



WATERY SAUCES OLDIES AND BOLDIES

Newsletter No 79

March 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION

AGM Coming – Are You?

Our 32nd Annual General Meeting will be held at Club Central (formerly the Public Service Club) on 28 April. All our members are cordially invited to attend.

As has previously been advised, our President Geoff Eades and Treasurer Ross Stewart both intend to stand down. So here is an opportunity for any member to nominate for either of those positions (or any other) if they so desire. But have no fear, there are sufficient “volunteers” to fill the positions if there are no other nominations forthcoming.

We would love to see a lot of members attending to hear reports on our activities and to take advantage of the opportunity to meet with old workmates for reminiscences or ~~gossip~~ news. These occasions are always enjoyable – and the beer will be cold!

As usual, lunch is on us.

We trust we’ll see you there.

New Co-Patron

WRRRA has a new Co-Patron. The new CEO of DEWS has graciously agreed to take on the role previously carried out by his predecessors.

Dr Paul Simshauser was appointed Director-General of the Department of Energy and Water Supply in July 2015.

Prior to his current role, Paul was AGL Energy’s Chief Economist. He has also held senior executive positions at Stanwell Corporation, NewGen Power and Babcock & Brown.

Paul holds Bachelor Degrees in Economics and in Commerce, has a Masters Degree in Accounting & Finance, and a PhD in Economics. He is an FCPA and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Paul is also Professor of Economics at Griffith University’s Business School, and is widely published on energy economics in academic journals.

President Geoff and Secretary Peter met with Dr Simshauser and had an interesting chat with him. He admits that his experience in the water industry is quite limited but is keen to learn and, where possible, draw on the experience of the retirees (who collectively have vast experience). We wish him well in his new role and look forward to closer contact with him.



From the Editor’s Chair

As can be seen above, we have welcomed a new Co-Patron. And very shortly we will be needing another one.

As previously announced, Peter Boettcher is standing down from his position as CEO of SunWater. He has been a most generous patron, assisting us in the provision of meeting space and mail-outs as well as attending and addressing our functions whenever his busy schedule permits. His openness and candour have been most welcome and refreshing. And apart from that, he has been a very congenial luncheon companion.

We thank him very much for his contribution and wish him well in the next phase of his life – whatever that may be.

The same good wishes apply to all our members and former colleagues for 2016 and many years beyond.

Until next time, au reservoir.

Ian Pullar, Editor

Anniversary

As a thespian, it is incumbent upon me to point out that the world will soon celebrate the 400th anniversary of the death of the world’s greatest playwright, William Shakespeare, on 23 April 1616.

It is a remarkable coincidence that Miguel Cervantes, Spain’s greatest writer, and Shakespeare died on exactly the same date. But not on the same day. By then Spain had switched to the Gregorian calendar while England was still on the Julian calendar. The change wasn’t made there till 1751, by which time there was an 11 day discrepancy.

WRRR February Luncheon

As usual, a very pleasant time was had by all the participants in our lunch at Club Central on 18 February.



Enjoying lunch: (from centre, front) Jim Mienert, Brian Shannon, Ian Ferrier, Ross Stewart, Kev Devlin, Bruce Pearce, Gary Corbett, Geoff Eades, Peter Jones, Jon Henry, Karla Henry, Daryl Brigden, Bruce Gaydon, Peter Read, Don Gardiner, Ian Pullar, Trevor Sleep
Terry Loos was behind the camera and Rolf Rose had to leave early.

It had been hoped that Lyall Hinrichsen from DNRM would be present to fill us in on current arrangements, but unfortunately he was called away at the last minute on Government business.

A Chip Off the Old Block?

In all probability, members will have been aware of the publicity given recently to **Alyssa Sutherland** who has been making a name as Aslaug in the TV show *Vikings*. Some may have even watched her. But did you know that she is the daughter of Ray Sutherland, our Honorary Auditor? No doubt he is a very proud father of his talented daughter.



Alyssa won a magazine model search in Australia in 1997 as a result of which she starred in campaigns for Chanel, Calvin Klein and Hugo Boss. She made her first film appearance in *The Devil Wears Prada* (2006). In 2007, appeared

as the iconic Flake Girl in a series of television ads for Cadbury. Her breakthrough role was as Princess Aslaug in *The Vikings* in 2013, now in its fourth series. When she's not in Ireland filming the series, she's in Los Angeles with her husband Laurence Shanet. She did come "home" for Christmas!

Milestones

Many Happy Returns to former colleagues who have reached important milestones:

Tom Fenwick turned 75 on 4 January

Rob Herd turned 65 on 5 February

Brian Shannon will turn 70 on 20 April

Ed Donohue will turn 65 on 14 May

Col Cooney will turn 80 on 1 June

Greg Claydon will be 60 on 6 June

Col Hazel will be 75 on 31 July

No doubt there are many other milestones that have not been brought to my attention. Best wishes to them, too - Ed.

A Flood of Memories

In 1974 when floodwaters threatened the Commission's stores at Rocklea, an appeal was made for staff to move stores to higher shelves.

Police on duty at the Rocklea Underpass demanded a satisfactory explanation as to why they should be allowed to proceed. About a score of intrepid staff beavered away at Rocklea raising stores to what was thought to be a safe level.

The workers were graced with a visit by Fred Haigh and Frank Learmonth, Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner respectively. Upon surveying the scene, Fred instructed his driver to hurry off and purchase refreshments for the workers. The instructions were to obtain sufficient stubbies for all workers and a number of hamburgers equal to half the number of workers.

When the refreshments arrived, Fred handed out stubbies. He then obtained a large carving knife and proceeded to cut hamburgers in two and hand a half hamburger to each worker. Everything ran smoothly until Ian Pullar declared that he did not want his half hamburger. Fred was singularly unamused at this display of rebellion by a much smaller and more junior engineer than himself.

Jon Henry has vivid memories of what happened next. He recalls the imposing figure of Fred chasing after the somewhat smaller figure of Ian. Fred had half a hamburger in one hand and the large carving knife in the other. Jon thinks that the incident was far more spectacular than anything on Fawlty Towers including the garden gnome.

To this day, nobody recalls the fate of Ian's half hamburger. Jon and Ian both recall that the stubbies went down well. Amid the fog and the grog, the lasting recollection is of the truly genuine nature of Fred Haigh.
Thanks, Jon, for this memory - Ed.

Missing Persons

The secretary would be very grateful if anyone could provide information on the current whereabouts of

Mrs Rose Walker, Tolga

Dick Wilson, Tweed Heads

Regretfully, I have to report the passing of a number of former colleagues:

Bernie Sinnamon passed away on 15 October 2015 aged 86. He was a Ganger/Foreman on many construction projects including Wuruma Dam, Selma Weir, Mulgildie Weir etc. Following his retirement, he resided in Bundaberg. He was the husband of Dawn and father of seven children.

Keith Henricksen was a boring Inspector in Charleville, before retiring to Bundaberg with his wife Jean. He passed away in December, 2015 aged 84.

John Edmund Harvey died on 2 December 2015 in Bundaberg. John was born in Rushmore, Suffolk but followed his future wife to Australia in 1965. He joined the then Irrigation and Water Supply Commission that year as a Foreman II. He became a Stream Control Officer and served in that capacity in Bundaberg until his retirement in 2008. He had three children of whom his son Phillip was also a career Public Servant.

Arthur Charles Julian, late of Bribie Island, died on 15 December 2015 aged 89. Charles was born in Tregony, Cornwall. He worked for the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission with Len Redmond in Theodore, before both of them moved to Brisbane where Charles served in Irrigation Branch as a field officer. He is survived by his wife Margaret, three children and five grandchildren.

Patrick Buxton also died on 15 December. Pat joined the Commission as a carpenter in 1974. He worked on Glenlyon, Monduran, Wivenhoe and Burdekin Falls dams before becoming Crown Supervisor in Clare in 1994. He retired in 1999, highly regarded by the organisation.

Harold Scholz died on 16 January. He was of one of the last of the "Olden Days" hydrographers. He started in the hydrographic field in 1953 and worked with all of the famous old names that crop up in hydrographic history, such as Calvert, Wragge, Ogden, Ezzy, Smythe and many others who were recruited after the war. He travelled the state on extended field trips lasting up to several years at a time, travelling mainly by train and enlisting local help when needed. He finally settled in Mareeba where he ran the hydrographic unit until 1981. He had turned 95 last September.

Theo Ledwy passed away on 16 February. Theo was born in Ukraine and moved to Australia where he joined IWS as a Formsetter. He served on numerous construction sites, gradually rising up the ranks, and was highly regarded by his men and his managers. There will be more detail of his interesting life in the next Newsletter.

Robert James Sainsbury's funeral was held in Beaudesert on 1 March. Bob joined IWSC at Wuruma Dam in 1966 as a Foreman. He subsequently served at Maroon Dam, the Bundaberg Irrigation Area and Wivenhoe Dam where he was involved in the construction of the weirs on Laidley and Sandy creeks. Promoted to Works Supervisor, he supervised the construction of weirs on Three Moon Creek. He returned to Bundaberg until his retirement in 1985 to Boonah.

Our condolences to the families of these fine men.

A short story about technology

Peter Jones

I spent a week with our grandchildren just recently when they were into the final exam phase for 2015.

The youngest granddaughter (Year 8) was setting up an excel spreadsheet – well I thought this was pretty good and as I considered myself reasonably proficient with spread sheets thought I could help her and at the same time show how clever Grandad was. You must also remember that many, perhaps all, of us had not been exposed to spread sheets until the early/mid 80s when we were 12 to 15 years into our professional career.

Managed the first bit OK – she was using an "if" statement to determine the content of a cell. Yeah, I had done that back when we were programming in Fortran and had managed to transfer that knowledge to spreadsheets.

But then it got a bit tricky – if the answer was, say, "A", then she wanted the cell coloured green, but if it was "B", then the cell was to be coloured red.

At that point I stumbled, well perhaps more truthfully, I crashed.

Not to be beaten, we called upon her brother (my year 12 grandson) to get us out of trouble – which he did without a second thought about how to do it. So assignment finished and Grandad was a bit embarrassed but now knew about conditional formatting of cells in excel.

But I think what really impressed me was the level at which these kids around 13 years of age are working. I struggled to come to grips with "if" statements when I first came across them at university, but here are the kids in Year 8 using (and more importantly understanding) them. Then came the conditional formatting – something I had not had to deal with before then.

I think all us "oldies" will have to work a lot harder to keep up with the technology that is now an everyday part of the younger ones' lives.

Isn't the point that we need grandchildren to help us cope? My grandkids certainly appreciate that I am technologically obsolescent. - Ed.

My Wet Tropics Career Change

Mike Merrin

After 25 years on the drawing board with the Commission, the last 20 based in Rockhampton, in 1990 I found myself in the wet tropics running some new fangled program called Integrated Catchment Management or ICM.

In doing so, I moved from a role designing and documenting on-farm irrigation systems, water storages and water supply schemes across Central Queensland – a clear ‘black and white’ role I loved and by that time had plenty of experience in, to one which I and many others did not have a clue about! Talk about shades of grey! That was all I could see in front of me when I found out what it was all about!

It happened like this. In the early days of the Goss government and the incorporation of the Water Resources Commission into the new, bigger and brighter DPI, Ed Casey, the Minister for Primary Industries at the time introduced the ICM program onto the government’s agenda.

As I was soon to learn, if you could find 6 people in the greater DPI at the time who had heard of ICM and asked them what it was all about, you would probably get 7 different answers. So, those charged with delivering the program came up with what was probably the only realistic approach – let’s run a pilot study to see what we might learn. And that’s how the Johnstone River ICM Pilot Study happened and why I ended up in Innisfail.

So how the hell did I end up in Innisfail? Well, back in 1986, I completed a degree in urban and regional planning and some time later, sought to move from the technical officer scale to the professional scale. At the time, I was getting involved in a broader range of projects in the CQ Regional Office and I felt that such a move was justified. While the Regional Engineer, John ‘The Trump’ Moreton was supportive at the time, nothing much happened in my endeavours until 1990, by which time The Trump had moved on and Mike McKenna was in the big chair in Rocky.

One day, Mike called me in to his office and asked me if I was interested in a move to Innisfail to get involved with this new ICM program, suggesting that it would be a good career move to get in on the ground floor, so to speak. He also suggested that such a move could trigger the reclassification to the professional stream which I had been seeking for some time. Little did I (nor I suspect did Mike) know that the new program was at that time parked somewhere down in the 6th level basement below PIB House and still a long way below the ground floor, so far as its development and delivery were concerned!

After giving the offer some consideration, I decided to decline, as I was well settled in Rocky at the time with a young family and a wife with a career of her own.

Some time later, however, I received a call from a senior officer in Brisbane informing me that my position in Rockhampton had been reclassified to a professional officer position – and that the position had been transferred to Far North Region!

When I asked quite naively what this meant for me, his response was, ‘You go – or you go!’

To say that I was somewhat gobsmacked by this was something of an understatement at the time, for I was under the impression that the days of transfer by direction had been left behind some time back in the Bjelke-Petersen era!

I was reluctant to move away from the Commission at the time, however, as it had been my working life for 25 years, so off I went. I guess I was still influenced by my father’s advice during my formative years – ‘get a job with the government, then you will always have a job’ – probably sound advice from someone who had grown up and tried to get by through the Depression years of the 1930s.

So, in the latter part of 1990, there I was living in a pub in Mareeba and attempting to come to grips with this new animal ICM under the watchful eye and guidance of Peter Gilbey who was Regional Engineer in Mareeba at the time. I must say that Peter impressed me at that time with his practical understanding of the application of the ICM concept and how we might roll out the pilot study on the ground – not necessarily the consensus view, as that did not evolve until later, if at all.

So, after a couple of months induction into ICM and too much time living in the pub, I returned to Rocky for Christmas in 1990 and packed up my family and headed for Innisfail as soon as the floodwaters from the 1990-91 Fitzroy flood subsided to allow the airport to re-open in January 1991.

It was only some years later that I learned that my ‘forced’ transfer to Innisfail to run the pilot study was part of the Commission’s strategy in a corporate power-play with the Land Use and Fisheries group of DPI for leadership of the ICM program. As it turned out, Land Use and Fisheries won the corporate game, but at least the Commission had its man on the ground.

So began my wet tropics career change, where I quickly left my comfortable black and white world behind as I was plunged headlong into the sea of grey that was integrated catchment management at that time. As it turned out, it proved to be a most interesting, challenging and rewarding period in my working life. Perhaps more about that later.

Many thanks, Mike - Ed.



“I always go to other people’s funerals. Otherwise they won’t come to mine.”

Dalmatian Spots

Geoff Eades

Continued from last edition.

Our next port was an inlet on the small island of Scedro to the south of Hvar. That night and the next day we had a series of misadventures that can make sailing interesting or nerve-racking depending on your temperament. The first incident occurred at midnight when one of our crew woke to the sound of the anchor dragging. A stiff breeze had sprung up in the night and we were dangerously close to a neighbouring boat. Fortunately we managed to avoid any damage and moved to a safer anchorage. The next day the breeze was still strong and we set sail for the island of Korcula. We were enjoying the exhilarating conditions when one of the ropes securing our tender, a small rubber ducky, loosened on the davit and tipped its fuel tank into the water. Fortunately we did not lose the tender but we spent the next hour or two sailing around in circles until we retrieved the fuel tank. To cap off the day, a rope from one of our sails became entangled in the rudder. We managed to limp into the port of Vela Luka where our intrepid skipper managed to dive under the boat and disentangle the rope getting a liberal coating of anti-fouling paint in the process.

After berthing at Vela Luka and another small village we set sail for the town of Korcula near the eastern end of the island. To get there we passed through the narrow Peljeski Channel separating the island from the mainland. The tidal flow here is quite strong which is unusual for the Adriatic Sea where tidal ranges are usually fairly small. The scenery here is very impressive with mountains rising to the north on the Peljesac peninsula and to the south on the island itself.

Korcula is another walled city famous for being the birthplace of Marco Polo in 1254. He went to Venice with his family at a young age before travelling the world. He was captured in a naval battle between the Venetians and Genovese and is supposed to have dictated his account of his time in China while in prison in Genoa. Modern historians now question whether he was ever in China but the Korculans will have none of that and for them he remains a favourite son.



Korcula showing Governor's Tower and St Mark's Cathedral

The walled city is located on a small peninsula jutting into the channel. The topography is such that the walls form an oval shape. Streets are cleverly designed so that those running west are straight to catch the refreshing westerly breeze while those at right angles are curved to minimise the effect of the bura, a cold north-westerly wind. All streets rise to the central point dominated by St Mark's Cathedral. Museums and restaurants are plentiful.

Korcula is such a wonderful place we decided to spend an extra day there. Some of us hired a car and a guide and travelled to the interior of the island. Our guide, Zvonimir, was actually a native of Bosnia who had been forced to leave during the homeland war of the nineties. According to Zvonimir the homeland war was all about money and power and had very little to do with religious tensions.

Two of the places we visited were Blato and Lumbarda. Blato literally means mud because it was built on a swamp. Presumably because of its deep soil it produces beautiful fruit and vegetables. A famous local tradition is the sword dance where two sides representing armies fight against each other. Unfortunately we were a few weeks too late to witness the event. The dance celebrates a victory over the Turks when a small force of old men and boys managed to repel the invaders while the able-bodied men were off fighting elsewhere.

Lumbarda is famous for a white wine variety known as grk (gurk). The vine only has female flowers, so to produce grapes it must be co-planted with another grape variety, usually a local red, plavac mali. We found the grk to be superior to the red and bought several bottles for the remainder of our voyage.

After leaving Korcula we had one more island stop before heading back to the mainland. This stop was Sucaraj on the eastern end of Hvar Island. It is a charming former fishing village with a natural deep water inlet forming an ideal harbour for small craft like ours. Some of the buildings still bore the scars of the WWII conflict. The stone house opposite our berth had a line of bullet marks apparently caused by a British Spitfire strafing the building which, at the time, was a German hideout.

Our ports of call on the mainland were Makarska, Omis and Split. Makarska is at the centre of the "Makarska Riviera" where limestone cliffs rise above a narrow coastal foothill zone. It is a modern town devoted to tourism. The marina is located in the centre of the business district making it a convenient stop for restaurants and shopping.

Omisi is a small town located where the Cetina River flows through a massive limestone gorge into the Adriatic Sea. It has an interesting history, being a pirate stronghold from the 12th to the 13th century. It was the only town in the region to resist both the Venetians and the Turks. It was not conquered until the 15th century when it became part of the Venetian Empire. The old town dating back to those times is still intact, as is the fortress Mirrabella which is a legacy of its pirate past.

The night before we were due to leave Omis we were woken by a strong wind, the dreaded Bura. This is a cold wind from the northeast that makes sailing difficult because of the short, high wave crests and reduced visibility. In Croatia they have a saying “When Bura sails you don’t”. In the morning winds were 25 knots and predicted to go higher so some of us decided to catch a bus for the 35 km trip to Split while the others waited out the gale before sailing. Fortunately the winds died down in the afternoon and we were all able to meet in the Split marina that night. Those lucky enough to wait had the best sailing of the trip with a steady 10 knot breeze for most of the time.

Split has a magnificent natural harbour. Fortunately commercial shipyards and ferry terminals are remote from the old town centred round Diocletian’s palace. The palace is no crumbling ruin. There are hundreds of buildings within the palace boundaries. These include shops, apartments, museums and restaurants. In front of the palace and adjoining buildings is a wide promenade stretching hundreds of metres where you can mingle with the rich and famous if you desire. We spent the best part of a day exploring this area and still only saw a fraction of the place. One of the highlights is a cathedral

built on the site of Diocletian’s mausoleum. The original octagonal form together with its columns has been almost completely preserved.



The harbour at Split

Our last day was spent leisurely cruising back to our home port Trogir. The day after, our boat was subjected to a rigorous inspection including a diver inspecting the hull. Fortunately there was minimal damage and loss of equipment, the exception being a dispute about some missing life jackets. We came to the conclusion that these had been stolen just before we took possession of the boat. Despite this hiccup, this trip was one of the best we have had since retirement. Memories of the Croatian people and their friendliness will remain with us.

Thanks Geoff for this very interesting account. I expect you may have made quite a few readers jealous. - Ed

The Adventures of Young Ian

Continuing my account of my involvement in the post-Wolffdene studies in 1990 - Ed.

Inevitably our investigations have an impact on potentially impacted landholders (there have been numerous recent accounts from people affected by the studies of the ill-fated Traveston Crossing Dam on the Mary River).

One day a youngish couple arrived in the office to make an enquiry. They had spent the past five years looking for their ideal rural escape and had finally agreed to purchase the place of their dreams. Only then did they hear the rumour that a dam site was under investigation that would inundate the property. Was it true? Unfortunately it was. The fact that this was only one of many sites under consideration was small consolation. They could only hope we would focus on somewhere else. I couldn’t help wondering whether it would be more traumatic to lose a newly acquired piece of paradise or the treasured homestead that had been in the family for generations.

Not everyone suffers in this way. At one early ‘shed’ meeting I carefully explained that properties could be acquired under the *Acquisition of Lands Act*, but more often properties were purchased by normal commercial negotiations, with the option of the Land Court if agreement couldn’t be reached on purchase price and conditions. One woman excitedly offered her property for immediate purchase. She had had her property on the market for four years without even a nibble.

Throughout the progress of the investigations, I had fairly frequent (and very civil) contact from a spokesman for a group of potentially affected landholders enquiring about progress and to tell me of how the community was preparing to resist any acquisition. When their site was not included in the adopted strategy, he rang me in great elation to tell me of the party they were planning in celebration. In hindsight, our investigations had been the best thing that had ever happened in the area because it had brought all the residents together. He very kindly invited me to the party. Needless to say, I declined with thanks.

Once the strategy had been determined and the report was printed, I had the privilege of conducting public meetings in Beaudesert and Boonah. Not surprisingly, the attendees at both meetings were far from overjoyed. I had planned to explain the process of the investigation and the logic by which the conclusions were reached, and then hand out copies of the report. But the good people at Beaudesert demanded they be given the report right at the start. As Robbie Burns opined, “The best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men gang aft agley”.

Despite all that, I have to say that the country folk with whom I dealt during the entire investigation may have been hostile to the events, but I was treated with reasonable courtesy. No one seemed hell-bent on “shooting the messenger”.

Footnote: The Millennium drought investigations, fifteen years later, revisited some of these investigations. Wyaralong Dam was built.

Bucket List Sporting Quadrella 2015.

A five week sporting tour of England, Scotland & France, Northern Summer 2015

Terry Loos

According to Fiona Bruce of the *Antiques Roadshow*, Mary Queen of Scots (1542-1587) learnt to play golf in France and played at St Andrews upon her return to Scotland. Being the Queen of France she was entitled to a military cadet to carry her clubs. This gave rise to the concept of a 'caddy'.

St Andrews was the second of my quadrella of major sporting events on a *bucket list* tour of – Wimbledon, The Open (golf), the Lords Ashes Test and Le Tour. The trip had to be in 2015 because The Open comes to St Andrews only every five years, and in 2015 it coincided with an Ashes Tour.

Throughout the five weeks the weather was of a heat wave nature with bright daylight from around 5am to around 9-10pm. This made for great exploration opportunities but tiring days just the same. I even gained an English suntan.

Actually, I didn't go to The Open itself but rather to the Tuesday practice day. The reasons for this were: they allow cameras only on practice days; the crowds are thinner and you can explore the whole course at will and see the golfers close up; and I had a ticket to the second day's play (Friday) at Lords back in London. The Poms are so spoilt for top-notch sports they scheduled The Open and the Lords Test on exactly the same days. I saw on TV that the Scottish weather deteriorated badly on the weekend during the Open itself.

St Andrews was breathtaking. I tended to hang around the Road Hole (the 17th) and the 18th and the 1st, but did venture to the far end of the course. Name-dropping, I saw: Tom Watson, Phil Mickelson, Jordan Speith, Jason Day, Adam Scott, John Daly, and heaps of lesser lights. Tiger Who? stayed hidden. Among the many fascinating golfing idiosyncrasies of the course is its linearity. After the first nine you find yourself at the far end of the course. It was also fascinating to watch play on the 7th and 11th holes where the par three 11th cuts across the fairway of the par 4 7th. The linear layout allows for seven double greens (each pair adds up to 18). Apparently, normally, no buggies are allowed before noon and the course is closed and becomes a public open space on Sundays.

The town of St Andrews (on a warm sunny day) was wonderful. Coastal views, a classic old university (3rd oldest in the English-speaking world), Cathedral ruins, Castle ruins, and the coffee shop where 'Kate and Wills' met. I did walk under 'The Pends' which is a mid 14th century large stone gatehouse (now roofless) of the Augustinian cathedral-priory, of St Andrews. Legend has it that the arches will collapse the moment the world's smartest person walks under it. Apparently the English philosopher/political economist John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) refused to walk under it. I'd like to think I

heard the structure creaking when I did – but it probably was the groaning wind. St Andrews is about an hour by train from Edinburgh – although, just to be difficult, the station is on the far outskirts at Leuchars and a bus transfer is needed. Edinburgh itself was another wonderful story.

Whereas I had bought a ticket to St Andrews in November 2014 I took my chances at Wimbledon. Caught the first tube to arrive at Wimbledon Common around 6.40am. No wombles in sight but there already was a big queue and I was given a queue ticket number of 5282. The overnight campers were still emerging from their tents. They admit about 8000 in the morning intake so I was OK but the optimists arriving on the train around 8am missed out and had to spend the day in the blistering English sun hoping for the late entry at around 5pm.

My 25 quid admitted me to courts 3 to 19. Something like 35-45 quid would have allowed me Centre Court or Nos 1 and 2 – if I could get a ticket. It turns out the top ten seeds are sequestered on these three courts so I just saw the unseeded – terrific tennis, but there's a clear gulf, they were just making up the numbers. However, Roger Federer had an extended practice hit against his (then) coach Stefan Edberg on the dedicated outside practice court. Edberg looked as good as he did when he won Wimbledon in 1990.

I bought, for a quid, one of the 54,250 balls used at the tournament. Some more trivia: All court lines are 50mm wide, except base lines, which are 100mm. Since electronic sensors were introduced to Centre Court in 2006 (and later to some other courts) the men have made 4551 challenges, and only 146 were upheld. 757 players started in 2015. They let us in about 10.30am and play started around 11am from memory.

I was thinking of the thousands waiting outside on the Common in the sun all day when I saw how many people are at Wimbledon just for the socializing – just to see and be seen. Dear old grannies sipping on a Pimms and catching up with old friends. The tennis seemed incidental to them.

The Aussie 'fanatics' supporters were in full voice at any court where an Aussie player was on. At first this was amusing but it soon became tiresome. I did try the strawberries and cream but could find only one stall. The Kentish strawberries were delicious. Finally around 4pm it all wore thin and I left to tube back into London to explore further.

I disembarked at Westminster station to emerge just under the Big Ben clock tower. Thereafter it was a walk around Parliament House, Westminster Abbey, No 10, a London Porter beer at the Red Lion in Whitehall, Horseguards Parade, Trafalgar Square, The Strand, Somerset House, the Temple Church etc etc. All items on my tick list. Headed for home (in Hayes) from Temple tube station around 7pm.

To be continued, next edition. Many thanks, Terry. - Ed

The East Bundaberg Water Tower

A beautiful structure in Bundaberg has been lovingly restored by the Bundaberg Regional Council at a cost of \$145,000. Designed by Messrs JB Henderson, Charles Deshon and Frederick Weber of the Water Supply Department, the tower provided elevation for a water supply in a flat landscape. The East Water Tower is the only known example in Queensland of this rare building type, namely the cylindrical brick water tower. Raymond Whitmore said in his 2009 book *Hydraulic Henderson - Water Resources Pioneer*, that “maintaining line and level in the construction of a simple cylindrical brick structure at ground level is difficult enough. When the complexity of arched windows and projecting bands of brickwork is added the job becomes even more difficult. However much of the work had to be performed at heights of up to 30 metres above ground level from very basic scaffolding, making the job extremely difficult”.



The citation for the building was written by prominent local engineer Geoffrey Bullpitt, who served as a sponsor for a number of Value Engineering studies carried out by Water Resources in the 1990s.

A Voice from the Past

We were recently contacted by Patrick Smith who served in Surface Water Resources 1970 - 1974. He began as a Cadet Hydrographer in Head Office (under Len Ezzy, John Ward, Harry Stark), moved to Mareeba in May 1970 (Harold Scholz- Henry Hannam), then transferred to Townsville Office in 1973 (Roy Mincher). He served in Mt Isa during the 1974 floods, then resigned to pursue a career in flying.

He sent in a batch of photos which he thought would be of interest. He also sent an account of his career which will be included in the next edition.



Above: Greg Long at Cloncurry R



Bell 47 helicopter used for hydrographic work



*Top: 1974 floods in Mt Isa with Phil Kerr
Above: John Pitts and Patrick at Burketown*

The Old Transfer System

Hector Macdonald

After I finished my training in 1961 I was posted as an Engineer Division 3 in the Surface Water Resources Branch of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission.

The Senior Engineer in charge of the Branch was Arthur McCutcheon and the second in charge was Harry Stark. The engineer to whom I reported was John Ward.

Part of my job was to go on field trips with the hydrographers when they went out in the bush with their current meters, surveyor's chains and steel tapes to measure stream flows. The results of their work were passed on to Project Planning Branch.

The hydrographers with whom I worked were Len Ezzy and Wally Baturo, and although I never had any direct contact with Harold Scholz, his name was well known throughout the Commission.

However my tenure in Surface Water Resources was short lived. After two months, in March 1962, Arthur McCutcheon came to my desk one day to say I had been transferred into Construction Branch at Leslie Dam. He gave me a copy of the Commissioner's Direction which said that I was to report for duty on the following Monday morning. He also said that I could collect a copy of my train ticket to take me from Roma Street to Warwick, from the Clerk Personnel, Jim Pill.

Life was so much simpler in those days.

Hector sent this in in relation to the notice of Harold Scholz's death. It sits well beside Mike Merrin's account on page 4 of his "transfer" to Innisfail. Thanks Hector, for the contribution. - Ed.

SunWater Snippets

Leadership changes

As many are aware, Chief Executive, Peter Boettcher is leaving SunWater on 31 March 2016 having completed 27 years of service in the water industry, the last eight years as Chief Executive. The Board is currently finalising the recruitment of the next CEO.

Tim Donaghy, General Manager Asset Delivery has also moved on, having contributed over a decade's service to SunWater. SunWater has appointed Ms Alex Fisher to the position of General Manager Asset Delivery. Alex Fisher's focus at SunWater is the delivery of engineering, project delivery, procurement and quality systems.

Geoff White, General Manager Corporate will be retiring and leaving SunWater on 30 June 2016. Geoff served alongside two CEOs and its immediate predecessor for 12 years and has been instrumental in advancing the commercialisation of the business. The process to select a new GM will commence soon.

Early warning communications

SunWater has been working hard to improve early warning communications for residents living downstream of our dams. We have introduced earlier flood warning communications in the preparedness phase of a potential dam outflow event using a range of communications channels such as website updates, Facebook, Twitter, SMS messages, SunWater App notifications and emails to local radio stations.

The SunWater App was developed to be another communication tool which can provide timely and accurate notifications of potential dam outflows during extreme weather events and natural disasters. The App was launched late last year and provides subscribers with the latest information, including operational updates and emergency preparedness notifications accessible from an apple or android device. The App can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play or for more info, refer to: <http://www.sunwater.com.au/sustainability/community/sunwater-app>.

Experts gather for Regional Water Forum

SunWater and management consulting firm, Nous Group, recently hosted a regional water forum in Brisbane. The forum brought together water industry experts from a range of sectors including agriculture, farming, construction, education, irrigation, science, economy, government and water authorities.

The forum commenced with some thought provoking ideas from prominent speakers including SunWater's Chairman Leith Bouilly, Doug McTaggart (Australian National University), Karen Hussey (Global Change Institute at University of Queensland), Andrew Barger (Queensland Resources Council) and Keith Delacy (I-Fed).

Further group discussion and facilitated break out groups were then held to stimulate creative thinking about regional water in Queensland and its issues and opportunities. The Nous Group will prepare a position

DEWS News

New Local Management Arrangements

Following the irrigation price path announced in 2012, irrigators raised concerns about the long term sustainability of the existing SunWater irrigation channels. In response to these concerns the Government committed to investigate the possibility of SunWater's eight channel irrigation schemes transitioning to local management arrangements (LMA). Local management would place the channel irrigation schemes under the ownership and operation of local irrigators who benefited from the schemes.

A detailed assessment was made of the benefits and support of a move to an LMA. The governance arrangements included establishing:

- an independent project team, hosted by DEWS, to manage the process
- an interim board for each scheme, which put forward business proposals.

As a result of this process, Theodore, St George, Emerald and Eton will commence the transition to local management. Over the next few months DEWS will work with representatives of irrigators to establish an appropriate framework for the next stage of the project. Special purpose vehicle companies will be established for the four schemes to commence the transition to local management, subject to the irrigators and the Government agreeing to the final terms of the transfer. The four companies will be led by boards of directors comprised of local irrigators and appropriately skilled independent directors.

In Bundaberg, Burdekin-Haughton, Lower Mary and Mareeba-Dimbulah, irrigators will be invited to undertake additional work to prepare revised business proposals. This will inform the Government's future decision on whether those schemes are suitable to transition to local management arrangements.

Somerset Dam Upgrade

A review has been completed of all the Seqwater dams in South-East Queensland. This has resulted in a need for further review of the stability of Somerset Dam under extreme flood events. Geotechnical investigations are being undertaken. From Monday 22 February, work will be conducted at the dam for about 4-6 weeks, subject to weather conditions and any unforeseen delays. These works will contribute to determining the required scope of works for the upgrade of Somerset Dam as part of a Dam Improvement Program.

To maintain the ongoing safe operation of Somerset Dam, the drinking water level has been lowered to 80% and a new flood operations strategy will be adopted. In addition, to maintain the flood management benefits provided by Somerset and Wivenhoe dams, Wivenhoe Dam's full water supply storage volume has also been lowered to 90%. This will increase the temporary flood storage space in Wivenhoe Dam to allow additional flood waters to be stored, if required.

HEALTH *and beauty*

It's Never Too Late

A British couple became, in June 2015, the world's oldest newlyweds. George Kirby, 103, married Doreen Luckie, 91. RAF veteran Kirby said, "Doreen keeps me young and I can definitely say we are going to spend the rest of our lives together."

This reminds me of a story told to us by a very close friend. After many years of widowhood, his mother, now in her 80s, decided to marry a widower she had known for some years. But as she, our friend and his brother stood at the church door ready to walk down the aisle, she got cold feet. "I don't think I can go through with this," she burst out. Our friend, realising that platitudes would serve no purpose, asked her, "Do you and Noel intend to have sex?" "Well, we don't intend to have children, so you'll never know," she retorted. That diffused the situation and the trio moved down the aisle to begin her ten years of happy marriage.

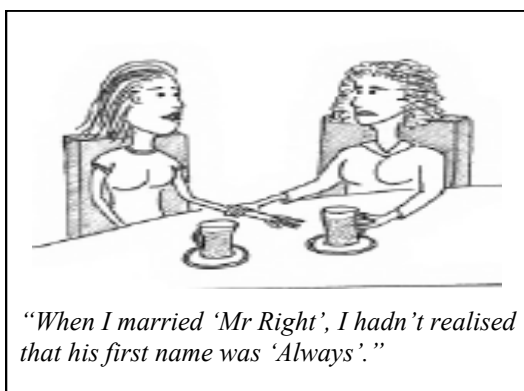
Say "No" to the Weekend Lie-In

Having a lie-in at the weekend could raise the risk of diabetes and heart disease, researchers have warned.

It has long been recognised that shift-workers can suffer increased ill-health because of disruption to the circadian system, or natural body clock. They are more likely to develop heart disease or type-2 diabetes.

In the latest studies, it was found that people with irregular sleeping hours were found to have raised levels of fat in their blood and less of a compound that lowers blood sugar levels.

Regular sleep patterns are more likely to avoid "social jetlag".



A Purple Patch

Research by the University of Southern Queensland in Ipswich has identified purple foods as being potentially beneficial to health. Foods like plums, purple carrots and berries could be the key to weight loss and health.

Research presented at Ipswich Hospital stated "Obesity is now common, with about one third of our adult population being obese, one third being overweight and one third having normal or low body weight.

"Many components of foods can reduce the organ damage of chronic obesity in a rat model, especially damage to the heart, blood vessels and the liver, reducing abdominal fat pads and improving body metabolism of glucose and lipids.

"In particular, purple foods such as purple carrots and the Queen Garnet plum have been very effective, returning organ function to normal."

The active ingredient is the anthocyanins which give the purple colour to many berries and are remarkably effective as anti-inflammatory compounds.

Purple carrots are currently grown near Kalbar and in the Lockyer Valley.

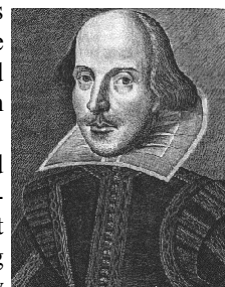
The Razor's Edge

Forget the razor, gents. Scientific research by the University of NSW has found that men with full beards are the sexiest.

A research panel of 351 women were shown photographs of the same man, clean-shaven, with a five day growth, with a ten day growth and with a full beard. The full beard scored highest by far for potential parenting ability. The ten day beard was next most popular while the five day stubble came a distant last. The researchers concluded that a full beard conveyed less aggressiveness.

None of this should come as a surprise though. As Shakespeare himself noted in *Much Ado About Nothing*, "He that hath a beard is more than a youth, and he that hath no beard is less than a man. He that is more than a youth is not for me, and he that is less than a man, I am not for him."

I have also been informed (perhaps with doubtful reliability) that "kissing a man without a beard is like eating an egg without salt". I wouldn't know – I do neither!



Exercise those Brain Cells

Q: Genuine coins weigh 1 gram each while counterfeit ones weigh only .9 grams. You are faced with ten piles of 10 coins each and told that one pile is entirely counterfeit. You are given a set of scales calibrated in grams and instructed to determine in one weighing which pile is counterfeit. How can you do it?



Answer to last Issue's Teaser

4	4	5	4	4
5		4		4
4	4		4	5
4		5		4
4	5	4	4	4

Water Way to Do It

Valencia, in Spain, was originally established as a retirement town for Roman soldiers, early in the last millennium. They instituted a certain amount of agriculture which was greatly expanded by the Moors who established eight channels from the Ebro River which are still in operation today.

In Cathedral Square in Valencia every Thursday a Water Court gathers to settle disputes if any. Each of the eight channels elects a representative for two years who must turn up. They meet near a fountain in the square with a river god and eight channel maidens. They hear the disputes and resolve them on the spot. How refreshing!



The Vicissitudes of Travel

There are a few things in this life that I don't understand. One of them is I have no comprehension of why people spend time and money travelling the world and then obscure the view of what they came to see by standing in front of it – more often than not in ridiculous poses – and taking endless photographs. I know what I look like and have no reason to record myself ad nauseam instead of what I came to see. And what's more, they selfishly block other people's view of the sights.

In Camera

Rude shutterbugs
treat us as mugs -
we seldom take a trick -
and posers who
obscure the view
have always made me sick.
But now it's worse;
I really curse
the modern selfish stick.

ECHO AND NARCISSUS



It's just a selfie.

A Sign of the Times



As reported in the media 27-12-2015

Anagrams

Any cryptic crossword solvers out there will be impressed – or otherwise – by the efforts of anonymous cryptographers who have spent/wasted their time developing the following list of appropriate anagrams:

PRESBYTERIAN:
BEST IN PRAYER

SLOT MACHINES:
CASH LOST IN ME

ASTRONOMER:
MOON STARER

ANIMOSITY:
IS NO AMITY

DESPERATION:
A ROPE ENDS IT

ELECTION RESULTS:
LIES - LET'S RE-
COUNT

THE EYES:
THEY SEE

SNOOZE ALARMS:
ALAS! NO MORE Z'S

GEORGE BUSH:
HE BUGS GORE

A DECIMAL POINT:
I'M A DOT IN PLACE

THE MORSE
CODE :
HERE COME DOTS

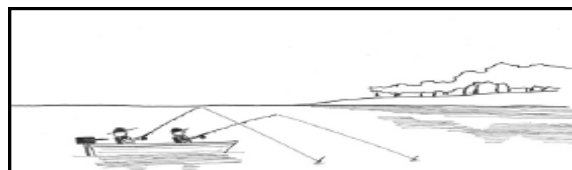
THE EARTHQUAKES:
THAT QUEER SHAKE

DORMITORY:
DIRTY ROOM

ELEVEN PLUS TWO:
TWELVE PLUS ONE

And for the Grand Finale -

MOTHER-IN-LAW:
WOMAN HITLER



"They told me I was gullible ... and I believed them."

Book Club

17 Carnations, by Andrew Morton, has the sub-title "The Windsors, the Nazis and the Cover-Up".

Days after the end of World War II, King George VI sent the royal courier and Soviet spy Anthony Blunt on a secret mission to a German castle to recover vital royal letters. He found, in a buried, battered canister, Top Secret files revealing the innermost workings of the Nazi regime, including incriminating correspondence with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. For years the British political leaders managed to keep this material under wraps.

Morton's book explores the relationship of the Windsors with Hitler and his regime. The Prince of Wales, who was of course of Germanic descent and closely related to the former Kaiser, was known to be sympathetic to Germany, but did this sympathy lead him to be a traitor to his country? According to Morton, he had never wanted to be king, even contemplating suicide to avoid the throne. So the excuse to abdicate over his proposed marriage to twice-divorced American Wallis Simpson may have come as a godsend.

The title *17 Carnations*, refers to her apparent affair with the Nazi diplomat von Ribbentrop, which led to him sending her 17 carnations daily; one for each night they had spent together.

The book provides a fascinating coverage of the events before and after the abdication and the war and the reckless behaviour of the couple who thought they could and should have involvement in wartime diplomacy. The British government attempted to sideline them by removing them from Spain (from where it appeared the Nazis may attempt to reinstate the Duke as a puppet king) and making him Governor of the Bahamas. This had only limited success, leading to the exasperation of Churchill who had previously had some sympathy for him.

Morton poses the question, was the Duke of Windsor a Traitor King or a Duped Duke? and goes a long way towards answering it. It's no wonder the new king – and particularly the new queen – would have nothing to do with the royal couple who spent the rest of their lives in exile in France, isolated from the Royal family.

A good read.

Ian Pullar

I was not surprised to read recently that *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr appeared at the top of the list of best-sellers published by the independent sellers. It is a remarkable book.

It is set mostly around World War II (is there a theme emerging here?). Marie-Laure has been blind since the age of six, but her father who is a curator at the Museum of Natural History has made a detailed model of her neighbourhood to teach her the way home. When the Nazis invade France, they relocate to Saint-Malo, a walled city by the sea, to the home of her reclusive uncle. Her father toils day and night to create a similar street model for her. Is the diamond her father has smuggled out of Paris the real invaluable one or a copy? And will the Nazi agent who is determined to find the authentic one succeed?

Werner is a German orphan who is destined to suffer ill-treatment and be consigned to going down the mines until a broken radio brings him to the attention of the Hitler Youth. His and Marie-Laure's worlds eventually collide.

The narrative style is in itself remarkable. It is told in a series of chapters, no more than three pages in length (and usually less) with the action switching from location to location and from time to time. The prose is excellent.

One reviewer summarised his feelings as "This is a bittersweet and moving novel that lingers in the mind."

Ian Pullar



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	Mike Merrin		0437005707	michaelmerrin8@bigpond.com
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