



# WATERY SAUCES OLDIES and BOLDIES

Newsletter No 82

March 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION

## Annual General Meeting

Members are cordially invited to attend our 33rd Annual General Meeting on Thursday 27 April. The formal notice etc is included with this missive.

Traditionally this meeting is held on the last Thursday of April and traditionally it has been held in the Public Service Club (or Club Central as it became known). But, with the closure of the club, this is one tradition we have to forgo. Instead we will meet at the Victory Hotel, 127 Edward Street.

We “road-tested” the venue on 23 February (see page 2) and were satisfied with the room and, perhaps even more particularly, the lunch menu. So do come along for the usual meeting activities – reports and elections. Our co-patrons have been invited as usual for them, or their nominees, to grace us with a “State of the Nation” address.

As is customary, the meeting will be followed by a convivial lunch at the expense of the Association – this time in the congenial atmosphere of the Victory Beer Garden.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

## From the Editor's Chair

*On this page is the news that Jon Henry has relinquished his role as Webmaster. I would like to offer my personal thanks to Jon, not least for his diligence in posting the newsletters and alerting departmental contacts.*

*Jon and I go back a long way. As colleagues in Groundwater Branch in the 1970s, we collaborated with Bob Kay and Peter Cochrane in editing a few editions of “Aquarius”, a staff magazine. His wife, Karla, worked in Planning with me later on.*

*Organisations such as ours are entirely dependent on volunteers to keep them going. There have been many over the years to whom we owe similar gratitude. We could speculate on why people volunteer for such roles, but we won't. We'll leave that to each individual.*

*Until next time, au reservoir.*

**Ian Pullar, Editor**

## Website

Newsletter No 62 of July 2010 reported that a WRRRA website had gone live, thanks particularly to the efforts of Jonathan Henry who had been developing it over the previous year. Not only did Jon design, create and establish the site, he was entirely responsible for its maintenance for the next 6½ years.

But Jon has now decided not to continue in this role. He has moved on to other activities. However, there is no doubt that WRRRA owes him a debt of gratitude for his efforts over the years. Many thanks, Jon, for your major contribution to the organisation.

Jon's departure left the committee with a dilemma: where would we find someone with the necessary skills to replace him? Certainly no committee member considered himself competent in this area, nor could we think of any member with those particular abilities.

So secretary Peter Jones circulated all members on email (it was agreed that no member without it would be up to the task) seeking a volunteer. And Bingo! In no time flat Warren Shallcross offered to take it on. His offer was accepted with alacrity. Welcome aboard, Warren.

A brief account of Warren's career can be found on page 4 of this newsletter. There couldn't be the slightest doubt about his ability to take on this important task.

## New Members

WRRRA welcomes the following new members:

Ross Wheeler, Graeme Milligan, Jim Mylne, Richard Priman and Terry Malone.

We are always pleased to recruit new members, so please encourage your former colleagues to join us. And remember you don't have to be retired to be enrolled. At only \$5 per year for city members or \$2.50 for country members, you get yourself a bargain!

## February Luncheon

.Once again, members came together on 23 February for a luncheon gathering, but this year it was different. The venue was the Victory and this year we had a guest speaker which attracted almost 50 attendees, including a number of currently serving officers.

Margaret Cook is currently undertaking a PhD with her thesis on the environmental history of flooding in the Brisbane River. Her talk was titled *Living on the Brisbane River Floodplain* and discussed the numerous floods that have occurred, several times with devastating results, and society's reaction. This usually took the shape of works to "flood proof" the cities and, when that failed, to apportion blame to God, Nature or operators of the "flood-proofing" dams. Control of development on the flood plain has been remarkably piecemeal with the responsibility usually buck-passed to a different level of government.

Margaret's address was very well received and President Mike Merrin was effusive in thanking Margaret. For the record, Margaret has had quite a long association with Water Resources: not only was she co-author (with Ian Pullar) of the People's History, but she has written *The Town on the Brown*, has served on a number of reference panels and was part of the team which carried out the cultural heritage study for Paradise Dam.

After the address, the attendees retired for lunch in the beer garden and the usual conviviality. Among the participants was our oldest member, Sheila Lynch who happened to be celebrating her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday that day!



Robert Dick, Margaret Cook and Birthday Girl  
Sheila Lynch



L to R: Fred Barlow, Ian Ferrier, Margaret Cook  
and Judy Ferrier

Fred Barlow sent in the adjacent missive, which showed official views have not changed much!

Government and General Orders  
Government House, Sydney  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 1817  
Civil Department

The Governor's official Communications from the Interior within the last few Days have excited in His Excellency's Mind the most sincere concern and Regret for the recent calamities in which the unfortunate settlers on the Banks of the Nepean and Hawkesbury have been once more involved, by the late dreadful Inundations of those Rivers. Whilst it does not fall within the Reach of human Foresight or Precaution to be able to guard effectually against the baneful Recurrence of such awful Visitations, or to avoid being more or less involved therein, yet when the too fateful Experience of Years has shown the Sufferers the inevitable consequences of their wilful and wayward Habit of placing their Residences and Stock-yards within the Reach of the Floods (as if putting at Defiance that impetuous Element which it is not for man to contend with); and whilst it must still be had in Remembrance that many of the Deplorable Losses which have been sustained within the last few Years at least, might have been in great measure averted, had the settlers paid due consideration to their own Interests, and to the frequent Admonitions they had received, by removing their Residences from within the Flood Marks to the Townships assigned for them on the High Lands, it must be confessed that the Compassion excited by their Misfortunes is mingled with sentiments of Astonishment and Surprise, that any People could be found so totally insensible to their true interests as the Settlers have in this Instance proved themselves. His Excellency, however, still cherishes the Hope that the Calamities which have befallen the Settlers will produce at least the good Effect of stimulating them to the highly expedient and indispensable measure of proceeding to establish their Future Residences in the Townships allotted for the Preservation of Them selves, their Families, and their Property; and that they will, one and all, adopt their Habitations on the High Lands cheered with the animating Hope and fair Prospect of receiving, at no very distant Day, their late Losses, and securing themselves from their further Recurrence. Those who, not withstanding, shall perversely neglect the present Admonition and Exhortation to their own benefit, must be considered wilfully and obstinately blind to their true Interests, and undeserving any future Indulgences, whilst, on the contrary, those who shall meet this severe Dispensation of Providence with manly Fortitude and unbroken Spirit, may rest assured that their Exertions and Industry will not only merit, but obtain the favourable Consideration and Protection of their Government.

These Orders are to be read during the Time of Divine Service at each of the Churches and Chapels throughout the Colony, on the three ensuing Sundays.

Sadly, we have to report the passing, in January, of Daph Morrison, widow of "Honk" (Roy) Morrison. She was a lovely lady. Many will remember Daph and Honk from around the many construction sites on which they lived. They were a pair of great characters.

## The Tower of Power

*Members of WRRRA were informed that working conditions in 1 William Street were somewhat different from those experienced by the current retired officers. I asked two new residents to describe their current situation - with rather different outcomes. Both wish to remain anonymous - Ed.*

### Contribution 1

Welcome signs to work! Air conditioning that functions! First day chocolates! 360<sup>0</sup> views! Friends and colleagues with smiles! Well-lit workplaces! Laptops! A paperless office! A \$1 billion skyscraper! Well may you ask? This all describes an office tower in Brisbane that houses public servants! “The Tower of Power”, “The Lipstick Building”, “The Phallic Symbol” of Brisbane, all names colloquially attributed to 1 William Street or 1WS as it’s now known in the trade. It’s located in the Brisbane CBD, in close proximity to State Parliament House. The building was developed as part of the government’s plan for a renewed Government Administrative Precinct and to meet its accommodation demands.

All State Government Ministers, the majority of Directors-General and their immediate staff and up to 5,000 government employees from nine full agencies and 12 part agencies are based at 1WS.

The full agencies at 1WS are:

- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Public Service Commission
- Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
- Queensland Treasury including the Office of Industrial Relations
- Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
- Department of State Development
- Department of Natural Resources and Mines except staff from 53 Albert St (Titles Office) and the Landcentre
- Department of Energy and Water Supply
- Trade and Investment Queensland



The project commenced in 2012 and was completed in October 2016 with staff moving in over the ensuing months.

1WS is 267 metres high, comprises 43 floors, plus 3 basement levels, with government agencies taking up all floors (about 75,000sqm of office space), including 1,100sqm of retail and 318 car spaces. There’s a maximum of 200 people per floor.

The tower boasts a 90metre steel spire, which weighs 75 tonnes and is 50 metres above the roof line.

Each floor of the building has been themed and coloured, and has been dedicated to a Queensland icon or natural phenomena.

Floor G-2 base palette (neutral cream, brown and grey tones): 3-5 Barramundi: 6-8 Moreton Bay Fig: 9-11 Saltwater crocodile: 12-14 Coloured sands: 16-17 Purple fan coral: 19-21 Cassowary: 22-24 Green tree frog: 25-27 Pineapple: 28-30 Orange pore fungi: 31-33 Outback sands: 43-36 Sapphire: 37-39 Sugar cane: 40-41 Water dragon.

Along one side of the building, the sky garden and atrium connect three floors together via internal stairs and lifts. The atrium spaces and sky gardens offer informal and larger meeting areas, and kitchen facilities. There is Wi-Fi connection throughout the building for mobile working.

The floors are ‘mixed-use spaces’ which offer quiet, private areas for confidential conversations, and collaborative areas for working in teams or meeting with external stakeholders.

The design of 1WS offers many different options for collaborative working including the atrium meeting areas, discussion booths, collaboration pods, and small and large meeting rooms.

Typical floors at 1WS include an approximately 30% allocation of sit-to-stand workstation desks.

### Contribution 2

The entry doors to #1 slid back shortly after dawn this morn. Across the foyer lay a second barrier. Upon swish of card the lift to catch is displayed and its door opens to receive and take you to where your card has told it to go. Spiralling staircases writhe across brackets of three floors to improve lift efficacy. On each floor dual-monitor, flat screen work stations radiate out like spokes from the central lift core, unbookable meeting places and bookable meeting rooms. They reach through the petition free open plan office to the windows which stretch from near the floor to the 9’6” ceiling. With ‘sitting’ now considered ‘the new smoking’ all inner work stations have a push button adjustable height control to enable one to stand whilst tapping. Alcove rendezvous pockets take on different forms providing for a range of needs and groups of various sizes. Gathering point seating varies from location to location across each floor enabling any meeting organiser to select a site depending on how comfortable he would like attendees to feel. Wireless touch screens facilitate easy connection with the world via personal mobile devices should someone need to be brought in whilst skiing in the French Alps or hooking a red on Yamacutta.

*Thanks to both contributors - Ed.*



## Our New Webmaster – Warren Shallcross

*I asked Warren to write me a brief biography so that members would be aware of the pedigree of our latest office bearer. He sent me his complete CV, a most impressive and extensive document; so voluminous that I have decided to cherry pick just a few of the challenging projects he has worked on. - Ed.*

Warren holds a Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) degree, a Diploma in Computer Science, a Bachelor of Arts (Mathematics and German), attended a Graduate Course in Hydrology and has undertaken miscellaneous studies at university and elsewhere.

After graduation and a short stint at the State Government Computer Centre, he joined the Queensland Water Resources Commission in 1980 as an Analyst/Programmer. Having completed the Graduate Course in Hydrology at the University of New South Wales, he became a hydrologist, working for the Commission, Natural Resources and SunWater until 2013.

He worked on a huge range of projects, mostly involving the development of computer systems and instrumentation. For example, he completed the Flood Warning System Development, and subsequent setting up of a Flood Control Centre in the Department; which involved installing a number of co-operating computers in a potentially-standalone TCP/IP network. Various forms of telemetry allowed capture of remote sensor data to facilitate monitoring and analysis of flood conditions.

He was actively involved in testing computing systems and Data Logger Firmware for Year 2000 compatibility. He visited various hydrological agencies in China as part of an AusAid mission to evaluate a proposal to finance data loggers. He prepared a

workshop presentation on Australian Water Databases as a part of the Middle-East Peace Process and presented a paper the EXACT workshop in Tiberius, Israel.

In June 2000, SunWater (then DNR) won the contract to operate and maintain Scrivener Dam in Canberra. Warren was responsible for examining options for monitoring the Lake Burley-Griffin catchment and making possible the operation of the Dam by duty engineers residing in Brisbane.

He worked in China on the Yangtze Flood Forecasting System component of the Yangtze River Decision Support Project and wrote code to implement the XAJ Model.

Probably the thing he is most proud of is (together with Ray Alford from Rocklea) pioneering the development and implementation of digital stream and rainfall loggers in Queensland. Ray was mainly hardware, and Warren was mainly software.

In late 2013, he retired from SunWater, but continued to do some contract work for them in 2014.

In November 2014 he accepted a two year contract from Horizons Regional Council (HRC) Palmerston North, New Zealand to work in their Hydrology team. The core work is converting, developing and calibrating Flood Models for the region.

He is also looking at extending/converting these Flood Models into Continuous Models to understand and better manage water use in the region.



*Warren in New Zealand*

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## More Adventures of Young Ian

In January 1974, I went to Longreach to act as District Engineer while Col Cooney took leave. And a most interesting time I had.

Almost the first question I was asked was, “Do you know Ron Afflick?” and this was by big Eric Kusay, his voice filled with awe. Yes, I knew Ron. He had come to Longreach as Safety Officer and after work had repaired to the Club with Commission staff and had proceeded to drink them all (including Eric) under the table. He was running out of opposition when the railway workers knocked off. Affo responded to the challenge and outdrank them too.

The first day, I was taken across the Thomson River and then told that would ensure I kept returning. I’m afraid I didn’t make it back until 2013, in retirement.

One night I was having a quiet drink in one of the many pubs when I observed on the shelf above the bar, several bottles of Galway Pipe port, which was virtually unprocurable in Brisbane at that time. So I called the barmaid over and asked if I could buy one.

She turned on her heel and left me wondering if my underarm deodorant had failed. A moment later, the bar manager appeared in front of me and asked if he could help me. I repeated my request. He advised, “I don’t think we can help you, sir. We haven’t got one on the ice.” I assured him it wouldn’t matter, because I was taking it home to my wife in Brisbane, so the transaction could proceed.

At the time, there were nine pubs in the main street. When I went back in 2013 I think only three were still operating. The *Welcome Home* where I had boarded in 1978 was a Pizza Parlour.

After an entertaining and instructive three weeks, I got home to Brisbane just in time for the Australia Day weekend – and the flood. But that’s another story.

*There must be lots of retired officers who could share interesting anecdotes about their working days with fellow members. We would all love to hear them. We would also love to hear of current activities. My deadlines for the three editions of the Newsletter are mid-February, mid-June and early November. -Ed.*

## Tall Tailor Tales

Gary Corbett

### In the Beginning

What started out from humble beginnings as a one-off trip to Fraser Island on Exhibition Wednesday with fellow WRC workmates Gary Schramm and Perry Molloy around 1983 has some 30 plus years later turned into an annual pilgrimage for predominantly a much larger group of 'water' retirees which, short of a death in the family, you would not miss for quids. Also on that first trip, and by then seasoned Fraser fishermen, were Ken Wright and Bob Hade who taught us the ropes for which we are indebted.



*Perry Molloy; Gary Corbett; Gary Schramm; Bob Thwaite*

When it started, it was all about fishing and bringing big catches home, in some ways to justify the expense and effort involved – there were no bag limits then. Nowadays, it's more about catching up with old colleagues than catching fish. We still put the time in but some of us no longer fish as hard as we used to.

Amongst those regulars in the group with 'water' connections are the original three of us plus Bob Thwaite; Lindsay May; Bob Bell; Ray Jamieson; Peter Gilbey; Mick Garvey; Mike Studley and Phil James to name but a few. Eric Davis was also a regular and of more recent times, 'wateries' Gary Luck and new WRRRA member Ross Wheeler now make the annual pilgrimage down from Mackay.

It was somewhat of a different Fraser Island back then – big bonfires around the camps were common and brumbies and dingoes roamed the beaches unchallenged. Nowadays and understandably, there are many constraints on the campfire activity; the brumbies have all gone; and the dingoes have been well and truly reined in, all three having been driven from both environmental and public liability perspectives.

What we have also missed in the past 10 years or so is the awesome sight and sound of the flights at low altitude above the eastern beaches by F111's, on their surveillance run around the coast of Australia. It's as if these machines went out of their way to creep up and scare the living daylights out of you, because they would be on top of you before you knew it.

The setting for our trips to date has been one of

camping under canvas on the eastern beaches south of Indian Head. Where else could you boast that a highlight of each trip is the selection on day one of an appropriate site for 'the-loo-with-the-view'?



*The 'View-from-the-Loo'*

### Something Different Each Year

Every year though, you are guaranteed to see something, the like of which you have never seen before and may never see again. Fraser can be that sort of place. Around 25 years ago we were travelling up the beach when we came across what appeared to be a large flat grey rock up near the base of the dunes. Not having seen rocks in this vicinity in the past, we circled around to have a look. To our amazement, it was a fish the size of which would literally not have fitted into our 6x4 trailer – you tell people that and they just look at you! It was a Sunfish which had run into strife and was being attacked in the shallows by sharks. Death was imminent and we found out later that a couple of fishermen had gaffed it and pulled it up the beach with their 4WD to let it die with some dignity, rather than have the sharks take it. Such was the interest in this fish that UQ travelled to the island to have a look as well. Such species we thought were not common to the island (possibly native to Hawaii?), but we found out later that a colony had existed for many years up near Burnett Heads near Bundaberg, and this one had obviously strayed.



*The SunFish*

### Mastering the Technique

The 2013 trip marked the 30<sup>th</sup> annual pilgrimage of our group to the Island. The technique of catching tailor has not changed much over the years, and involves what is referred to as the bait-casting of West-Australian pilchards into the gutters off the beach where the tailor run – the technique was developed many years ago in the old rangoon-cane rod days but these days it has been mastered using the modern fibre-glass variety.

*Continued overleaf ...*

### Tall Tailor Tales *continued*

Having mastered this technique to the point where we consider ourselves to be not only 'master-baiters' but 'Fraser-Island-master-baiters', the group on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this annual pilgrimage had commemorative T-shirts printed to that effect.

#### Bait Sliding

Of more recent times, a new technique loosely referred to as 'bait-sliding' was introduced to Fraser by a couple of South Africans. It is now used regularly on the eastern beaches for catching very large fish such as spanish mackerel – something which would not have been thought possible years ago. The technique involves the use of two fishing lines – one being cast out as far as possible and anchored using a special sinker to become basically a flying-fox. Down this line slides a live tailor hooked onto a 'bait-slider' tethered to the end of a second line, with the flying fox line running through the centre of the slider. This enables the fish to swim out at right angles to the beach but not back if the slider 'cranks' on the flying fox. The end result is that the fish understandably swims with some distress at right angles to the beach (which is odd), thus attracting the attention of much larger predatory fish such as sharks and mackerel.

Around four years ago, we saw a bronze whaler landed using this technique and later returned to the surf. About a week after returning home from our 2015 trip, we got news of the capture of a giant 190cm long and 54kg weight Spanish mackerel caught off the beach just north of the wreck of the Maheno, a fish the like of which had never been seen before, nor likely to be ever seen again, as it has re-written the record books. Unfortunately for us, we were not there to see it but it has to be seen to be believed.



*To be continued ....*

*Many thanks Gary for this entertaining account. But we will all have to wait for the next instalment - Ed.*

### Honours

There were two items in the Australia Day Honours list of particular interest to WRRRA members:

#### Public Service Medal (PSM)

##### Randall Burton Cox

for outstanding service to the natural resources sector in Queensland.

#### Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

##### Professor Neal Mark Ashkanasy

for service to tertiary education, to psychology, and to the community.

### National Water Infrastructure Development Fund

#### Lee Rogers

A previous newsletter detailed that the Commonwealth had established a \$500 million (m) fund to support the investigation and construction of water infrastructure with a particular focus on development in northern Australia.

The feasibility component was to total \$50 m with a \$450 m capital component to come later.

Of 26 applications from Queensland under the feasibility component, 14 were successful being granted a total of \$19.3 m. Additionally, CSIRO were granted \$5 m for a resource assessment of the Mitchell River catchment in the far north and up to \$5 m has been made available for Building Queensland to prepare a business case for the Nullinga Dam proposal on the Atherton Tableland.

The larger grants for studies in Queensland are;

- \$3.97 m for a detailed assessment of the Emu Swamp dam proposal including its potential to support regional growth.
- \$3.0 m for a reassessment of the Urannah dam proposal upstream of Collinsville.
- \$2.2 m for a reassessment of the Hells Gate dam proposal on the upper Burdekin River.
- \$2.0 m to complete a detailed business case for the lower Fitzroy River weir proposals.
- \$1.915 m to investigate upgrades of the Houghton Burdekin Water Supply Scheme distribution works to enable use of the remaining available allocations.
- \$1.765 m for a NW Queensland Strategic Water Storage Project including further assessment of the Cave Hill dam proposal.
- \$1.231 m to investigate options to expand irrigation production in the Gayndah district.

Smaller grants are to further consider the proposed raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam, upgrade of the Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme distribution system, the potential for irrigation development in the Lakelands district, the potential for irrigation expansion in the southern Tablelands upper Herbert River area, use of south east Queensland's waste water for irrigation, enhanced aquifer recharge in the Lockyer Valley and upgrades of the Clermont water supply system to provide for expected development in the Galilee coal basin.

The Commonwealth also announced that \$130 m would be available from the capital component of the fund for the construction of Rookwood weir on the lower Fitzroy River on the basis that at least 50% of the cost would be funded by others.

Although many of the Queensland studies, and those in other states, are at an early stage, the Commonwealth have recently commenced an expression of interest process for \$193 m from the capital component of the fund to support water infrastructure projects that are ready to proceed, with the balance to be made available later in a second stage process.



## Around the World in 104 Days

### Part 1 – The Pacific

#### Bruce Pearce

In early 2009, my wife and I booked the adventure of a lifetime on the inaugural round the world cruise operated out of Sydney back to Sydney by Princess Cruise Line, the first of its type. The cruise was to last 104 days on the *Dawn Princess*, a 77 000 tonne vessel carrying 1990 passengers and 924 crew, which had just prior to the voyage undergone a major refit in dry dock in Brisbane. Here is a brief travelogue of our cruise, outlining some of our experiences.

The trip commenced very dramatically. We were almost at the airport to fly to Sydney when I realised I had accidentally left my laptop and cameras sitting just inside our front door. Fortunately our son, who was taking us to the airport had lots of fly buy points, booked himself on a later flight, rushed home, picked up the gear and met us on the wharf in plenty of time before boarding.

We settled into our balcony stateroom which we considered was absolutely essential for such a long trip. The departure from Sydney was magnificent passing under the bridge and then down the harbour as the sun was setting. The first night and day at sea turned out to be fairly rough with a five metre swell causing the ship to roll significantly, but ginger tablets helped to overcome our problem.

Each morning, travelling east, we put the clocks forward 1 hour at 9.00am, which resulted in the crew losing significant rest time overnight. All subsequent World Cruises have travelled in the opposite direction to minimise this problem.

The *Dawn Princess* had two major entertainment venues on board, seating about 500 people or over 200 people. Each evening various shows were presented in either venue and on most nights at both venues. We took full advantage of the huge variety of highly entertaining shows.

On Day 4 we rounded the northern tip of New Zealand and proceeded south through the Bay of Plenty to Auckland harbour. We took a tour to Auckland's west coast which is lined with spectacular black-sand beaches and visited a Gannet colony at Muriwai Beach as well as visiting a forest of giant kauri trees in Cascades Kauri Park reserve.

Lazy days cruising, dining and being entertained followed. On Day 6 we crossed the International Dateline so the date and day remained the same. On Day 7 we reached the Tongan Islands, cruised past the different island groups, and then continued on our north-easterly course towards Apia. We discovered that emails home were difficult and expensive - \$250 for 1000 minutes of use. So we resorted to the occasional phone call home when in port.

On Day 8 we berthed in Apia at 9.00 am. Apia has a population of about 35 000 people and is located 2700 miles north-east of Sydney, 1800 miles north-east of Auckland and 793 miles from Suva.

In the afternoon we went on the "Highlights of Apia" tour, in quaint open air locally made buses with

wooden seats all beautifully decorated. The roads were mostly gravel and often quite bumpy. We visited Mulinu Peninsula, site of royal tombs and home to the Apia Observatory and Moamoa Theological College, Apia's old Catholic cathedral, and the home of Robert Louis Stevenson who lived at Vailima. Here we were entertained by Samoan music and singing while sipping on a coconut drink. The Samoan people are very friendly and live a very simple life.

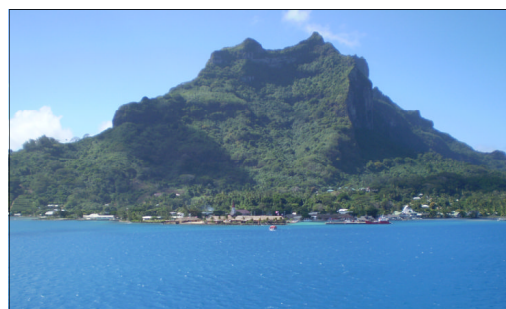
More lazy cruising followed before approaching the French Polynesia islands of Tahiti and Moorea on Day 12. Papeete is the main port of French Polynesia and is a focal point for some of the recommended routes across the South Pacific Ocean, and one of the best and safest harbours. It was a very busy town, more up market than Apia with non-stop traffic everywhere. We strolled to the markets and had a walk around town along the esplanade.



*The markets in Apia*

Then followed a leisurely tour of Tahiti along the east coast passing the famous Papenoo surfing beaches and in search of sensational views including Tahara'a Hill overlooking Matavai Bay, Monument of Captain Bligh, Point Venus, Arahoho Blowhole and the waterfalls of Faarumai Valley. In the early evening we attended a local Folkloric Show performing traditional songs and dances before sailing for Bora Bora.

Next day, we passed the islands of Riaitea and Tahaa which, along with Bora Bora, belong to an archipelago off French Polynesia also known as Isles Sous le Vent. Bora Bora consists of a main island and a number of small islands and islets encircled by a barrier reef. The ship anchored in the lagoon and tenders were used to take passengers ashore.



*Mt Otemanu, Bora Bora*

### Around the World in 104 Days- continued

There are few places in the world whose natural beauty surpasses Bora Bora. Here nature painted a perfect picture of deep green volcanic peaks edged by a ribbon of reef and white sandy beaches. We woke to this pretty scene and after breakfast took a tour viewing the highlights of Bora Bora, travelling in a truck-mounted, open-windowed bus known locally as Le Truck.



Le Truck

We commenced in the village of Vaitape, then through the villages of Faanui and Anau, continued on past American military shelter and relics from World War II, enjoyed spectacular views from Matira Point and Anau Lookout and returned to Vaitape, thus circling the island. The view from this point of Mount Otemanu, the core of the island, was awesome.

After leaving Bora Bora, *Dawn Princess* set a course towards Christmas Island. In the evening of Day 15 we crossed the Equator where the traditional crossing the equator ceremony was held. All "Pollywogs" (people who had not crossed the Equator previously) were requested to attend the equatorial trials of the Dawn Princess by King Neptune in the presence of the ship's company and passengers. As King Neptune passed sentence on the accused, their punishment was dealt out. This consisted of being covered in sticky foods of various kinds. It was all very entertaining and a lot of "fun" was had by the participants.

Christmas Island is the largest island of pure coral formation in the world. It lies 1 300 miles south of Hawaii right in the centre of the Pacific Ocean. Once a British colony, the island is now part of the nation of Tuvalu – a collection of islands spread over some two million square miles of the Pacific. Tuvalu's total landmass is only a mere 280 square miles. The area is renowned for its colourful tropical fish and its bird-life.

We observed that quite unusually, the low cloud that partially covered the island was a deep emerald green colour. This was caused by the partial sunlight reflecting back up to the clouds from the shallow water lagoons surrounding the island.

More cruising (and enjoyable entertainment) occupied us until Day 19 when we arrived at the Hawaiian Island of Oahu and Honolulu. Honolulu is the State capital and home to approximately 400 000 residents. Pearl Harbor, The *Arizona* memorial and Punchbowl crater are haunting reminders of the tragic events of 7 December 1941. Waikiki Beach has an unquenchable holiday air and the stunning silhouette of Diamond Head, an extinct volcano, stands sentinel over spar-

ling Mamala Bay. Beyond Honolulu between two mountain ranges lie tropical rainforests, extinct craters and deserted beaches, as well as sugar cane and pineapple plantations.

Our tour took in the city's highlights from downtown Honolulu, Iolani Palace and the Punchbowl after visiting Pearl Harbor and the *USS Arizona* Memorial. The *USS Arizona* Memorial, dedicated to those who lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor, appears to float above the shattered hull of the *USS Arizona*. Iolani Palace, built in 1882 was the last residence of Hawaii's monarchs and was the centre of social and political activity. The Punchbowl is a National Cemetery, home to the fallen of World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars. We also visited Pali Lookout on the slopes of the Koolau Mountains offering stunning views of Oahu's windward coast.

In the evening we were again entertained by a Hawaiian Folkloric Show featuring music, dancing, colours and costumes of Hawaiian Culture.

During the night, the *Dawn Princess* moved on to the anchorage in Lahaina where a tender service was used to convey passengers to the island of Maui which boasts stunning landscapes and superb beaches. Mt Haleakala, a dormant volcano rises 10 000 feet above the Pacific Ocean. Maui's Iao Valley is a tropical paradise dominated by the Needle, a volcanic monolith towering over the valley floor. Lahaina was once home to a royal court and the Pacific centre for America's whaling fleet.

We went on a tour to visit the summit and crater of Mt Haleakala. The drive up the side of the volcano was very interesting. We commenced in cane land at the base, then through a zone of luxury houses with awesome views of the island and sea, then through cattle country after which at the entrance to the national park we made a compulsory stop at a ranger station to help us acclimatise to the more rarefied air. We then continued up the slope with the terrain becoming more desert like until when we reached the top there was almost no vegetation and some awesome rocks outcropping. The crater was massive being approximately 3 000 feet deep, over seven miles long and two miles wide, with an awesome array of colours ranging from reds, through greens, orange, black and yellows caused by the past volcanic activity. At this altitude it was quite cold and windy and breathing was difficult because of the rarefied air.

A feature in the park adjacent to where we landed in Lahaina was one of the world's largest Banyan trees which covered an area of more than one acre. The town itself is to-day declared a National Historic District preserving the spirit and architecture of the 1800s.

Late in the afternoon, *Dawn Princess* weighed anchor and set a north-easterly course towards San Francisco with no further landfall scheduled for the next three days.

... to be continued ...



## A Pommie in Karratha

*Gary Corbett did a trip across the Gibb River Road (NW Western Aust) around two years ago and came across an extract from the diary of a pommie who had just scored a job in Karratha. Members may find it amusing and empathise with it, particularly if any of them have felt the heat in the past month or so. - Ed.*

### August 31

Just got transferred from Leeds to our new home in Karratha, Western Australia. Now this is a town that knows how to live! Beautiful, sunny days and warm, balmy evenings.

I watched the sunset from a deckchair by our pool yesterday, it was beautiful. I've finally found my new home. I love it here.

### September 13

Really heating up now. It got to 31 today – no problem though, living in an air-conditioned home and driving an air-conditioned car.

What a pleasure to see the sun every day like this. I'm turning into a sun-worshipper – no rain like back in Leeds!

### September 30

Had the back yard landscaped with tropical plants today – lots of palms and rocks. No more mowing lawns for me! Another scorcher today but I love it here – it's Paradise!

### October 10

The temperature hasn't been below 35 all week – how do people get used to this kind of heat? At least today it's windy though, keeps the flies off a bit. Acclimatizing is taking longer than expected.

### October 15

Fell asleep by the pool yesterday, got third degree burns over 60% of my body and missed three days off work – what a dumb thing to do, got to respect the old sun in a climate like this!

### October 20

Didn't notice Kitty our cat sneaking into the car before I left for work this morning – by the time I got back to the car after work, Kitty had gone to the moggie playground in the sky and swollen up to the size of a shopping bag and stuck to the upholstery – the car now smells like Whiskettes and baked cat. I've learned my lesson though – no more pets in this heat.

### October 25

The wind is a killer, it feels like a giant blow dryer and it's hot as hell! The home air-conditioner is on the blink and the repairman charged \$200 just to drive over and tell me he needs to order parts from Perth – the wife and kids are complaining.

### October 30

The temperature's up around 40 and the parts still haven't arrived for the aircon. House is an oven now so we've been sleeping outside by the pool for 3 nights now. Flaming \$600,000 house and we can't even go inside – why the hell did I ever come here?

### November 4

Finally got the aircon fixed – cost around \$1500 and gets the temperature down to around 25 degrees but the humidity makes it feel like 35 – stupid repairman!

### November 8

If anyone says 'Hot enough for you today' again, I'm going to throttle him. Flaming heat! By the time I get to work, the car radiator is boiling over; my clothes are soaking wet and I smell like baked cat – this place is the end of the earth!

### November 9

Tried to run some errands after work, wore shorts and sat on the black leather upholstery in my car. I lost 2 layers of flesh and all the hair on the backs of my legs and other places I won't mention. Now the car smells like burnt hair and baked cat!

### November 10

The weather report might as well be a repeating record – hot and sunny, hot and sunny, hot and \*\*\* sunny! It never changes. It's been too hot to do anything for two months and the weatherman says it might really warm up next week.

### November 15

Doesn't it ever rain in this place? Water restrictions will be next, so my \$5000 worth of palms might just dry up and blow into the pool – the only things that thrive in this hell-hole are the flaming flies.

### November 20

Welcome to hell – it got to 45 \*\*\*\* degrees today and the air-conditioner in my car has now gone on the blink. The repair man came to fix it and said 'Hot enough for you today?' I wanted to shove the car where his mum had never kissed him. Anyway, I had to spend \$2500 to bail me out of the clink for assaulting the idiot. What kind of sick, demented moron would want to live in a place like this?

### December 1

Got up early before the heat set in to get the weather report off the radio – what's this they tell me, it's the first day of summer?

*Many thanks, Gary, for this priceless contribution - Ed*

### Answers to Terry's Trivia (on page 11)

1. (iv) drain covers
2. (v) 5.
3. (ii) ossicones
4. 40F
5. (iv) that is
6. (v) butterflies.
7. (iv) 178
8. (ii) the gift of eloquence
9. (iii) 1594
10. breast
11. (i) endless
12. (iv) California



*"I could have been a good monk. Soon after I was married, I realised I had effectively taken vows of poverty, obedience and chastity."*

# HEALTH *and beauty*

## Healthy Tips

During the season of Summer storms, power outages can and do occur. These may be of short or longer duration. When people are on holidays away from home, they have no way of knowing if their freezer has been turned off for a period of time sufficient to endanger frozen goods. Well, here is a tip.

Freeze water in a container several centimetres deep and place a coin on the frozen surface. On return from holidays, check the location of the coin. If it is still on the surface, there has been no outage to threaten your food. But if the coin now lies below the ice, it would be smart not to risk eating the food.

And here is a tip to maintain your mental health. How exasperating is it that either one sock gets lost in the wash or you have to expend an inordinate length of time pairing off socks? Simply safety-pin a pair of socks together before putting them in the wash. Not only can one not get lost but they can be simply slung over a clothes line without the need for a clothes peg. (This tip was given to us years ago by a woman whose husband, an officer in the RAN, had dozens of pairs of not-quite-identical white socks. She nearly went demented trying to pair them off until she discovered the safety pin technique. Problem solved!)

Of course no one has yet solved the mystery of how single (unpinned) socks disappear in the wash. A Scottish cousin of Helen's is convinced that they turn into wire coat hangers.

And as for the problem of keeping your whites whiter than white, London's Good Housekeeping Institute has a tip on that that dates back to Victorian times. Instead of spending a fortune on liquids and powders to banish the grey effect, add half a cup of white vinegar to your normal washing detergent. Well worth a try.

New Scientist has speculated that we humans tend to live much longer than other great apes because of patriarchs like Mick Jagger. The theory is that in ancient times, dominant male humans (e.g. chiefs and elder wise men) who managed to live to a ripe old age would have taken much younger wives or perhaps even had harems of much younger breeding females, which helped to spread their longevity genes throughout the human population. So go for it Mick! You're doing the human race a favour.

## Exercise those Brain Cells

In a race of 2000 metres, Annie finishes 200 metres ahead of Betty and 290 metres ahead of Cindy. If Betty and Cindy continue to run at their average speeds, how many metres will Betty finish ahead of Cindy?



## Water Weigh to Go

We all know the value of water: after all it provided us with a healthy income for many years. But a recent study carried out by the University of Illinois has found that drinking water may help you lose weight. By looking at the dietary habits of 18,300 adults, the researchers concluded that people who drank an extra one to three cups of water per day decreased their total energy intake and their sodium intake significantly. They also consumed less sugar and reduced their cholesterol consumption.

What is not clear in the newspaper report is whether the water intake is **additional** or whether it **substitutes** for other liquid beverages. In either case, it might be a good idea to drink more water even if it's only to meet Stirling Hinchliffe's objective of keeping your urine pale.

Another simple tip for losing weight has been proposed by an Oxford University professor – open the bedroom windows before you go to sleep. His advice is centred on the fact that we have two types of body fat. The troublesome white variety soaks up extra calories and stores them in bellies, love handles and thighs.

But adults also have a small amount of brown healthy fat which specialises in burning off calories and generates heat as it does so. Fortunately for those battling the bulge, "bad" white fat can be turned into "good" brown fat with cold triggering the conversion.

"We are now learning that when you are cold you brown your fat to keep warm," he said. So rather than take weight loss drugs, he recommends throwing open the windows and letting the cool night air do the job for you. "It's a nice idea and there is actual scientific data supporting this concept."



*"You don't agree with me? That only means you haven't been listening."*

## Answer to last Issue's Teaser

The men were buying house numbers.

## Festivals

As we all know – how could we avoid the merchandising? – Valentine’s Day falls on 14 February. The date goes back to ancient Roman times when the beginning of Spring was considered propitious for love. The festival, known as Lupercalia was dedicated to the goddess Juno, the guardian of women and marriage.

Once established, Christians tried hard to uproot the pagan festival and renamed it St Valentine’s Day, after one of the Christian saints because of a peculiar coincidence of dates.

The Roman emperor Claudius II believed husbands did not make good soldiers because they would rather get back to their wives than fight to the death, so he tried vehemently to abolish marriage for his troops. Bishop Valentine thought this contradicted the will of God and was against human nature (interesting, given the later stance on celibacy) and continued to marry lovers – albeit secretly. His activities were discovered, he was arrested, imprisoned, scourged and eventually beheaded in AD 269 on 14 February – the very day dedicated to Juno.

According to tradition, while in prison Valentine fell in love with the jailer’s daughter and sent her a passionate love letter, signing it ‘From your Valentine’.

Valentine’s Day 2017 marks the fifty-first anniversary of when we had to  
‘All be prepared when the money starts to mix  
On the fourteenth of February 1966.’  
and decimal currency came into our lives.

### The Saley Season

It’s Boxing Day and every store  
is groaning, yet we all want more  
of all the bargains on display  
to tempt us to come in and pay.  
Is merchandising never done?  
I think I see a hot-cross-bun.

Easter, of course, was another pagan fertility festival (it’s the same word as oestrus) which the early Christians subsumed to commemorate the crucifixion of Christ. The date of celebration varies because in AD 325 the Council of Nicaea decided that Easter would fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox.

Easter eggs are given as a symbol of fertility. A Polish legend traces the custom of brightly coloured eggs to Mary who painted hard-boiled eggs in bright colours to amuse her son.

A Polish custom has been to decorate raw eggs for Easter, many of the decorations being very elaborate. If a young woman approved of the approaches of a young man, she would give him her finest egg. If she didn’t approve, she would put her least attractive egg in his coat pocket and break it!

## A Sign of the Times

On a T-Shirt

**Statistics means never having to  
say you’re certain.**

## Terry’s Trivia

*From the 2016 Christmas luncheon. Answers on page 9.*

1. The hobby of the UK Labour Party head Jeremy Corbyn is admiring: (i) stamps; (ii) butterflies; (iii) bandages; (iv) drain covers; (v) briefcases.
2. How many million bananas are eaten daily in Australia: (i) 1; (ii) 2; (iii) 3; (iv) 4; (v) 5.
3. Giraffes have two to five short knobs atop their heads and these are called: (i) knobs; (ii) ossicones; (iii) horns; (iv) antlers; (v) pointers.
4. In deepest Siberia when winter temperatures fall to minus 40 deg C what is this in Fahrenheit?
5. The Latin *id est* means: (i) for example; (ii) in itself; (iii) and so forth; (iv) that is; (v) whatever will be will be.
6. A lepidopterist is an expert on? : (i) Weeds; (ii) Grass; (iii) Whales; (iv) Rabbits (v) Butterflies.
7. About how many sesame seeds are found on a Big Mac bun?: (i) 108; (ii) 128; (iii) 148; (iv) 178; (v) 208; (vi) 308.
8. Kissing the Blarney Stone in Ireland endows the kisser with: (i) good looks; (ii) the gift of eloquence; (iii) a slim figure; (iv) untold wealth; (v) serenity.
9. Shakespeare wrote the majority of his 37 plays commencing around: (i) 1394; (ii) 1494; (iii) 1594; (iv) 1694; (v) 1794
10. ‘Music hath charms to soothe a savage, ... what? :
11. A Sisyphean Task is one that is: (i) endless; (ii) only for deities; (iii) easy; (iv) up-lifting; (v) well paid.
12. Fortune Cookies were invented in: (i) China; (ii) Hong Kong; (iii) Taiwan; (iv) California; (v) France.



*“My doctor told me he thought I had a drinking problem. He’s right – I can never get enough.”*



## Book Club

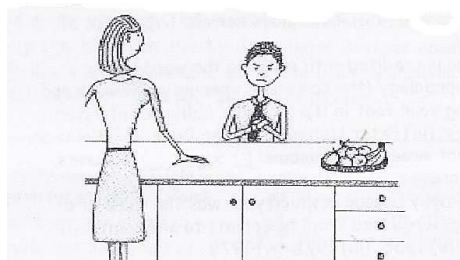
Anthony Horowitz may be well known to readers as the author of the brilliant scripts of *Foyle's War*. He is also the creator of *Midsomer Murders*. So a reader might reasonably expect that his book *Magpie Murders* would be well constructed. And indeed it is.

The story is told by Susan Ryeland who is editing the ninth Atticus Pünd detective novel, written by best-selling author Alan Conway. This particular crime, set in an English village in the Cotswolds, is every bit as intriguing as the previous investigations undertaken by this German detective and, although Susan does not particularly like Conway, she is pleased to have another best-seller on her hands which will keep her publishing house afloat.

But suddenly Alan Conway is dead after sending a suicide note. And the final chapter of the novel *Magpie Murders* is missing. In searching for the missing chapter, Susan becomes convinced that there is a direct connection between the novel and the circumstances of the author's death. In effect there is not only the mystery in the incomplete novel to be solved but there is another set of circumstances to be unravelled.

For the reader, this is two mysteries for the price of one and a very skillfully crafted work to be savoured.

**Ian Pullar**



*"A hypothetical question. If a kid at school called me a bad name, should I kick him in the shins?"*

*"No. Violence is never justified."*

*"Another hypothetical question. What if I already have?"*

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*A History of the World in Twelve Maps* by Jerry Brotton is described by one reviewer as 'fascinating, panoramic, wonderful' and I would heartily agree.

Brotton takes us through the development of maps from ancient Greek times to Google maps. But it's not as simple as that. A fundamental question is "What is a map?" At times, a map has been an expression of the relation between creation and the earth which was only accepted as heliocentric fairly late in the piece. A good example is the *Mappamundi* which we were privileged to view in Hereford, England which bears little resemblance to our concept of a map. It doesn't even have north at the top.

A fundamental problem of mapmaking (as we would understand it) is how to represent an oblate spheroid on a flat sheet – the well-known Mercator projection being one possible solution.

European map making took on a new importance as the explorers pressed ever onwards, charting new territories and the merchants sought to profit from trade. The Spanish and the Portuguese divided the world into their two halves (with the blessing of the Pope) before the Dutch overtook them. And then the French set out to define everything within their boundaries (which till then were very fluid) and the English embarked on what became the world-famous ordnance surveys.

The culmination of the book is the development of Google Earth which the creators even hesitate to call maps. The scale of the information is mind-boggling. At the time of publication (2012) it was estimated that the capacity of the system was 1,800 exabytes (one exabyte contains one quintillion bytes, or  $10^{30}$ ) with nearly 12 billion pages. But it is still growing and will continue to do so.

Brotton concludes "There is simply no such thing as an accurate map of the world, and there never will be. The paradox is that we can never know the world without a map, nor definitively represent it with one."

A fascinating and enlightening book, but be warned; it is not an easy read with masses of technical detail and philosophical ponderings – and a very small font!

**Ian Pullar**

