will irradiate you about as much as an x-ray at the hospital. People have a much greater impact on the environment than the radioactivity does.

- from *National Geographic*

## Answer to last Issue's Teaser

If  $x$  people played  $n$  hands, the final kitty will be

$$(n-1)[5(x-1) - 25] + 5(x-1)$$

Since I won only the last hand, I contributed  $5(n-1)$  to kitty and thus have

$$(n-1)[5(x-1) - 25] + 5(x-1) - 5(n-1) \text{ in hand which} = 100$$

$$\text{Expanding, } 5nx - 30n - 5x + 30 + 5x - 5 - 5n + 5 = 100$$

$$5nx - 35n = 70$$

$$x = \frac{14 + 7n}{n}$$

$n$

$x$  will be whole if  $n = 7$  or  $14$

but if  $n = 7$ ,  $x = 9$

and 9 people cannot win in 7 hands

Therefore  $n = 14$  and  $x = 8$

## Exercise those Brain Cells

Luigi Giglio, a 16<sup>th</sup> century mathematician and astronomer, was the primary author of the Gregorian Calendar. He once wrote

$$31 \text{ OCT.} = 25 \text{ DEC.}$$

How did he arrive at this conclusion?



## What If - ?

“What if King George had accommodated the American colonists’ demands and allowed them a handful of MPs at Westminster?

... there’d have been no bloody War of Independence for a start, and the US would have developed along Canadian and Australian lines. The hamburger would never have been invented, there’d be no chewing gum dotting the pavements, and the world would never have heard of high school massacres. Can you credit it? *America*, lost for the sake of an extra dozen members in the House of Commons. *AMERICA!* The richest prize on the bloody planet. Gone for want of a few paltry seats on the cross benches. George the bloody Third wasn’t just mad, he was completely *tonto!*”

from *Time and Time Again* by Ben Elton

## How Come - ?

### A Lot of Land

If someone owns a lot of land, it may not amount to much at all – as all our surveyor colleagues know. The term originated in 17th century USA, that paragon of democratic virtue. When public land (known in Britain as ‘Crown Land’) was subdivided for private ownership, to ensure that its distribution was ‘open and accountable’, lots were drawn – much the same as the Queensland system of balloting land.

The new owners were then a-*lot*-ted their allotment. So ‘lot’ is not an abbreviation of ‘allotment’; rather the longer word this time derives from the short one. As a gambling term, its American origin is not inappropriate.

A woman with a cold  
Is a woman. But  
A man with a cold is a bold  
old  
Roaring, boring,  
Wuffling, snuffling,  
Whining, pining,  
Moaning, groaning,  
Sneezing, wheezing,  
Ten crabby lions rolled into one  
Thinking he’s gold-  
Plated                      Hold  
My hand                      Hold  
My head                      Hold  
Me up                      Hold  
My breakfast              Hold Everything (You  
- hold  
Your breath              hold  
Your horses              hold  
Your tongue. To have is to hold.  
**Helen Haenke**

### A Sign of the Times

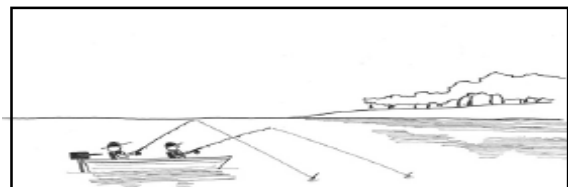
On a bottle of Men’s 65+ multi vitamins

**Vitamin A can cause birth defects. Do not take if you are pregnant or considering becoming pregnant.**

### Terry’s Trivia

*Answers on page 7*

1. Which of the Beatles could read music? (i) John; (ii) Paul; (iii) George; (iv) Ringo; (v) None
2. What is the medical term for the bone of the upper arm? (i) Femur; (ii) Tibia; (iii) Mandible; (iv) Humerus; (v) Scaphoid.
3. If you landed at Bandaranaike International Airport which country would you be in? (i) Bangladesh; (ii) Nepal; (iii) Sri Lanka; (iv) Tibet; (v) Bhutan.
4. Who was the original Peeping Tom peeping at? (i) Emma Bovary; (ii) Moll Flanders; (iii) Lady Godiva; (iv) Cleopatra; (v) Scarlett O’Hara;
5. What is a mastaba? (i) Moustache; (ii) Ancient Egyptian tomb; (iii) Turkish meatball; (iv) Feroocious dog; (v) A wind.
6. What name is derived from the Dutch for burnt wine? (i) Gin; (ii) Brandy; (iii) Port; (iv) Sherry; (v) Cassis.
7. How many judges are there on the Australian High Court?: (i) 5; (ii) 6; (iii) 7; (iv) 8; (v) 9.
8. Bengaluru is the new name for: (i) Baden-Baden; (ii) Baguio City; (iii) Bangalore; (iv) Barcelona; (v) Birmingham.
9. The fourth largest city in the UK is: (i) Birmingham; (ii) Leeds; (iii) Edinburgh; (iv) Glasgow; (v) Liverpool.
10. Which type of pasta means ‘little worms’ (i) Canneloni; (ii) Spaghetti; (iii) Vermicelli; (iv) Fusilli; (v) Fettucini; (vi) Stringozzi.
11. ‘Mad, Bad, and Dangerous to Know’ was a phrase used by Lady Caroline Lamb to describe: (i) Ernest Hemingway; (ii) Lord Byron; (iii) D.H. Lawrence; (iv) Walter Raleigh; (v) Ranulph Fiennes.



*“I’ve come to the conclusion that strategic deafness is the greatest ingredient for a long marriage.”*

## Book Club

I found it very difficult to put *The Murder of Allison Baden-Clay* by David Murray down. I must confess I was not a disinterested reader – when my daughter Margaret was Head Girl at Ipswich Girls Grammar, Allison was her deputy. On a freezing cold day after the verdict was delivered, at the request of Allison’s family, Margaret consented to be interviewed on television outside the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre. Allison’s sister Vanessa is a good friend of both my daughters and her daughters are now at IGGS.

David Murray is currently Crime and Courts Editor for *The Courier Mail* and *Sunday Mail*. In order to write his book, he must have spoken to hundreds of people and attended every day of the Baden-Clay trial.

The book covers in detail the life and death of Allison, the lives and loves of her husband Gerard, the search for Allison and the investigation of her murder, the trial and its aftermath. It is in no way sensationalised, yet is not devoid of emotion. The police and others involved in the investigation should be lauded for their diligence, dedication, thoroughness, professionalism and, above all, humanity. As an example of thoroughness, Gordon Guymier of the Queensland Herbarium, identified that the six plant species found on Allison’s body could not be found locally at the Kholo Creek site where her body was found, but were all present in the grounds of the house where she lived with her husband and daughters. But to guard against any defence contention that they could perhaps be found in other locations, he selected more than 500 other sites in the Brisbane area by statistical methods and sampled each of them in his own time. He found no other incidence of concurrence.

It was, of course, through the telling scratches on his face, that Allison herself was largely responsible for the conviction of her murderer.

My only personal concern with the book – and this does not in any way reflect on Murray’s work – is my usual observation of the disconnect between the law and justice.

As I said at the beginning, the book was un-put-downable.

**Ian Pullar**

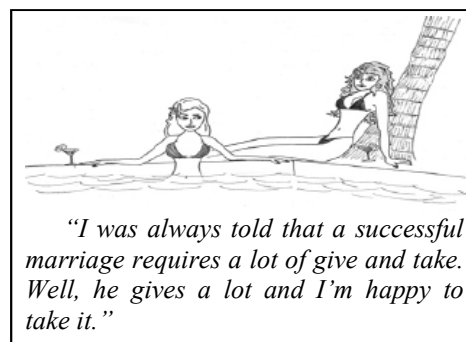
Rene Descartes is universally known for the aphorism “ergo cogito sum” (“I think therefore I am”) and the invention of Cartesian coordinates, etc. According to Russell Shorto, author of *Descartes’ Bones*, “he was not the greatest mathematician of the seventeenth century (Isaac Newton, a generation later, would surely win that title), or the most influential scientist (there might be a tie between Newton and Galileo) ... but one could argue that Descartes could be considered “the father not just of modern philosophy, but of ... modern world culture.”

Descartes stands between the worlds of rationalism and traditional Aristophelian and religious philosophy.

After publication of his world-shattering *Discourse on Method* of 1637 and the subsequent adversarial positioning, Descartes was persuaded to move to Sweden where he died. As a Catholic, he was interred outside the Protestant cemetery. Years later, his fellow Frenchmen retrieved his bones (or maybe most of them) for repatriation to his native country. However, events intervened. In particular the French revolution, with its direct challenge to traditional religion, severed the plans for reburial. The saga of re-interment continued for generations, with, eventually, detailed forensic analysis of a purportedly original skull.

The book is intriguing in that it explores, not only the saga of the treatment of Descartes’ remains, but of the continuing dichotomy between faith and ‘rationalism’.

**Ian Pullar**



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