Watery Sauces Oldies and Boldies

Newsletter No 80 July 2016

Newsletter of the Water Resources Retirees Association

32nd Annual General Meeting

Seventeen members plus two accompanying wives attended this year's AGM held at Club Central on 28 April. We also welcomed two special guests – Co-Patron Professor Paul Simshauser, CEO of the Department of Energy and Water Supply, and Tom Vanderbyl, representing SunWater. These two gentlemen generously gave of their time and delivered informative addresses on the activities of their organisations, for which we are very grateful These addresses are summarised on pages 8 and 9 of this newsletter.

The main business of the day – as is customary at AGMs – was the election of a Management Committee for the following year. The following officers were elected unopposed:

President – Mike Merrin
Vice President – Peter Gilbey
Secretary – Peter Jones
Treasurer – Gary Corbett
Executive Members – Rolf Rose & Bruce Pearce
Geoff Eades became Past President

Brief biographies of the incoming Committee members can be found on pages 2 and 3.

The positions of Newsletter Editor and Web Master are filled by appointment by the incoming committee. At the first meeting of the new Committee, Ian Pullar and Jon Henry were re-appointed.

Former committee members standing down were Hein van der Hyde, Ross Stewart, Terry Loos and Pat McCourt. A vote of thanks was carried in recognition of their contributions over the years.

Also standing down after 13 years was Hon Auditor Ray Sutherland who was given a vote of thanks. The incoming committee will consider a further appointment.

The minutes of the AGM, including the President's report and the Treasurer's report are available for inspection on our website.

Following Peter Boettcher's resignation, SunWater has appointed a new CEO, Nicole Hollows. It was agreed that she be approached to accept the position of Co-patron of WRRA.

In General Business, Jon Henry moved "That, in accordance with Clause 5 (1)(c) of our Constitution, Mr Ian Pullar be admitted to Honorary Life Membership of the Association." Mr Henry spoke of Ian's contribution to the Association as Newsletter Editor over a period of 13 years. The motion was seconded by Geoff Eades and carried with acclamation.

From the Editor's Chair

I was greatly honoured and somewhat embarrassed by my appointment as an Honorary Life Member of WRRA. But I certainly consider that I have been very fortunate to have been allowed a free rein over the 13 years to produce one idiosyncratic newsletter after another which certainly meet my tastes but appear to satisfy the appetites of fellow members and readers. Many thanks to all those members who have contributed copy over the years to make my task enjoyable and, indeed, possible!

I have also every reason to be grateful to providence for putting me into the world of Water Resources for a fulfilling career and interaction with so many wonderful colleagues. Maybe not all of them were so congenial, but it's only the good guys (term chosen advisedly) who join WRRA!

Until next time, au reservoir.

Ian Pullar, Editor

Following the completion of the AGM, attendees enjoyed lunch at the expense of the Association. As always, this was a congenial experience.

Program for next year

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

- 9 June Mid-year luncheon (now passed)
- 21 July Inspection of hydraulic models at Rocklea
- 5 August Annual Golf Day at Keperra
- 23 September presentation by Geoff Crane on climate
- 17 November Christmas luncheon
- 16 February Social lunch at Club Central
- 27 April AGM at Club Central

Mid-Year Luncheon

The annual mid-year luncheon on 9 June was attended by 41 members and wives and as usual we had a good time.

Six Ms together - Mike Marley, Mike McKenna and Mike Merrin

As promised, Mike McKenna came down from Central Queensland. Among the guests was Ken Watson who looked and said he felt hale and hearty after a recent kidney transplant.

The highlight of the event was an address by Lyall Hinrichsen who is currently Executive Director Land and Mines Policy. A summary of his address can be found on page 9.

Lyall Hinrichsen addressing the gathering; Gary Corbett and Peter Gilbey in the fore-

Once again Terry Loos challenged us with his trivia, some of which can be found on page 11.
The meal was of a very high standard and of course the company was superb.

The New Committee

Peter Gilbey – Vice President

Raised in Geelong, I attended the Gordon Institute of Technology completing my tertiary education in 1969 when Harry Hiley recruited me as part of the push by the Queensland Government to recruit graduate engineers.

I served in Rockhampton, Brisbane (where I worked in Groundwater and Irrigation Design) and then Bundaberg where I worked under Peter Bevin and Jim Uhlmann on the design of the Gooburrum Main Channel and initial sections of the Woongarra System.

In 1976 I accepted an appointment to head up the design team at Mackay with the encouraging words that the Eton Irrigation Design would be quite similar to Bundaberg. This didn't quite work out that way with the terrain and climate proving quite a challenge especially when record rainfall in the late 1970s almost overwhelmed the brand-new Mirani Diversion Channel.

From Mackay we went to Longreach and progressed the work of converting bore drains to piped systems and capping Artesian Bores with the support of Boring Supervisor Aub Henness and Inspector Bill Balke. This was a forerunner to the GABSI program.

In 1985 I gained some operational experience at St George and Emerald before we moved to the Burdekin to work on the Burdekin River Irrigation Scheme. These were exciting times for any irrigation engineer - taking grazing land and converting it to irrigation farms. On-ground conditions required significant change and innovation to design rules. The conceptual design of the scheme including the major pump stations was the subject of 'Value Engineering'

Following the transition to DNR, I worked with the River Trusts and emergent NRM bodies from Mackay north. In my latter years I joined Greg Claydon and Richard Priman to develop the basis for less climate dependent water security plans for major centres and catchments outside of Brisbane.

Since retirement we have relocated to Bribie Island to be closer to Simon's family but still retain an interest near Biggenden with my daughter Kim and son-in-law Michael and their family in cattle breeding. At present I am working to lower my golf handicap at Pacific Harbour, an extremely challenging course.

Gary Corbett – Treasurer

In a working life spent in and around 'water', I have been fortunate to have had a rewarding career and to have made many life-long friends and acquaintances.

Starting with IWSC in 1968, I was appointed as a Cadet Draftsman in Designs. Later stints were to follow in Underground Water and Irrigation Area Design where, in the mid 1980s, I was appointed Supervising Draftsman.

With the scaling down of IAD works programs in the late 1980s, I moved to Water Commercial in a senior technical role supporting the day-to-day management of state-owned schemes close to Brisbane. In 1996, I moved to a similar role but this time taking in Wivenhoe; Somerset and North Pine Dams. Then in 1997, mindful of how the landscape in water was changing, a career change saw me move from the 'TO' scale to the 'AO' scale, after successfully applying for a position in the Water Reform Unit in NRM, one of four such positions whose role it was to facilitate the business of committees progressing the COAG Water Reform agenda in state-owned schemes – in my case, schemes from Boonah to Monto.

Then in the early 2000s and somewhat water-reform -related, I moved to the Non-Commercial Assets group of NRM, in a role administering 'orphan' assets and assisting with resolution of some of the liabilities resulting from SunWater's corporatisation.

And in 2007, I was privileged to again work with a number of former colleagues when I was appointed to a project management role in the Regional Water Supplies group within the Department of Energy and Water Supply, a group whose role it was to undertake research into development of water supply strategies for regional Queensland (in my case, North Queensland), a role which I held until retirement in 2012.

Rolf Rose – Committee Member

I completed my Degree in Civil Engineering at UQ in 1973 followed by a Local Government Engineer Certificate (1987) and a Graduate Diploma in Municipal and Environmental Engineering (1988).

I commenced work with the Construction Section of the Department of Local Government on the 29 January 1974 coinciding with the 74 flood. Throughout my career I was involved in town water supply and sewerage projects across the State, including a period at Hinze Dam, and providing advice and recommendations under the State's Local Governing Bodies Capital Works Subsidy. In 1977 I was transferred to Gladstone to supervise the construction of the 50ML Reservoir and Water Treatment Plant and again in 1984 for the Biloela Water Treatment Plant. Many projects were in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In 1987 I was Acting Regional Engineer Cairns which included the position of Shire Engineer and Building Surveyor Torres Shire Council and representative on the Advisory Committee for Aurukun and Mornington Shire Councils.

Following the integration with QWRC I was in Construction Section and relieved as District Engineer Ayr and worked on finalising Eton Irrigation Area and construction of Dumbleton Weir.

Under the DNR I provided input on legislation, policy documentation and COAG/NCP issues relating to urban water issues. I was Departmental representative on the WSAA group developing the national Water Supply and Sewerage guidelines and managed the State Water Projects Distribution Efficiency Project in 1999.

As Manager Infrastructure Management in the DNRW from 2005 my responsibilities under the *Water Act 2000* included input to legislation, preparation of guidelines and administration of the Act.

In 2011 I was appointed Director Planning with the Queensland Water Commission working on future sources of supply including desalination, Rural Advisory Committee for the Lockyer, Warrill and Logan agricultural areas, and the optimisation of the operation of Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine Dams.

With the disbanding of the QWC I became Director Special Projects and Non-Commercial Assets in DEWS. I accepted a retirement package in February 2012.

Bruce Pearce – Committee Member

After graduating with a Science degree majoring in geology, Bruce joined IWSC Groundwater Branch in January 1966 as a hydrologist. After working for only six weeks in Head Office he was transferred to the newly formed Central Queensland Regional Office in Rockhampton where he spent the next seven years providing groundwater advice to landholders and was involved in the Fitzroy Basin Land Development Scheme.

In 1973 he transferred back to Head Office and was involved in several major groundwater investigations in the Isaac River, Proserpine, Atherton Tablelands and the Iwasaki Resort Development at Yeppoon. For a period in the early 1990s, he became involved in the application of remote sensing techniques to investigations of both surface water and groundwater resources which included comprehensive land cover mapping used in groundwater modelling and in flood mapping studies throughout Queensland.

Following this he joined a multidisciplinary team set up to investigate the extent and impact of dry-land salinity throughout the State. He was Project Leader for the Hydrogeological Investigations Project under the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. Under this program some 420 new monitoring bores were constructed throughout the State mainly in extensively cleared areas to monitor water levels and water quality trends following extensive land clearing.

Over the past 10 years he managed the Department's drilling rig operations and was Project Leader for the State Government funded Sedimentary and Fractured Rock Aquifer investigations which involved a major drilling program to investigate the potential for fractured and sedimentary rocks to provide sustainable groundwater supplies to local authorities, urban use and industry in times of prolonged drought. He was also involved in major investigations into the impact of large scale open cut mining developments on surrounding groundwater supplies.

He retired from the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation in September 2015, four months short of fifty years' service.

His interests include cruising to overseas destinations, fishing, gardening and photography.

Vale Ian Fairweather 21-09-1926 – 06-04-2016

Ian Fairweather lived as a child on the Gold Coast and then in Eidsvold, Monto, Nanango and Blackall. He completed his secondary education at Downlands College in Toowoomba, then studied engineering at Melbourne University. After graduation, he joined IWSC, initially in Brisbane. He transferred to Mareeba and worked on the Tinaroo irrigation system.

He became City Engineer in Townsville. In 1972 he moved with his family to Brisbane to take up the position of chief engineer and manager of the works department. He left BCC in 1985 and worked as a consultant with McIntyre and Associates.

He was an active Rotarian, a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society for more than 50 years and tutored in engineering at QUT and UQ. His major hobby was painting and he was a prolific writer.

Ian is survived by his wife of 64 years, Enid, five children 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Vale Patrick Kevin McMahon 20-02-1930 – 27-04-2016

Pat's early family life was an ideal one growing up in the then rural setting of Banyo/Nudgee. There was plenty of bush in which to roam safely, a nearby creek in which to swim and plenty of opportunity for Pat and his brothers to get into more than their fair share of mischief.

The first difficult milestone of Pat's life however, came at the age of six, when his talented young father Kevin died suddenly at work, aged only 36. Life was never the same for Pat's mother Dorothy, Pat, or his siblings, Nev, Barrie and Mary. Those who knew Pat well say his father's death developed in him a strong resilience, an independent spirit, a devotion to his mother and great sensitivity to her needs, which he maintained until she died.

At the end of his primary schooling at Nundah Convent, Pat won the Nudgee Scholarship where he was listed in the top twenty students in the State and won an open scholarship to the University of Qld. Pat studied civil engineering and spent his Christmas – New Year vacation in 1947/48 doing soil testing for the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission at the then site for the proposed Fairbairn Dam near Emerald.

Pat graduated in 1951 and became a full time employee of the Commission at a time when much of the water infrastructure that would provide for the growth and development of Queensland cities, towns and agricultural prosperity was being planned and constructed. Pat was one of a very young crew of engineers involved in the construction of the Tinaroo Falls Dam in far north Queensland in the early 1950's and Moogerah Dam in the early 1960's. Among his more notable postings was that of Project Engineer at Borumba Dam near Gympie, which was completed in 1963. He was Senior Engineer Special Projects and had previously been designated Senior Engineer Wivenhoe Liaison when he was called upon to take on the role of Chief Design Engineer in 1979. While his modesty made him a somewhat reluctant appointee to this position, he was described as a good organiser who got things done. He remained as Chief Design Engineer until he was promoted, in recognition of his ability, to Assistant Commissioner in 1987, a position in which he served until his retirement.

Pat lived at Graceville for 50 years in a home he shared with his wife Maureen and his two children, Greg and Pauline. If you had asked Pat to name the two greatest achievements of his life, he would no doubt have said marrying the Commissioner's secretary, Maureen McCormack, and the parenting of Greg and Pauline.

Pat's resilience and strength of character were at their best in the nine years of Maureen's painful slide into Alzheimer's disease. For five years he looked after her at home and with sad reluctance then placed her in the care of Canossa Nursing Home. Every day of that last four years he went to Canossa to give her lunch and when a staff member said to him "Pat, you don't have to come every day because Maureen doesn't know you now, does she?" he replied, "No, but I know **her**."

Pat was an honourable man, a man of principle and integrity who gave of his best until he could do it no longer. May his brave and generous spirit live on in Greg, Pauline and Anthony; may they care for each other as he cared for them and may Pat rest in eternal peace with Maureen, and all those he loved who have gone before him. Vale Pat.

- This tribute was prepared by Pat's nephew Tim McMahon who is Operations Manager at the Port of Brisbane. A briefer version appeared in *The Courier Mail*.

Theo Ledwy

In the last Newsletter, we reported the passing of Theo Ledwy. Jim Mienert has provided this account of Theo's interesting life and career in Australia - **Ed.**

Theo Ledwy was born in Poland in 1926. His parents were Ukrainian. He spent time in a Russian concentration camp after the end of World War 2. The Russians killed his father and his brother. Theo eventually escaped from the camp and travelled across Europe through Austria to Hungary. This was a dangerous journey avoiding Russians.

In Hungary there were tens of thousands of displaced people. They waited to be placed in various countries that were willing to accept refugees from the war. Two such countries were Australia and Canada. They were divided into groups. Theo ended up in a group to be sent to Australia. Theo made the comment later that he had not even heard of Australia.

He arrived in Australia in 1949 and worked for Main Roads at Aramac and Winton. He heard from a Main Roads Overseer that there was work on the Tinaroo Dam.

The Project Engineer was the late Mr Frank Learmonth who employed many refugees from the war to construct the dam. Theo first worked on the construction of the trash racks and later on the Walkamin channel. He was involved with the construction of channel lining and bench fluming together with drop structures. He worked there from 1952 to 1954.

As a leading hand formsetter, Theo and his crew constructed the pump station on the Burdekin for the Lower Burdekin Recharge Works.

Theo Ledwy continued

At Wuruma Dam he was promoted to foreman. His crew worked on the construction of the reinforced inlet and works.

His next job was on the Lower Lockyer Irrigation Project. He was mainly involved in the construction of the various channel structures.

When transferred to Maroon Dam he worked on the construction of the diversion conduit working under work supervisor Charlie Paolucci. This would have been the most heavily reinforced structure ever built by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission. Theo was then transferred to Monduran Dam where he was involved in the construction of the bench fluming and channel lining on the Gin Gin main channel. He was promoted to works supervisor on this project.

When transferred to Emerald Irrigation Area in 1974, he worked on the construction of various structures on the Selma Main channel. With the opening of several irrigation farms which used flood irrigation, work was concentrated on the construction of drainage channels to return runoff to the Nogoa River instead of flooding Emerald. His crew built drop and control structures together with rail and road culverts under existing infrastructure. One notable culvert was the multi-cell cast in situ box culvert under the Gregory Highway for the Main Roads Department on the LN3 drain.

Theo's crew constructed all the cross drainage structures on the Weemah Main Channel.

He left Emerald in 2005 when the channel construction ended. He and his wife Beryl retired to Zilzie (Yeppoon).

Little Nerang Dam

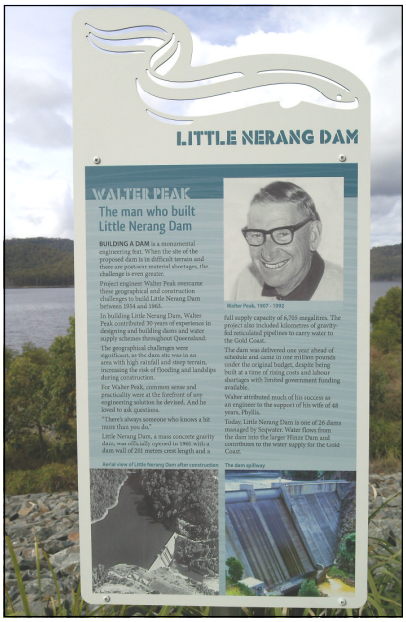
Jon Henry

SEQWater recently hosted an event to commemorate the construction of Little Nerang Dam. Two Members of the WRRA and their spouses attended. Here is a brief report.

Little Nerang Dam was constructed between 1954 and 1963 to supply water to the Gold Coast. The Project Engineer was Walter Peak who had left the Local Government Department to take up the post. He later joined the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission and rose to the position of Chief Investigation Engineer.

SEQWater has installed an interpretive sign about Little Nerang Dam at Hinze Dam because public access to Little Nerang Dam has been terminated. The official reason for the closure is the geological instability of the road alignment.

The interpretive sign is in a position from which the entrance of the Little Nerang Dam supply to the Hinze Dam reservoir can be seen.



A ceremony was held on 3 June at Hinze Dam, where the sign was unveiled by Walter Peak's son, John and daughter, Patty Purves. John spoke of his father's devotion to engineering and the difficulties he faced in constructing the dam. The difficulties included rough terrain, high rainfall, site access, post-war shortage of materials, and spasmodic provision of finance. John said that his father exchanged information with a wide circle of colleagues in order to advance the technology of concrete dam construction. Patty spoke of Walter's devotion to his family. Attendees at the ceremony partook of sumptuous refreshments and enjoyed a chat with members of Walter's family.

John Peak and Patty Purves after unveiling the sign.

Of particular technical note was a magnificent album of photographs displayed by John Peak showing full details of the construction of the dam. John said that the photographs could be scanned by interested persons.

On a lighter note is the explanation, in the Hinze Dam Interpretive Centre, of the naming of Hinze Dam. The text is careful to point out that the dam is named after the Hinze family, the first farmers in the reservoir area, rather than any particular Hinze descendant. It then continues to state that Russ Hinze may have "added weight" to the argument. Many Members will recall that Big Russ was 'Minister for Everything' in the Bjelke-Petersen Government.

SEQWater and John Peak deserve congratulations on the initiative behind the commemoration of the construction of Little Nerang Dam. Celebrating lasting excellence in the water industry can only promote future excellence.

Answers to Terry's Trivia on page 11
1. (v) 35% 2. (i) Kim Kardashian 3. All of them
4. (i) $10 5. (i) Off Rhode Island 6. (iii) 14 hrs
7. (iii) $58,350 8. (iv) Ukraine 9. (iv) 75
10. (i) blue agave cactus

Off to a Flying Start

Patrick Smith.

Apart from sending the hydrographic photos published in the last Newsletter, Pat sent the following record of his work history for which I am very grateful - **Ed**

I am working in the Middle East, Abu Dhabi, the Capital of the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. I work a Rotation 6 weeks here and 6 weeks in Vancouver, Canada, where I live with my wife whom I met over here.

My History???

In 1974, I resigned from the IWS after spending the wet season in Mt Isa with John Pitts, Greg Long and Phil Kerr. Pittsy and I joined together in January 1970 in Head Office.

Len Ezzy made an announcement that they needed an "experienced" Hydrographer in Mareeba as a vacancy had come up there. I said “I'll go.” His reply, “You can't, you only just joined and the vacancy is for an experienced person.” A month later he asked me if I was still interested and I said yes. In May 1970, I was on the Sunlander headed for Cairns. I had the opportunity to work field trips with Len Moore, Alan Seabrook, Graham Gillies, and John Ridler.

I always had an interest in aviation but in those days didn't have the money for flying lessons. My interest was further piqued of course by the use of helicopters in the Mareeba district during the wet season. Funnily enough two of the pilots I met there had the contract for a few years with a Company they formed, Helicopter Operators, and once I qualified they gave me my first job. At that time I also joined the CMF, the Bushmen's Rifles, (49RQR) at Wacol. We used to do 33 days camp per year and of course more flying exposure in RAAF Military Hueys as an infantryman.

Back to 1974. I went back to Brisbane and tendered my resignation. I started my flying lessons at RQAC. I worked as a bar steward at the Brisbane Golf Club, Yerongpilly, and drove taxis at night. Later I moved into Brickies labouring as the money was much better but the work was harder.

I finished my private restricted licence, applied to the RAA, missed out on pilot selection, but was offered a Commission and an Air Traffic Controllers Course. I accepted, and in August 1975 went off to RAAF Point Cook for the "Knife, Fork, and Spoon" course.

I graduated and worked as an ATC Officer until 1980. I finished my Commercial Licence, and Mike Grey offered me a "start" flying fixed wing for them based once more in Mt Isa. Helicopter Operators bought Air Mt Isa from the Lanham family and I stayed with them until 1984. They started a Helicopter Training School in 1981 and that's where I did my Helicopter CPL. I flew fixed wing (outback mail runs and Charter) and helicopters (mustering cattle) for them, then took up an offer from Helitrans/Sunbird airlines based in Cairns flying fixed wing (Supplemental Airlines and Charter) and helicopters (Mining Support and SAL). They had a base on Thursday Island so I revisited many of the places I had been with the IWS.

In 1989, I joined the Victoria Police Air Wing flying helicopters on Police support and HEMS (Emergency Medical Services/SAR). At that time they had two helicopters on contract to the Vic Govt equipped as Mobile Intensive Care units. This move saw me leave fixed wing flying behind.

I stayed with them for a year then joined the infamous NSCA, run by John Frederichs. I started in East Sale at the main base, then moved to Williamtown, NSW on a contract they had for the F18 SAR. I stayed there until the company went into Receivership in 1989. LLYOD helicopters took over the contract so I went from unemployed on a Friday afternoon to fully employed, same job, on Monday morning.

In 1990 I applied for a position in Saudi Arabia as an Instructor flying for MODA (Ministry of Defence and Aviation – Army) as I had the required experience on the aircraft they operated. That did not last longer than a year as the first Gulf war started, and I decided to get out.

Aerogulf Services in Dubai offered me a job, so I moved there in Jan 1991. I stayed with them until 1996, the last two years as their Chief Pilot. My brother died in a helicopter crash in 1996 and that pre-empted a return to Australia.

I moved to the Gold Coast with Careflight, stayed with them until 2000, the last two years as Chief Pilot.

May 1991 I moved back to the Middle East as I was offered a job with Abu Dhabi Aviation, and eventually ended up in their training department. In 1996, I was offered a Training Manager with a smaller company (4 pilots), Helidubai (the Commercial side of the Dubai Air Wing), flying VIP and tourist flights. In 1996, ADA asked if I was interested in returning as Senior Training Captain as they were expanding – the training department then had 10 training Captains and a pilot population of 125 pilots. I am still with them but now working as an instructor.

I had many happy experiences of IWS days working with the guys, especially Don Alexander as he was a mentor for me.

Bucket List Sporting Quadrella 2015.

A five week sporting tour of England, Scotland & France, Northern Summer 2015 . Continued from last Newsletter.

Terry Loos

PART TWO

Lord's was magical. Went with an old high school mate at whose house I was staying in London. T'was a surreal experience for two old codgers who have been discussing Ashes cricket, between London and Brisbane through various media, for over fifty years. Wonderful ambience. Picturesque, historic pavilion and a small ground with the crowd close to the action. It reminded me somewhat of the rundown Gabba of the seventies; but they have plans to upgrade.

The museum had free entry that day and I was photographed beside the Ashes urn – which at that time we still held. We had a good day at the cricket that day. Steve Smith completed his double century, we declared at 566 for 8 and had the Poms 30 for 4. It was fascinating to see the old chaps in their beige blazers and bacon-and-egg ties taking it all in with wry laughter, stiff upper lips, 'here-we-go-again' looks and plenty of phlegm. However, they must have enjoyed Tests 1, 3 and 4.

Had a strange experience on the walk from St James Wood tube station to the ground because every fifty metres or so there were several middle-aged ticket touts. The authorities clamp down on this practice but apparently if they ask you if you wish to *sell them your ticket* it is legally OK. So this question has become a well-known code for "wanna buy a ticket?"

Here's a few food prices at Lords converted to AUD: Steak and Ale Pie or Cheddar Leek and Onion Pie with fat cut chips $17; Fosters 330 ml $8.20. Fish and Chips or Cheeseburgers (with a nod to gourmands) $19.40. The eating and drinking area at the Nursery End behind the media centre seemed crowded all day, no matter, the cricket was on the big screen and you could look up to watch the replay whenever there was a scream. Took a small detour to check out the nearby Abbey Road pedestrian crossing on the way back to the station.

My trip to the Tour de France was only for the last day of Le Tour. This was Plan B. Even though the overall Tour placings are typically settled before the final stage, the last day in Paris has a high profile. The winner (Chris Froome) had already been decided on the penultimate day and all that was left was to ensure he didn't fall off his bike, and who would win the last leg. It was a sporadically rainy day and so to avert the risk of Froome having an incident on the cobblestones of the Champs d'Elysee the organisers apparently decided that the main race would be over when the riders entered the cobblestones the first (of 8) times. The last leg then continued.

You really have to be an aficionado to gain a full appreciation of the Tour. Plan A was that I would join the crowds on the roadside when the riders laboured their way up Mt Ventoux near Avignon in the south of France. (I stayed a week with friends in nearby Mausanne les Alpilles). The early route maps on the internet showed Mt Ventoux would be part of the route. The actual route did not take the tour anywhere near Avignon this year. Apparently fans publish a lot of speculative routes on the web well in advance. They think they've spotted official exploratory vehicles.

Not everyone in Paris is excited by the Tour. I asked at my hotel desk at what time the tour arrived in the centre of Paris. Disinterestedly he said he though it was around 2pm. I took up a spot in the Tuileries garden near the Orangerie around noon and stood under my Wimbledon umbrella in the drizzle. In fact the tour doesn't arrive until about 6pm and the race concluded (in brilliant sunshine) around 7.30pm. I thought the French air force jets trailing the tricolor smoke went over during the awards presentation. They went over, fast, at the start of the last lap – and so I missed the photo. Amazing how they shut down the centre of *tourist* Paris for the day. The whole organization was mind-boggling. It is a huge enterprise.

The rest of my tour comprised tours of London, the Chilterns, the Cotswolds, Devon, Oxford, Cambridge, nine Cathedrals, Edinburgh, the Highlands, Provence and Paris. Would recommend the quadrella to all sports fanatics. As Ian would say, *Au Reservoir*.

A Travellers Tale

At Lord's Cricket ground, Honour Boards in the English dressing room record all the English players who have scored a century in a Test at Lord's, have taken five wickets in an innings or ten in a match or have captained Middlesex (the local County team). Similarly the Honour Boards in the visitors dressing room recognise visiting performers. There is one – and only one – name that appears in both dressing rooms: that of Chris Rogers who scored his ton at the very Test that Terry Loos attended and who was captain of Middlesex.

THE FOLIES BEGERE
by Edouard Manet

"A group of accountants came in last night but they decided to let loose and go and paint the town beige."

DEWS News

The following is a summary of Paul Simshauser's address to the AGM - **Ed.**

I am delighted to have been appointed to my new position in DEWS, principally because it gives me the opportunity to learn about water management (my expertise lies more in the energy sector). I do feel that I have some appropriate pedigree as my mother worked for the Project Engineer on Tinaroo.

There are many challenges for the water interests of DEWS as briefly outlined below:

National Water Infrastructure Development Fund

The Commonwealth has made available $25 million for feasibility studies across Australia. Queensland has submitted 26 applications for consideration, by comparison with only a few from other states. An announcement on the selected projects is expected in early May. The Commonwealth will make up to $450 million available to fund new projects, but as always for State Governments, the challenge is to find sources of additional funds given fiscal constraints.

Queensland Future Water Supply Strategy

DEWS is developing a Strategy to communicate to the public about existing infrastructure and investigations into future options. It will provide the policy context for new infrastructure. A problem for government is that it is difficult to get engagement about issues of genuine water security.

Local Management Arrangements (LMA) Project

Under this proposal local irrigators will be responsible for owning and operating the schemes to suit their needs. Provided agreement can be reached on the final terms of the transfers, the Eton, Emerald, St George and Theodore schemes will progress to LMA by the end of the year, with formal execution next year.

Further investigations will be carried out for the Bundaberg, Burdekin, Lower Mary and Mareeba schemes including the preparation of Business cases.

Independent Water Utilities

A small number of new private proponents are interested in the possibility of providing services of water supply and sewerage, instead of relying on the existing service providers (usually council-owned water businesses). This may mean, for example, new estates being serviced directly from regional trunk mains. The Government is in the process of considering the policy implications of these proposals. There is a desire to encourage innovation but not at the expense of local governments or the State if a scheme were to require rescuing. The problem is to get the balance right.

Irrigation Pricing

There is continued attention being given to this issue. Generally the policy has been to increase charges by CPI, or CPI plus $2 per megalitre if pricing is below 'Lower Bound Cost'. Over a ten year window this policy will bring/has brought most schemes to the lower bound.

Somerset/Wivenhoe

A review of Somerset Dam foundation conditions led to a decision that it would be prudent to declare a Temporary Full Supply Level of 80% of the previous level while further investigations are undertaken (i.e. geo-tech etc). This took place during the holiday season in an orderly manner when recreational use of the dam was at its peak. As a consequence, the FSL of Wivenhoe Dam was also reduced; to 90%.

SunWater Snippets

The following is a summary of Tom Vanderbyl's address:to the AGM - **Ed.**

New CEO

A new CEO has been appointed to replace Peter Boettcher. Nicole Hollows, who was formerly with Macarthur Coal, took up her new post this week.

Dam Safety Improvement Program

The SunWater Board has approved the expenditure of $800 million over the next thirteen years. The program will also include actions to improve the capacity and capability of the staff. Work is continuing on repairs to Paradise Dam.

The need for remedial work on Fairbairn Dam has also become evident – hold-down anchors have been found to be seriously impaired by rust. Works to improve drainage are being undertaken.

Works at Boondooma Dam comprise flood repair, a new erosion control structure and a new spillway structure.

A New App

For anyone who has a Smart Phone, there is a new App available from the SunWater website which provides complete information on storage levels, warnings etc. $10 million has been allocated for a complete revamp of information systems with a 24/7 control centre being established to provide warnings to downstream communities. The systems are being designed to make them scalable for local governments to use for their infrastructure.

Lower Fitzroy Projects

In conjunction with the Gladstone Area Water Board and the Fitzroy Council, SunWater is currently developing a Business Case for the development of the Lower Fitzroy Project which includes the existing Eden Ban and proposed Rookwood Weir. This is a potential project for inclusion in the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.

Glenlyon Dam Visitor Centre

SunWater is working with Border Rivers Commission to refresh the visitor centre at Glenlyon Dam (new lighting, paint, plus new displays) and that we propose to place a commemorative plaque dedicating the improvements to Ross Krebs. The upgrade will be of benefit to any member who visits the dam for the fishing or other activities.

SunWater Snippets - continued

US Field Visit

Tom recently visited USA, particularly California, and was able to pass on lots of very interesting information including the approach taken to dam engineering in an active earthquake zone.

The Bradfield Scheme

Recently an interesting historical document had turned up. It is an assessment made in 1947 by Dr W.Nimmo, Chief Engineer, Stanley River Works Board (and later Commissioner for Irrigation and Water Supply) of the scheme postulated by Dr JJC Bradfield, designer of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, which continues to this day to be considered by the public at large as a seminal project that should be delivered. The Nimmo assessment identifies serious errors in Bradfield's assumptions and concludes that the scheme was not viable. Tom presented the document to the meeting for copying and return to him in due course.

Circulation is not restricted .and the document is available now on our website.

DNRM Review

The following is a brief summary of Lyall Hinrichsen's address to the WRRA Mid-year lunch - **Ed.**

Lyall identified four departments with an involvement in the management of the State's water resources. (Two GOCs, SunWater and Seqwater, are also involved): Natural Resources and Mines is responsible for water allocation, management and monitoring: Energy and Water Supply looks after water infrastructure facilitation and operator regulation; Science, Information Technology and Innovation deals with hydrology modelling and aquatic ecology; and Environment manages environmental assessments, monitoring and regulation.

DNRM, where Lyall is Executive Director Lands and Mines Policy has responsibilities for: sustainable management of Queensland's land and water resources; responsible use of our minerals and energy resources; and accurate, timely knowledge of our property and special information resources. He described briefly priority activities within the water portfolio.

Water Resource Planning

Water resource plans have now been compiled for almost all of the State, with numbers of plans in their second generation. The process has been refined over time and is now well received.

Managing the Take of Water

Increasingly, the management is through water trading rather than licensing with allocations. There has been a gradual acceptance of the process throughout the State with Water Brokers operating in many regions.

Implementing the Murray-Darling Basin Plan in Queensland

This clearly requires continued negotiation with stakeholders including interstate agencies. The Border Rivers Commission continues to operate without substantial change from its initiation in 1946.

Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative

This project has been on-going for a long time originally with capping and controlling of artesian bores.

Brisbane River Flood Study

This extremely complex study, which involves hydrology, dam operation and floodplain management is due for completion by the end of 2016.

Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment

The five year review of this project is due for release just prior to the imminent retirement of Randall Cox who will be well-known to many members and who will be hard to replace.

The National Water Infrastructure Development Fund

See also the comments of Paul Simshauser. It is interesting to note that up to $5 M have been made available for (yet another) examination of the feasibility of Nullinga Dam.

More Adventures of Young Ian

During my career, as a planner I participated in a very large number of public meetings of varying sizes and intensities.

As a very junior engineer, I was privileged to attend a meeting to discuss a possible dam on Barambah Creek. Fred Haigh himself conducted the meeting and faced the usual hostility from affected landholders. One of those had the temerity to question Fred's statements, at which the Commissioner waved his Institution of Engineers tie to prove conclusively his integrity!

The first public meeting at which I was the principal Commission spokesman was at Laidley, where the topic was possible development of Lake Dyer. Dave Morwood was sent along to keep a fatherly eye on young Ian and keep him out of trouble. I was flummoxed by the persistent questioning of one local who wanted to know if I understood about the 'aquifiers'. Having spent seven years in Groundwater Branch, I thought I did. But clearly I had no understanding of these particular 'aquifiers' which surfaced on Stradbroke Island!

Quite some years ago, we were asked to investigate a possible dam site in south-east Queensland as a source of water for irrigation. I attended a public meeting to explain the planning process and what would happen if our investigations resulted in a potentially viable project. As usual the audience was divided by those who wanted a water supply and those – often affected landowners – who were strongly opposed to any development. On this occasion, one landowner tried to convince me we should abandon the idea immediately. "This would be a hopeless place to try to build a dam. I've lived here for forty years and I know that creek never flows so you'd never get any water into a dam," he warned me. "And besides, the floods are so big, you'd never be able to build anything strong enough to withstand the force."

...to be continued ...

HEALTH *and beauty*

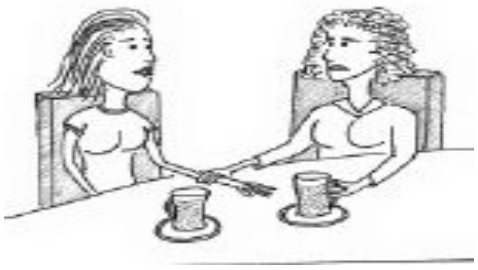
Brush Away Dementia

Remembering to brush your teeth properly every day into old age could help fight dementia, scientists claim.

Evidence is mounting that Alzheimers can be fuelled by the bacteria that cause gum disease. The bugs are thought to affect brain functions such as memory. British researchers from Kings College London and the University of Southampton tracked the health of 59 men and women with Alzheimers for six months. The memory of 20 who had gum disease declined more rapidly than the others. Tests revealed that their blood had a higher level of chemicals that cause an inflammatory response that could damage the brain. It was found that the patients with bad gums declined six times faster than those with healthy gums. Conversely, improving oral hygiene could even slow their decline.

Previous research found that those who brushed their teeth once a day are 65% more likely to develop dementia than those who brushed three times a day.

Local dentists recommend brushing your teeth for at least two minutes, morning and night. That equates to 28 minutes per week, two hours per month or 24 hours a year. If you did this for 75 years, you would rack up two and a half months of your life standing in front of a washbasin, brushing.



"*Mavis told me that she and her husband have solved their marital problems. They took separate holidays. And he never came back."*

Exercise those Brain Cells

Knights are always true and knaves are always false. A pilgrim encounters two people whom he knows are knaves or knights under a tree and asks, "Are either of you knights?" When one of them answers, he knows the answer to his question. How?

A Sweet Treatment for Pain

A piece of licorice a day may keep the pain away. That's the claim of Australian scientists who have developed a tasty treat they say is effective in the treatment of arthritis.

The nutraceautical company *Dr Red* has patented a process for aging foods high in antioxidant polyphenols to improve their absorption into the body. The licorice is infused with aged French oak tannins with concentrated polyphenols which are claimed to act as anti-inflammatories.

While animal trials have proved promising there have been no human trials. The company has received a food innovation grant from the Federal government to develop the licorice product further.

The Fruits of Research

Clinical trials are to be conducted at the University of Tasmania to determine whether certain types of cherries contain high levels of bioactive compounds which can reduce inflammation and the consequences of inflammatory disease. "Anecdotal evidence suggests that cherries can alleviate issues relating to inflammation such as gout," a University researcher claimed.

Cherries have been used in traditional medicines for centuries and were popular in Tudor England for treating swelling.

Hitler's Little Secret

Historians have concluded that Hitler suffered from an embarrassing condition that could explain his rage and lack of sex life during his 56 years.

Medical records following his arrest in 1923 suggest he suffered from "right-side cryptochidism", which is the medical name for an undescended testicle. (*So the scatological wartime song may have been right – even if the assertions about his colleagues were over-stated* - **Ed**.*)*

More detailed records hint the Fuhrer's genitalia may have been even more deformed. He may have had a related condition called hypospadias, which can be translated as "micro-penis".

In their book *Hitler's Last Day: Minute by Minute,* historians Jonathan Mayo and Emma Craigie contend Hitler guarded his secret. He was known to have a fear of people seeing him naked and never became a father.

Answer to last Issue's Teaser

A: Number the piles 1 to 10. Weigh one coin from pile 1, together with two from pile 2 etc. making a total of 55 coins. If all were genuine the weight would be 55 grams. The fractions less indicate the pile eg total weight 54.9 grams means pile 1, 54.8 pile 2 etc.

Angkor Wat (Temple City)

Did anyone else happen to see the SBS documentary on Angkor Wat, the mediaeval city that is gradually being devoured by the Cambodian jungle? The city and the neighbouring Angkor Thom were established in the 12th century by King Suryavarman II of the Khmer people. It started off featuring the Hindu religion (as can be seen from many of the wall carvings) but the king's conversion to Buddhism soon redirected the decoration and style. At its peak, the urban complex boasted a populace of three quarters of a million people – by far the largest in the then world. It would be a further three hundred years before London became the largest and exceeded that figure. Such a large population was heavily dependent on agriculture and its success was entirely due to the sophisticated water supply system. Water was diverted from neighbouring rivers via canals to very large holding storages and distributed from there.

But as it turned out, the water supply was also the instrument of the destruction of the megapolis. The clue was given, oddly enough, by scientists who took hundreds of core samples from ancient trees in the general south-east Asia area. The tree rings provide a readable climatic record – a narrow ring means a dry year while a wide ring indicates a wet one. The record shows a prolonged period (around two decades) of successive dry years just before the civilisation collapsed. This was followed by many extremely wet years. Evidence on the ground indicates that in the dry years new straight canals were constructed to bring more water from the rivers. When the floods came, the waters in the canals raged, scouring the channels by more than ten metres, bypassing at least one bridge and destroying the storages. The entire population was relocated, leaving the magnificent architecture at the mercy of the ficus trees that are gradually destroying it. A salutary lesson to all water engineers!

How Come – ?

With so much concentration lately on both state and federal budgets, it is interesting to note that etymologically a budget has nothing to do with money. All it means is a 'pocket' or a 'bag' from the French *bougette*. It derives from an obsolete practice of the British Parliament. Each year the Chancellor of the Exchequer would present to Parliament the estimates of income and expenditure which were 'brought down' to the House in a leather bag, the 'budget'. This was 'put on the table' for the Chancellor to remove the relevant papers for him to deliver his 'budget speech'.

The 'bag' has become everyone's property. In the vernacular, even a housewife 'budgets', even though there is no bag!

A Sign of the Times

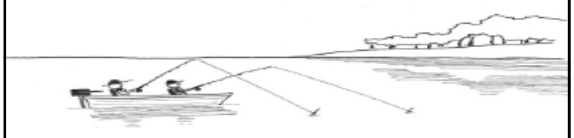
On a US Church billboard

Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to meet him.

Terry's Trivia

Questions from the 2016 mid-year luncheon. Answers on page 5.

1. On ATO figures what percentage of Australian taxpayers donate to charity?: (i) 75%; (ii) 65%; (iii) 55%; (iv) 44%; (v) 35%.
2. Who was the most 'Googled' person by Australians in 2015: (i) Kim Kardashian; (ii) Adele; (iii) Barnaby Joyce; (iv) Donald Trump; (v) Stephen Hawking.
3. Which did William Hill UK rate at 5000:1: (i) Leicester City winning the EPL; (ii) Elvis being found alive; (iii) Yeti or Loch Ness Monster is proven to exist; (iv) Kim Kardashian becomes the U.S. president in 2020; (v) Barack Obama plays cricket for England.
4. If Australia's total Federal budget spending were $100, how much would be spent on the age pension?: (i) $10; (ii) $20; (iii) $30; (iv) $40.
5. Captain James Cook's ship *Endeavour* is believed to have been recently found where ? (i) off the state of Rhode Island in Newport Harbor; (ii) in the Solent off the Isle of Wight; (iii) off Slaughter Bay at Norfolk Island (iv) off Fraser Island; (v) in Tahiti.
6. What's the approx. flying time by Airbus A380 from Brisbane to Dubai? (i) 10 hrs; (ii) 12 hrs; (iii) 14 hrs; (iv) 16hrs; (v) 18hrs.
7. The ASFA Retirement Standard estimated at Dec 2014 that a couple, assuming they own their own home and are in reasonable health, will need to spend annually around (i) $38,350; (ii) $48 350; (iii) $58, 350; (iv) $68, 350; (v) $78, 350, to live comfortably.
8. The Eurovision song contest 2016 was won by: (i) Russia; (ii) Australia; (iii) Sweden; (iv) Ukraine; (v) Latvia.
9. Bob Dylan's birthday is on 24 May. This year he was?: (i) 60; (ii) 65; (iii) 70; (iv) 75; (v) 80.
10. Tequila is made from: (i) blue agave cactus; (ii) potatoes; (iii) red kidney beans; (iv) juniper berries; (v) red rice.



"The thing I like most about my wife is her home cooking.."
"I don't mind if mine gets out from time to time."

Book Club

Clive James says that when he was diagnosed with leukemia in early 2010 his family's plans for him were to extract him from London and install him, and a reduced library of his books, in a house in Cambridge. About half his books had to be sold and he made a vow to himself and to others that his book-buying days were over.

Then he discovered buying books on the internet, and Hugh's bookstall at the Cambridge markets (Tuesdays and Thursdays). He says, "The madness was divine. Even if I already had the book, (Hugh) might have had a handier edition". Apparently Hugh travels across the country to source his books from country town markets and various sales

Often Hugh had a title CJ had once owned but had lost along the way. But most of all there were books CJ had never owned but now realized he *ought to possess.* "Somewhere in there was an itching sense of duty. The childish urge to understand everything doesn't necessarily fade when the time approaches for you to do the most adult thing of all: vanish". So he started re-stocking, while continuing to read and re-read.

Then Yale University Press had the idea of asking him to compose a little book about the books he had been reading lately. *Latest Readings* is the outcome. It is set out in no particular order. "Johnson, who often convicted himself of indolence might possibly have approved my plan for the organization of this volume: there isn't one".

His dire health is a recurring theme but the book is by no means depressing. He certainly places himself in "The generation that is now growing old and getting ready to die". But you can enjoy his delight in his discoveries and rediscoveries, for he says, "if you don't know the exact moment when the lights will go out, you might as well read until they do".

I borrowed *Latest Readings* from the BCC library and read it. It is only about a hundred pages. Wonderful.

The book comprises brief essays on books by: Ernest Hemingway; Joseph Conrad; Anthony Powell; William Shakespeare; John Howard; V.S. Naipaul; Rudyard Kipling and many, many more. You don't need to have read the originals to appreciate Clive's analyses**.**

As for *Latest Readings*: Buy it, borrow it, read it. Enjoy.

Terry Loos

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet – isn't that a wonderful title? – by Jamie Ford, is a wonderful book.

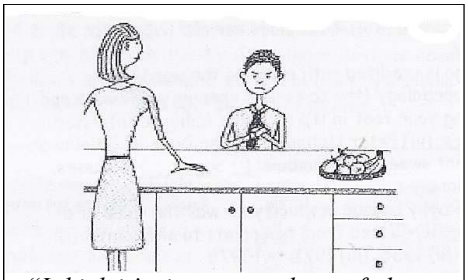
The Panama Hotel in Seattle stands on the corner of what was Chinatown and Japantown. In the aftermath of Pearl Harbour and the declaration of war with Japan, the US government 'evacuated' ethnic Japanese to internment camps. The hotel was closed and remained so until 1986 when new owners discovered the basement was crammed full of the possessions of Japanese families awaiting their return from exile.

As the owner unfurls a Japanese parasol, 56 year old, recently widowed Henry Lee remembers Keiko Okabe who had been the only other non-white at the school his father had scholarshipped him to as a 12 year old, to turn him into an American. Henry explores the basement in the hope of finding the Okabes' belongings and a long-lost object that symbolises his bond of friendship and innocent love for Keiko. His search takes him on a journey to revisit the sacrifices he has made for family and country.

The tale is beautifully told, bitter and sweet, but never over-sentimental.

Jamie Ford is the great-grandson of Min Chung who emigrated from Kaiping, China, to San Francisco in 1865 where he adopted the western name Ford, thus confusing many generations.

Ian Pullar



"I think it's time you and your father had a chat about the facts of life."
"Right. What does he need to know?"

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Late News

Nicole Hollows, CEO of SunWater, has agreed to be our co-patron and to continue SunWater's generous support of WRRA.

Tom Vanderbyl has resigned from SunWater to become a consultant – and, we expect, a member of WRRA!.