



WATERY SAUCES OLDIES and BOLDIES

Newsletter No 87

December 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION

What's in a Name?

It would come as no surprise if Gary Luck (who raised this issue) thought he was suffering from Multiple Personality Disorder not knowing who he worked for. Over the years, his employer has undergone multiple name changes: Irrigation and Water Supply Commission; Queensland Water Resources Commission; Water Resources Commission; Department of Primary Industries; Department of Natural Resources; Dept of Natural Resources and Mines; Dept of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy; Dept of Natural Resources and Mines; Dept of Natural Resources, Mines and Water; Dept of Natural Resources and Water; Dept of Environment and Resource Management (DERM); Dept of Natural Resource and Mines; and Dept of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

Along the way, it has picked up bits and pieces: Local Government; Primary Industries; Lands; Mines; Energy; Water Supply; Environment and Heritage; and has jettisoned others; Local Government; Primary Industries; Water Commercial; Hydrology group; Energy, Environment and Heritage.

It has also had multiple CEOs: Tom Lang, Bill Nimmo, Fred Haigh, Frank Learmonth, Don Beattie, Tom Fenwick, Peter Bevin, Tom Fenwick, Terry Hogan, Bob McCarthy, Scott Spencer, John Bradley, Jim Reeves, Dan Hunt, Brett Hayward and James Purtill.

Tom Fenwick was so prescient when he declared in the '90s that "the only constant is change"!

2018 WRRRA Annual Golf Day

On Friday 9 August the Water Resources Retirees Association held their annual golf competition at the lovely Keperra Golf Club.

A total of nine members and friends battled it out over a very testing 9 holes in what proved to be a much hillier course than last year.

Bill Meredith made a welcome return to the field and was successful in taking out first prize from Ken Watson on a countback with 15 well earned stableford points thanks to a fine finishing hole.

In the rundown there were credible performances from one of Ken's mates Larry and Trevor Sleep with 14 points followed by Geoff Eades and yours truly with a workmanlike 13.

Others of note included the former Dam Safety Engineer, Peter Allen having his first hitout since retiring earlier this year and the nearly retired Graham Young who slipped back in the field this year no doubt due to the tricky terrain. Another of Ken's mates, Tony, took out the wooden spoon and will no doubt be better for the run.

Apologies included Past President Mike Merrin. Hopefully next year we will be able to attract a few extra players to what really is a great course – provided you can find it.

Thanks again to Geoff for organising the day and the Keperra Golf Club for putting up with us in their busy schedule.

See you all again next year.

President Pete

From the Editor's Chair

In July, Helen and I, along with hundreds of other wrinklies, attended a performance of "Senior Moments", featuring Max Gillies, John Wood and Benita Collings. It was very enjoyable presentation, dealing with the problems of old age – many of them caused by the younger generation.

The lessons are salutary to all of us retirees: as long as we retain the ability to laugh at ourselves and our surrounds, all will be well.

I have appended a number of the "Senior Moments" definitions from their programme at the bottom of pages. No doubt you can think of others yourselves – provided you are not having a senior moment of forgetfulness!

Until next time, au reservoir.

Ian Pullar, Editor

*Best wishes for the Festive
Season from WRRRA*



It's a Senior Moment when you have to explain to someone what liquid paper was. And what carbon paper was. And what a newspaper was.

The Ruffini Review

On 24 October, 24 of us were privileged to attend the Victory Hotel and a most interesting talk by John Ruffini on studies conducted on North Stradbroke Island. John is Director, Water Planning and Coastal Sciences, Department of Environment and Science.

The studies were initiated during the Millennium Drought to determine whether the island could become a source of supply to the south-east region. The island, one of the largest sand islands in the world, has supplied groundwater to both local users and parts of the mainland in Redlands Shire.

Ultimately John's group undertook a number of collaborative research projects to better understand the risk of water extraction on the island's environmental values, which included possible impacts on the traditional owners of the land they know as Minjerribah. The work involved construction, calibration and operation of a complex computer model, drilling and monitoring a significant number of observation bores to gain an understanding of the complex geology and hydrology.

Drilling adjacent to Swallow Lagoon produced a log of strata (analogous to coral cores) which was a record of environmental change of great significance in understanding climate change.

John summarised his talk:

- North Stradbroke Island contains the highest concentration of ancient wetlands in Australia (600 to 280,000 years old)
- Many are remarkably stable in response to past climate
- Despite European settlement, most may be resilient to climate change due to interaction with groundwater systems
- Some are clearly vulnerable and require improved understanding for their effective management
- Swallow Lagoon study of international significance
- Collective findings have informed:
 - water policy and management
 - climate variability and water security for SEQ
 - NRM activities on the island

For readers seeking more detail, John's Power Point can be found on our website.

In response to a question, John told us that while the local groundwater supplies are adequate for the island, a number of the bores are in deteriorating condition and will need to be upgraded.

Many thanks to John for treating us "oldies" so generously and for joining us at lunch.

New Members

WRRRA welcomes the following new members: Bill Steen, Rolf Rees, David Free, Greg Claydon, Peter Allen, Mal Irwin and Peter Moran.

Christmas Lunch

This year's WRRRA Christmas lunch at COTAH on 22 November was well attended with 37 members and guests enjoying each other's company and a specially prepared Christmas Dinner cooked and served by the students.

Our Guest of Honour was Nicole Hollows, CEO of SunWater who delivered an address on the activities of her organisation. There is certainly plenty going on and, with a Federal election coming up soon, there could be a lot more activity with quite a few new dams being proposed to "drought-proof" Queensland. We are very grateful to Nicole for making her time available.

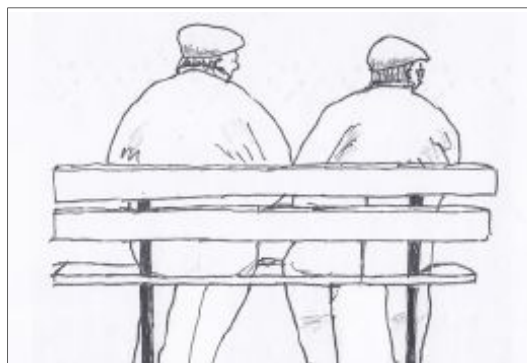
Terry Loos presented his usual set of nigh-on-impossible trivia questions with the winning table scoring 13 out of twenty. Some of the questions can be found on page 11.



Times Passed

The Secretary was recently contacted by Ross Wheeler asking for news of Col Taggart. Ross's mother, Peg had been unable to contact him. But Rolf was able to. Col reported that at 90 he is as well as can be expected. He has tablets which have kept his prostate cancer at bay. Rolf's call reminded him that he had not spoken to Peg Wheeler for about a year.

Ross reported that Peg was pleased to hear the news as she was getting a little concerned. She is 98 and there are not many of the 'Old Guard' remaining to ask about their old mates. 'Tis amazing how the 'old Clareites' have remained friends for the major part of their lives.



My doctor said, "Don't tell me you still climb ladders at your age." So I don't tell him.

It's a Senior Moment when you still say "colour television". And you watch television on a television.

Tenterfield Creek Dam

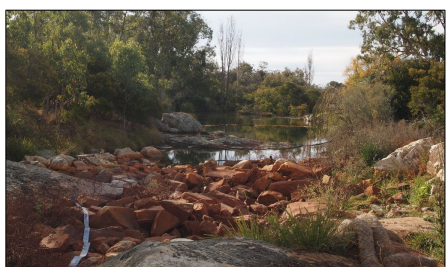
Jon Henry

In addition to the activities described in the last edition, some of the pilgrims on the WRRRA trip to Tenterfield stayed on for a technical tour of a dam - Ed.

The tour group inspected Tenterfield Creek Dam on the afternoon of 24 May.

The dam is used to supply water to Tenterfield. The treatment works are immediately downstream of the dam and comprise sand filters and facilities for chlorination and fluoridation. Treated water is pumped to a single town reservoir and reticulated by gravity from there.

The structure of the dam is quite simple. The wall is a mass concrete gravity structure with the spillway comprising most of its length. The outlet works comprise an inlet tower at the dam wall itself and several outlets. The main outlet is for downstream releases and consists of a pair of valves in series. There are two outlet pipes running to the treatment works; one original one and one to replace it. The dam is founded on rock which continues downstream so that no special structure is required for energy dissipation. There is a small concrete sill in the creek bed some distance



downstream of the dam wall to provide a control.

Remedial measures are under way to improve the

safety of the dam. These were explained by Engineer Gillian Marchant and Project Supervisor Ian McCann. The dam was originally built in 1930 to a design by the Public Works Department (PWD). In 1974, it was raised 1.83m when extra concrete was anchored to the original concrete. Over time, the anchors deteriorated, resulting in the need for the remedial measures.

The PWD, as the original design authority, was consulted and came up with two options: install new anchors; or add concrete to the downstream face in order to buttress the existing structure.

Initially, the first option was adopted. Unfortunately, the contractor was unable to comply with the specifications and had to be dismissed.

The second option was adopted. The buttressing is built in tiers, giving the dam a similar appearance to a rolled concrete dam like Wyaralong Dam.

In the case of Tenterfield Creek Dam, the whole of the down-



stream face of the spillway is now tiered. The concrete uses equal proportions of cement and fly ash. The forms incorporate a permeable liner to eliminate surface imperfections such as laitance caused by excess water and holes caused by air bubbles and water pockets. The composition of the concrete and the lining of the forms combine to produce a very even finish to the surface. The aggregate is 40mm and this requires the concrete to be placed from a kibble rather than be pumped. Two measures are being used to ensure that the new buttressing and the original wall act as a composite structure. Firstly, the face of the original wall was pressure cleaned to enable the new concrete to bond to the old concrete. Secondly, dowels are used at the interface between the new and the old concrete.

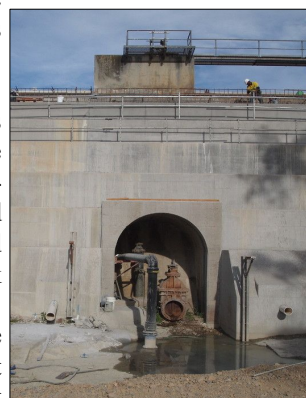
The extremities of the spillway are being raised to divide the spillway into a main part and two secondary parts. The work uses 25mm aggregate to make concrete that can be placed by pumping. This creates three crest levels: the wing walls, the secondary spillways, and the main spillway. A new butterfly valve is to be fitted to the main outlet.

The budget for the works, excluding the loss on the aborted first option, is \$6.5m.

There was a humorous incident at the end of the inspection. Project Supervisor Ian had disappeared so Engineer Gillian filmed the group saying thank you.

Your reporter left the site with a feeling of great relief to have seen that there is somewhere where real work is proceeding to conserve water for beneficial use.

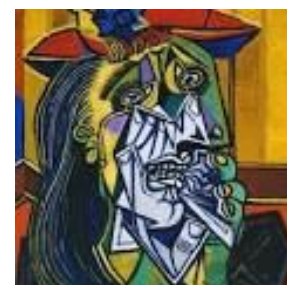
Many thanks, Jon, for this account. And to Karla for her photographs - Ed.



Answers to Terry's Trivia on p 11.

- 1.(iii) 12
- 2.(iv) Send flowers
- 3.(ii) southern bank
- 4.(ii) Earwax
- 5.(ii) Great altitude – no O₂
- 6.(ii) Tully
- 7.(iv) six
- 8.(iii) Tipping
- 9.(iv) False Teeth
- 10.Only Indonesia

Pablo Picasso. Portrait of Dora Maar



“And that woman calls herself a beautician!?”

It's a Senior moment when your idea of an Apple technology breakthrough is fresh Granny Smiths in winter.

Vale - Neville Richard Caton 8-10-1939 – 17-8-2018

In 1958 Neville Caton commenced with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission as a Cadet Draughtsman. He started that course at QUT, changing a year later to Engineering. In 1971, Neville accepted an offer to do two years in construction. With his wife Marilyn and three very young boys, he took up residence at the Monduran Dam camp which was still in its infancy and very much a construction site. In this environment the boys were typically described as “accidents waiting to happen”. Despite this, after four years, Neville was more than happy to not go back to Brisbane, and so commenced an entire career in regional centres.

1975 was spent in Baralaba, completing the Anabranh Weir and constructing the weir on the Dawson River. At Baralaba, it was Jim Prosser who stepped up to show Neville the ropes.

From Baralaba it was to Callide Dam for two years and then Kinchant for three years. He was at Kinchant for the birth of a fourth son before another move to Awoonga Dam Stage 2 for the next five years. It was then back to the Burnett region for Bucca Weir in 1986 and on to the Burdekin irrigation system and Ayr from 1988 until he retired. IWS/QWRC was the only employer he ever had.

He met many great people on and off the job over the length and breadth of Queensland, involving himself in the local communities through his love of tennis, cricket, golf and fishing. He said it was always easier if you came with half a team. Nev has left his name on a few sporting honour boards up and down the coast, but like many of his engineering fraternity, his most visible legacy is the water infrastructure he helped build and that continues to serve Queenslanders today and will for many years.

Neville is survived by his wife Marilyn, his four sons and their wives and seven grandchildren.

A Construction Engineer's Wife's Life

Marilyn Caton

Quite some time ago, I asked Marilyn if she would provide me – and our readers – with some reminiscences. She did; along with Nev's obituary. Many thanks, Marilyn and our condolences on your loss of a “good bloke” - Ed.

Neville left Brisbane ahead of us and then came back to take us to the Donga that Geoff and Joan Ward had had to vacate for us. It was really early, basically at the start of the camp and the few families that were there had mainly come from St George. I had left my brick house and pristine lawn so it was a bit stressful for me but everyone else took to it like ducks to water. Max Riley told me years later that when he saw the three little blond boys arrive he had thought they were “an accident waiting to happen”. The camp grew and my eyes were opened a bit by some of the things that go on in a camp that size. Quite a few of us got involved in the town of Gin Gin and I was invited back there last year for the 50th anniversary of the National Fitness Club.

Baralaba saw us in the middle of a cow paddock. It was a small camp and not far from the town. When we arrived there was no tank so our water came straight from the Dawson River – a lovely rich brown. The boys could see no point in getting in a bath with water that colour.

Our move to Callide Dam where the house was already established and the water was clear was a bonus. There was even a dam full of water, a dam wall and 84 steps to run up and down. It was Biloela where we had our introduction to Junior tennis tournaments and intertown cricket matches; something that was to continue for many years.

On to Kinchant Dam where our fourth son was born. That kept me busy with a baby and all the cricket training, tennis coaching and actual matches and tournaments usually in Mackay half an hour's drive away.

The permanent house we had at Awoonga was situated on a promontory that was eventually surrounded by water. Gardening had always been my way of settling into a new place and this was a perfect setting. Because Gladstone was booming at the time a new High School had been built but it only took Year 8 so for the first year we had kids at 4 different schools – Calliope, Benaraby, Gladstone and Toolooa. Needless to say we were into all the sporting groups and Saturdays would see us leave really early and stay at the courts all day as it wasn't worth driving back to the camp in between fixtures. At least by the time we got to Gladstone we were greeted by cricket Clubs wanting us to join as they all knew the boys from rep teams. One of the boys was actually able to finish High School in one place.

On to Bundaberg and a lot closer to town. We had three boys away at Uni by this time so I joined a friend picking button squash. My first day and I was more than ready for home when we were asked to pick some cucumbers. I remember sitting on flattened cardboard and moving down the rows on my backside.

When we arrived in Ayr we were actually in the town and had a letter box. I even enjoyed getting junk mail. We were there for quite some time, bought a house that needed a lot of attention, and I worked at a small school on a Mill Estate for almost 19 years. We still keep in touch with people up and down the coast but are now in the big smoke with me trying to remember what lane I'm supposed to be in. There have been lots of good memories.

It's a Senior Moment when you realise you have to do five hours of yoga before you're fit enough to do one hour of yoga.

Vale - Keith Niemeyer

It is with deep regret that I bring sad news, the passing of Keith (Shiner) Niemeyer. Keith passed away in September after a long period of illness.

Keith commenced work with the IWSC in the early 1960s working in Project laboratories around the State before being stationed at the Rocklea Laboratory in 1965 from where he retired after 37 years of service. During this period Keith was involved in Site Investigation and laboratory testing of materials associated with almost all of the Projects undertaken by the IWSC and its following identities.

Daryl Brigden

Vale Robert Ian Ellis 23-11-1951 – 07-09-2018

Robert Ian Ellis was born on 23 November 1951 in Toowoomba. He began his schooling at East Toowoomba State School. As one of the first to start high school in Grade 8, he attended the Toowoomba Grammar School from 1964 to 1968.

He began his tertiary education at DDIAE- Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education in 1969. (This institution was to become USQ). He initially studied Biological Sciences. After a less than successful first year, he took stock and applied for a State Government Cadetship from IWSC and changed to Earth Sciences (Geology). These were bonded scholarships where the student received work experience during the vacations and on completion of studies had to take a government position. Apart from a couple of vacation jobs with private Geological exploration companies he worked solely for the Government as a Cadet, then a hydrogeologist and Senior Scientist. He retired from the Department of Energy and Resource Management. (DERM) after 40 years of service.

As a hydrogeologist, Rob specialised in mapping and maintenance of underground Water Resources, and was also involved with site investigations for dam sites and weirs. He undertook similar work throughout his career although much to his chagrin the department names and business cards changed regularly!

He transferred between offices in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville and Ayr and finally back to Brisbane. He loved geological field work and missed this on coming back to Brisbane in 1987. In later years he was able to do some field work in the Lockyer Valley and on Stradbroke Island.

Robert and Shirley-Anne were fellow students at DDIAE in Toowoomba. In 1972 Robert was in his final year when Shirley commenced her studies. They met as casual acquaintances in the refectory but when he left to start work with WRC they continued to correspond by letter as was the custom in those days. His work saw him move from Brisbane to Rockhampton and then to Townsville. On his visits back to Toowoomba he visited friends including Shirley. Nothing was set in stone until he bought an engagement ring in 1976 and the rest is history.

Sea Shell Collecting and Malacology became Robert's obsession over the years. From a simple beginning collecting beach shells as a five year old with his brother, this grew to become a huge part of his life. Learning to SCUBA dive opened up his world to underwater photography and the observation of interesting living shells. He collected live shells sparingly and was a conservationist. He followed regulations, and advised and helped with the setting of Guidelines by Government Authorities. His vast Shell Collection currently resides in the 'Under-croft' or 'Shell Cave' of the Moorooka home. Despite impeccable cataloguing and scientific labelling, this collection will present a challenge for Shirley in coming months if not years!

Rob and Shirley became interested in native plants while living in Townsville. After buying an acreage block in the 1980s Rob proceeded to plant hundreds of trees. On coming to Brisbane he joined the Western Suburbs Branch of SGAP (now Native Plants Queensland), becoming involved in Branch and Region committees. At the time of his death he was Chair and Newsletter Editor of Western Suburbs Branch and a member of Regional Council.

Robert was a thoughtful, hardworking, fun-loving person. His knowledge in many fields was immense and he was always ready to share this with others. His knowledge of 1960s music and musical groups was encyclopaedic and was always handy on trivia nights. 4KQ was his station and no one dared change the radio setting!

He was widely known for his terrible jokes. He could pun like a master on the rare occasion that he found an equal punner! Years of 'The Goons', 'Monty Python' and 'The Two Ronnies' had honed his skill.

He was a member of so many organisations over the years and could be relied upon to be on a committee, produce a newsletter, organise a display, run a raffle or do almost anything at short notice.

He was always there for his family to help them in times of need. He found it hard to say 'no' when anyone asked for help. As many have said Rob was a quiet achiever, he rarely made waves and fitted in with most groups of people: "He was such a lovely man, a good bloke!" *abridged from the eulogy delivered at his funeral.*

Vale - Trevor Lawrence

It is with deep sadness that I have to inform you of the passing of Trevor "Butch" Lawrence. Butch was one of the "Legendary Works Supervisors" and served 47 years with SunWater and its predecessors in the Construction Group before retiring a couple of years ago. He passed away at home on 24 November after a period of illness.

Daryl Brigden

It's a Senior Moment when to you "WW" means the start of a war, not an internet address.

Toowoomba Office – An Evolution

Russ Robson

It all began in the 1960s.

The Toowoomba Office of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission was a very different beast at its 1961 genesis from what it became over the following 25 years.

The growth seems at odds with the possibility that an office in Toowoomba might not have been envisioned at all in any grand plan of the time. Warwick office, only 50 miles distant, had already been established (with Des Foster as Officer in Charge) with operational coverage of the Darling Downs area that later was to be included in the Toowoomba District. Likewise, the western (mainly Gatton Shire) part of the Lockyer Valley, that subsequently also formed part of the Toowoomba District, was being covered by operations based in Head Office.

The notion that a Toowoomba Office most likely was not particularly featured in a grand plan is somewhat supported by the nature of its origin. It in fact originated as a 'work from home' arrangement between Ken Carmichael, then Officer in Charge (later Chief Engineer) of Rivers and Streams Branch and Mike Hopkins, a Farm Advisory officer of the Commission then stationed in the Warwick office.

Mike was a Toowoomba native and a product of the Gatton Agricultural College. He commenced work as a Farm Advisory officer with the IWSC in 1958 as one of several appointments made to operationalise the *Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act 1958*. Initially appointed to, and working from, Rivers and Streams Branch in Head Office, Mike, with Peter Barr, carried out Farm Advisory activity across the western Darling Downs to Roma, with some sorties further west.

In 1960, Mike transferred to the Warwick office and continued his work to the west. In 1961, for emerging family reasons, he successfully sought relocation to Toowoomba. This move established Mike as a one man operation working from his family home overlooking Queen's Park near the centre of Toowoomba City. Hence the 'office' was not a bricks and mortar office in a commercial precinct, rather a stately old Queenslander in a desirable residential location. The garden workshop beneath the house served to store Mike's operational equipment while the timber and tin garage off the back lane accommodated the IWSC vehicle.

Under this arrangement, Mike's focus remained Farm Advisory investigation work. He had no support staff. He carried out his own office work, including typing and other administrative functions, and used farmer clients for survey and other field assistance. Operational activity associated with all other Rivers and Streams Branch responsibilities (e.g. Stream Control/licensing and River Improvement Trust Support in particular) continued to be serviced from Head Office.

Ken Carmichael ultimately instructed Mike to find office space in the City precinct in 1963. Given that it was to emerge later that Ken might well have had a preference to locate an office in Dalby, this move appears likely to have been a compromise that recognised a need to meet a rapidly increasing demand for service in circumstances where Mike's situation was such that he was unlikely to be able to reposition away from Toowoomba in the foreseeable future.

The increasing demand for Farm Advisory service included the need for water supply development on newly balloted blocks in the Moonie Brigalow Development Area as well as for development on the central Condamine alluvium. At the same time, demand for Stream Control service had increased beyond that available through relatively infrequent visits from Head office (commonly by Foreman Jerry Harris).

Through the usual State Works Department channels, Mike obtained a single room space (of about 8x5 metres) in the Strand Arcade on Margaret Street in the City, opposite the main Post Office.

The "Strand Arcade" – named for the adjoining Strand Theatre – was a fancy name for what is thought to have been previously a motor vehicle or similar showroom that had been converted into several office spaces. The Works Department held a lease over the entire space with the primary occupant being the District administrative and inspectorial wing of the Education Department.

The space provided for Mike directly fronted Margaret Street. The frontage was separated from the footpath by uninsulated bi-fold style glass doors that were rendered inoperable in the interests of security but had gaps through which not only the pedestrian and street traffic noise permeated, but also the breezes and dust. Indeed, semi-trailers and buses seemed by noise and vibration to use the Arcade as an alternative thoroughfare. Entry to the office was off the unsoundproofed glass sided Arcade passage that extended from the Street to the downstairs rear covered car park/shed.

Works Department architectural flair extended to silky oak panelling of the day installed to create four internal spaces. Summer cooling and dust circulation was provided by the breezes through gaps in the front doors, supplemented by a couple of wall and free-standing fans and by natural 'air conditioning' achieved by jamming open the front door (after inserting ear plugs). Winter heating was a single back wall electric strip heater, supplemented by floor heaters provided following presentation of sufficient cause to the Stores and Supply Supervisor in Head Office.

Clearly by today's standards, the office had its shortcomings although, apart from the City location plus noise and lack of wall banger airconditioning, it probably was not much different from construction demountables of the day.

Continued next page

It's a senior moment when you know who Danny Kaye is but you think Kanye West is part of a country in Africa.

Toowoomba Office – An Evolution *continued*

However, its considerable advantage was its proximity to the Post Office – not one at which one conducted official postal business, rather the *Post Office Hotel* that was located two doors to the east. At further convenience, the *Crown Hotel* was located two doors to the west. While the latter was not to be ignored completely, there always was a certain ring of legitimacy in being heard to be “going to the Post Office” – more so given that the *Crown’s* reputation variously tended toward dubious. One particular downside of the location was the vulnerability of the glass street front doors to be more or less routinely impacted by late night passers-by in energetic celebratory mood.

On occupying the space, Mike assumed the title of Officer in Charge, Toowoomba District and staff expansion followed to service the newly defined District.

Sybil Nagel, a clerk-typiste (replaced a short time later by Kay Coleman), was an early starter. Early in 1964, Jeff Cameron, an ex-diary farmer in his mid-50s, was appointed as a Field Assistant to assist in the conduct of Farm Advisory work. It is believed that Jeff, earlier in life, had commenced a civil engineering degree in Ken Carmichael’s cohort, but was unable to complete it for family reasons that saw him return to the family farm. Jeff enthusiastically embraced the course necessary to qualify as an advisory officer and completed it with ease given his considerable aptitude for mathematics and things engineering, supported by extensive knowledge of the land.

Geoff Wilkinson also entered the office as a surveyor’s labourer/trainee water advisor and Jim Keating was employed as a surveyor’s labourer. Jim was to remain with the office until his retirement in the 1990s. Geoff transferred to Warwick at the beginning of 1967 (ultimately pursuing a military career following call-up to National Service a couple of years later). John Daly had overlapped with Geoff Wilkinson in the office, but resigned later in 1967 leaving Warren Hutton, an early 1967 starter, as the sole Cadet.

The initial expansion established a staff status quo that persisted until late 1968, with the only face changes being Russ Robson transferring in at the beginning of 1968 to overlap with Warren Hutton who moved off to Emerald at the end of that year.

For this initial five years, the operational focus of the office remained on Farm Advisory activity covering the area from Gatton Shire in the east, to the eastern part of Murilla Shire in the north west and Tara Shire in the south west. In addition to work in the Moonie Brigalow Development Area, support was also provided firstly to Peter Barr and later Tony Bucknell in Roma Office in servicing the Arcadia Valley Brigalow Development Area.

Additionally, the office provided a shop front

through which both surface and groundwater licensing and administrative matters could be facilitated for Head Office processing. At least so far as Stream Control/licensing was concerned, there was also a developing commitment to stream surveillance and licence application investigations, although support sorties continued to be provided from Head Office.

While no Underground and Stock Water Supply staff were officially located in the office at the outset, John King, an Assistant Boring Inspector working from his Toowoomba home, used the office as a pit stop. Foreman Jim Murray, also working from his (then Clifton) home to carry out monitoring bore water level readings across the Condamine valley and basaltic uplands, similarly used the office.

Late in 1968, U&SWS’s formal presence in the office was established with the arrival of Boring Supervisor Harry Plint from St George. Harry was followed from St George soon after by Boring Inspector Dick Hern. The additional office space needed for Harry and Dick was obtained by annexing from the Education Department the Arcade room next door to the original office. This additional space also provided a formal base for both John King and ultimately Jim Murray on his residential relocation to Toowoomba.

Harry Plint’s move to Toowoomba established the unusual circumstance where the most senior officer in the office was not the officer in charge. That role remained with Mike Hopkins who, although by then promoted to Water Advisor, remained junior to Harry.

In the light of the increasing flow of administrative work, Jim Osbaldeston was appointed to be the first Toowoomba District Clerk early in 1969. This was an “unclassified” clerical position for which upgrade was unsuccessfully sought on a couple of occasions over the following few years. The Public Service Commission assessor who recommended against the reclassification on more than one of these occasions was a certain Mr Fell. He became ‘affectionately’ known in the office as “Slipton” or “Tripton” (Fell). Jim ultimately succeeded with the re-classification and in fact remained in the office through several reclassifications until his retirement in very recent years.

Also in 1969, Bruce Culliford was appointed as a Stream Control Officer to carry out surface water licensing activities in the District. Bruce was one of several similar appointees in District offices around the State. He was slotted into a partially partitioned shoebox space at the back of the advisory technical staff area of the original office. His occupation of this space introduced something of a hot desking requirement for the other technical staff. Wet weather that prevented field work always made for cosy arrangements.

To be continued in next edition..

It’s a senior moment if you can remember when Martina Navratilova said she liked guys and Jim Nabors said he didn’t.

Around the World in 104 Days

Part 6

Bruce Pearce

In the morning of day 60, in Monaco we walked past lots of very expensive yachts and Bentleys and Rolls Royces parked on the wharf area and then strolled along the Grand Prix course past numerous exclusive stores.

In the afternoon, we went for a scenic and picturesque drive to Eze, a well preserved mediaeval village with ancient stone houses with pink tiled roofs clinging to a rocky outcrop with a coastal viewpoint overlooking Nice. Menton, the last French town before the Italian border, is a year round resort with beautiful beaches and the warmest climate on the Riviera.

In the evening we set an easterly course for our next port of call, Livorno in Italy.

Livorno is the principal town in the province of the same name, in the region of Tuscany. Livorno is Italy's third largest sea port and serves as the gateway to the cities of Florence and Pisa. Livorno conducts a brisk trade in marble and alabaster as well as artistic products from Florence. The jetty and harbour were rebuilt by Cosimo di Medici in 1571 to replace the port of Pisa, which had become choked with silt. The north-western plain of the Italian peninsula, is a broad fertile basin drained by the Arno River. Tuscany gets its name from the ancient Etruscans, who settled the region. These were a hard, warlike people whose origin is still uncertain. They were the first civilised people in Italy to build cities, establish trade, develop a code of law and create high quality artwork.

Our shore excursion for the day was a 10 hour round trip to the Cinque Terre area north of Livorno. The name Cinque Terre refers to five dramatically situated villages clinging to the cliffs and once only accessible from the sea. Even to-day there is no road linking the villages. Residents park their vehicles in public parking areas situated high above their homes and then have to carry everything down. The villages are serviced by a railway link along the coast. We walked between two of the villages, namely Riomaggiore and Vernazza, along the "Path of Love". This path had a chainwire fence line along the top of the cliff on which lovers place locks symbolising their love for each other and throw away the key. Outstanding views of the beautiful Mediterranean Sea were to be had along the path. We then joined a launch for a scenic cruise to the remaining three villages comprising Manarola, Monterosso al Mare and La Spezia. On the return journey we were able to see the Leaning Tower of Pisa in the distance.

In the evening, we set sail on a predominantly south-easterly course parallel to the Italian coast, transiting the southern part of the Ligurian Sea, pass-

ing the island of Elba as we entered the Tyrrhenian Sea towards the port of Civitavecchia which is regarded as the gateway to the Eternal City, and has served as Rome's seaport since the thirteenth century. The port has a long and venerable history. The emperor Trajan built a pleasure villa near the modern city, while Bernini and Michelangelo designed the harbour fortifications.

We had visited Rome before, so we elected to undertake an easy tour involving a drive around Rome's major landmarks to refresh our memories. Landmarks included the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Vatican City, Castel Sant' Angelo, Circus Maximus, Arch of Constantine and St Peter's Basilica. Other sites included Trajan's Column, Piazza Venezia and Villa Borghese.

Our next port of call was Naples.

In the early hours of day 63 we rounded the island of Ischia, before turning to the north-east into the Gulf of Napoli passing through the breakwater to our berth. The isles of Ischia and Capri beckon offshore, as the plumed heights of Mount Vesuvius dominate the skyline.

Naples is Italy's third largest city and is a bustling metropolis of crowded streets, stately buildings and infamously wild traffic that defies description. It preserves the reminders of its past in a fan-shaped halo over the beautiful bay. Lavish mansions and churches nestle among poor districts. The Royal Palace of Capodimonte offers a stunning panorama of the entire city. The National Museum displays unique treasures taken from Pompeii and other ancient sites. The heavy damage from World War II has been repaired, and the city is a bustling port once again.

Our tour for the day took us to Pompeii where we explored the ruins. There is no doubt that a visit to Pompeii teaches you more about the ancient Romans than most other activities. Pompeii and the neighbouring town of Herculaneum were destroyed and buried by a volcanic eruption in 79 A.D. This catastrophe killed 2000 people, but it also preserved a unique look at their way of life. Vesuvius managed to freeze an entire society at one instant of time, so that we were able to study the lives and customs of 2000 years ago. We returned to Naples where we had a real Neapolitan pizza for lunch. We then visited the Archaeological Museum, home to a collection of artefacts from Pompeii and Herculaneum all in amazing condition.

After departing from Naples, *Dawn Princess* followed a different track out of the Gulf of Napoli, passing between the island of Capri and the headland of Sorrento. Once clear of the mainland we altered onto a southerly course to cross the Tyrrhenian Sea, passing by the active volcano of Stromboli and then aimed for the Messina Straits which we transited in the early hours of the morning.

It's a senior moment when you realise you've stopped worrying about dying from a drug overdose and started worrying about dying from a drug under-dose.

Around the World in 104 Days *continued*

We had an early wake-up call by the Captain advising that we were diverting to Sicily to take a crew member to hospital which would make us late for our next port in Greece. After passing through the Messina Strait, we crossed the Ionian Sea to Piraeus.

Piraeus is the busiest port in Greece and every day, ferries depart for the Greek Islands as well as Italy, Cyprus and Turkey. The port is about 30 minutes drive from Athens. Because of our late arrival, our tours had been shortened so our visit to Athens was rather rushed. The highlight of our tour was the visit to the Acropolis which dominates the Athenian landscape. A walk up approximately 80 steep steps through the Propylea led to the impressive Parthenon, the Erechtheon and the graceful Porch of the Caryatids. All are being slowly restored. Care had to be exercised when walking around the historic ruins as the limestone which outcrops at the site was very slippery under foot. The view of surrounding Athens was very impressive from this location.



We then toured the National Archeological Museum and viewed its trove of Greek antiquities, and this was followed by a quick tour of down-town Athens. In the evening we returned to the ship and after clearing the harbour we set a course towards Mykonos, our next port of call.

Thanks to its proximity to the mainland, Mykonos was one of the first Greek islands to become an international travel destination. During the late 60s and

early 70s, Mykonos was famed as a haunt for the rich. The island's nightlife – then and now – was a glittering whirl of coloured lights, music and parties. Although the rocky soil at Mykonos looks austere, its cube-shaped white houses have a characteristic charm, contrasting as they do with the dazzling blue of the sky and the sea. Mykonos belongs to the island group known as the Cyclades, since they form a rough circle around the sacred island of Delos, one of the religious centres of ancient Greece. The islands are the highest points of a sunken plateau, which still exhibits some volcanic activity. Seen from a distance, the Cyclades resemble a necklace of gems on deep blue satin. Historically there was always a danger of invasion by pirates, so the town and harbour are compactly built for defence. It is said that the tight, winding maze of streets was designed to confuse invaders, but it also does well to break the effects of the strong winds coming in from the Aegean. A major landmark on the island are the windmills that command the ridge above the harbour.



Our tour for the day consisted of a visit to a 16th century monastery that was a superb example of the island architecture, free time spent on the golden-white sand of Kalafatis Beach on the opposite side of the island from the town and finally a walking tour of Mykonos Town seeing the famous windmills and the Little Venice district.

To be continued in next edition...

He nearly Fell for it

On page 7 Russ Robson referred to the Public Service Inspector Mr Fell. I never met Evan Fell, but I heard plenty of tales about him. One such apocryphal anecdote was that on one occasion while he was returning to Brisbane from a field trip with an IWSC officer, he suggested that they call into a pub for a drink. The driver kept driving until they were approaching Fernvale and a convenient watering hole. But Mr Fell was no longer thirsty – it was after five o'clock!



St Barnabas Bulletin Board

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the Church Hall on Friday at 7 p.m. The Congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

It's a Senior Moment when you ask your travel agent why they don't have any travel packages to Ceylon. Or direct flights to Rhodesia.

HEALTH *and beauty*

Days of Our Lives

It seems that almost every day of the year has now been declared the commemorative Day of something. Apparently 3 September was declared National Flag Day. So you missed your chance to be patriotic.

And 29 July was International Lipstick Day. Ancient Sumerian men and women were possibly the first to invent and wear lipstick, about 5,000 years ago, using crushed gemstones. Egyptians like Cleopatra crushed bugs to create a red for their lips, but they wore lipstick to show social status rather than gender. Some dyes resulted in serious illness. Lipsticks with shimmering effects were made from a pearlescent substance found in fish scales.

The Chinese used lipsticks made from beeswax over 1,000 years ago to protect the delicate skin of the lips. During the Tang Dynasty, scented oils were added to them, which gave the mouth an enticing factor.

In Australia, Aboriginal girls would paint their mouths red with ochre for puberty rituals.

Lip colouring started to gain some popularity in 16th-century England. During the time of Queen Elizabeth I, bright red lips and a stark white face became fashionable. At that time, lipstick was made from a blend of beeswax and red stains from plants. Only upper class women and male actors wore makeup.

Throughout most of the 19th century, the obvious use of cosmetics was not considered acceptable in Britain for respectable women, and it was associated with marginalised groups such as actors and prostitutes. In the 1850s, reports were being published warning women of the dangers of using lead and vermilion in cosmetics applied to the face. The first commercial lipstick was invented in 1884, by perfumers in Paris. Complete acceptance of the undisguised use of cosmetics in England appears to have arrived for the fashionable Londoner at least by 1921 and is now virtually universal. No self-respecting woman can go out without her 'lippy'.

Making a Fist of Remembering

According to the *Sunday Mail* (and therefore it must be true) an *aide memoire* is the fist. When you are trying to commit something to memory, clench your right hand into a fist. If you are trying to recall something from your memory bank, clench your left hand. There is no guarantee, but it may be worth a try. And there's nothing to lose.

Exercise those Brain Cells

Q. One Easter, a grandmother placed a bowl with 65 miniature chocolate eggs in it in front of all her grandchildren and told them to take eggs in turn in order of age, starting with the youngest. Each took twice as many as the last one, leaving two eggs in the bowl for Grandma. How many grandchildren did she have?



More Apostrophe's

When my wife Helen was teaching, she was quite appalled by one student's use of apostrophes. She clearly had no understanding of them and told Helen she just thought some teachers liked them, but others didn't. So Helen explained that apostrophes are used in two ways: either in the possessive case e.g. *the girl's book* or *her parents' instructions*; or to indicate a missing letter e.g. *don't* (do not). *'tis* or *it's* (it is). However the word *its*, along with *hers*, *yours* and *theirs*, is already possessive and does not need the apostrophe. Since there is nothing missing, use 1960s, not 1960's.

Actually, the possessive apostrophe may have arisen from the omission rule because in Old English the masculine genitive was formed by adding *-es* to the noun with the *e* later substituted by the apostrophe. This approach became common for all nouns, regardless of their gender.

A Sign of the times

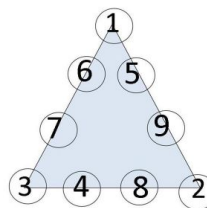
In a shop window in Canterbury, Melbourne

SALE
END'S
SATURDAY



"When my daughter asked me for advice about marriage, I told her to ask her father. He made a much better marriage choice than I did."

Answer to last Issue's Teaser



It's a Senior Moment when you know the Ink Spots were a singing group and a sign of poor penman-

More about Crosswords ...

Recently, British scientists claimed that solving crosswords is better than sex! Their thesis is that the 'aha' moment when we solve a clue has the same effect on our brains. A flood of dopamine is released at that point – the 'reward' chemical that makes sex enjoyable. They even argue that "if anything, solving a puzzle may be even better than sex, because it has further implications for memory and people are learning from the experience."

What a load of old cobblers! If it were true I'd have the equivalent of at least 30 orgasms every day!

Giving the Forks

In 972, a thirteen year old bride, Theophanu, was sent from Constantinople in the Holy Roman Empire of the East, to marry a seventeen year old groom who later became Otto II of the Holy Roman Empire of the West. After being married by the Pope, they arrived at the wedding breakfast and took up the seats of honour. Then the bride did something completely unexpected: she produced a little double-pronged gold implement and proceeded to scoop up food and bring it to her mouth. The raucous wedding guests were shocked. In Constantinople, the use of the table fork had been common for centuries, but in the west, food was noisily consumed with the hands. While some revellers saw that the use of such an implement would avoid unnecessary mess, most saw the fork as a symbol of effete decadence. St Peter Damian of Italy would later denounce it as an ungodly implement.

But in the 11th century, Italians discovered the joys of pasta, which could not be eaten with the hands. They realised that linguine could be consumed effortlessly if impaled and twirled on a fork.

The Times They Are A'changing

I recently read a statement from a sporting 'hero' 'We've been together for ten years and we have three beautiful girls. The time is right for us to get married.'

Not in my day, Sir. I must be getting old.

The Inhuman Race

I am in the garden weeding
When a phone inside starts ringing
And I'm certain that it's needing
My attention so I'm springing
Into action and I'm speeding
'Cause I have to go so far.
Just what news could this be bringing?
Is it from the normal channels?
No. My ear drums are still stinging -
"Does your house have solar panels?"
- Arrrrrgh!

A Sign of the Times

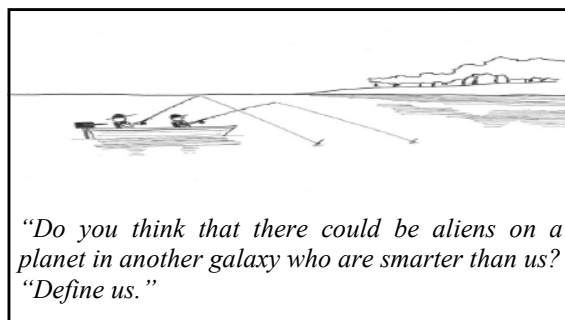
On a Signwriter's van in Brisbane

SIGNMAN SAYS

Terry's Trivia from the 2018 Xmas lunch

Answers on page 3.

1. In Qld, how many years must you squat on a property before it becomes yours?: (i) 5; (ii) 10; (iii) 12; (iv) 15; (v) 20.
2. Fifteen percent of women do what on Valentine's Day? (i) Stay home and mope; (ii) Wait for the postman; (iii) Get drunk; (iv) Send themselves flowers; (v) Watch an old movie.
3. The Murray R boundary between NSW and Vic is (i) on the northern bank; (ii) on the southern bank; (iii) in the middle.
4. When people are frightened, their ears produce more what? (i) Hair; (ii) Earwax; (iii) Vibrations; (iv) Red Bloodcells; (v) Wiggles
5. The city of La Paz in Bolivia is safe from fire because of what?: (i) an excellent fire brigade; (ii) Great altitude – no O₂; (iii) No wooden houses; (iv) A ban on matches.
6. The 7.9m high Golden Gumboot is in which Qld. town? (i) Peachester; (ii) Tully; (iii) Innisfail; (iv) Mt Isa; (v) Cooktown.
7. How many times was the Wimbledon men's singles title won by a Queenslander in the 1960s (i) zero; (ii) two (iii) four (iv) six; (v) eight
8. By law, what is banned in Japanese restaurants? (i) Burping; (ii) Loud voices; (iii) Tipping; (iv) Alcohol; (v) Kissing.
9. The major export of Liechtenstein is what? (i) Lychees; (ii) Cars; (iii) Weapons; (iv) False Teeth; (v) Bread
10. How many countries does the equator pass through in SE Asia?



"Do you think that there could be aliens on a planet in another galaxy who are smarter than us?"
"Define us."

It's a Senior Moment when you can't hum anything in the Top 40 but can still sing the entire opening theme to "Car 54, Where Are You?"

Book Club

I was given a copy of *A Gentleman in Moscow* by American author Amor Towles around Christmas time. I delayed my reading of it because it is quite lengthy and printed in a small font. But as I dipped into it I became enthralled.

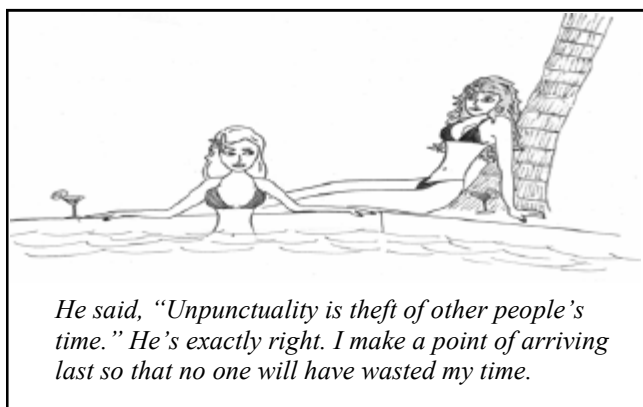
On 21 June 1922, Count Alexander Rostov – recipient of the Order of St Andrew, member of the Jockey Club, Master of the Hunt – is escorted out of the Kremlin, across Red Square and through the elegant revolving door of the Hotel Metropol. As an unrepentant aristocrat, he has been deemed a non-person and sentenced to house arrest in the hotel, under threat of execution if he leaves. And instead of his opulent suite, he is now housed in an uncomfortable attic room.

There he remains for decades, while Russia undergoes tumultuous upheavals. While his life is far more slow moving, in many respects it is satisfying as Rostov manages to maintain his standards as a gentleman while becoming involved in the activities within the hotel and with the people – both permanent and temporary residents – caught up in its life.

Towles' prose is every bit as elegant and cultured as the Count himself. The book was a joy to read, as well as a source of enlightenment on the 'riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma' that is Russia.

The fact that it took a long time to read turned out to be a wonderful bonus.

Ian Pullar



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The pictures are nearly always better in books!

Andrea Camilleri is the best-selling author of the Inspector Montalbano series, set in Sicily (highly recommended). I recently came across a very different book by the same author, although it is again set in Sicily.

The Revolution of the Moon covers an obscure historical moment. In the 17th century, Sicily was a Spanish province, ruled by a Viceroy, appointed by the King of Spain. In April 1677, on his death bed, the Viceroy appoints his wife, donna Eleanora di Mora as his successor. It is, of course, unheard of for a woman to hold such a post, but it is perfectly legal. A highly intelligent and socially conscious woman, she sets about dealing with the problems of the city of Palermo, beset with poverty, inequity and political unrest.

She immediately falls foul of the Holy Royal Council, the members of which greatly benefit from their opportunities to make money and have their own way. Her laws are considered seditious by the City Fathers and the Church. With the help of a few allies, she achieves a deal of success, before the machinations of the powerful lead to her recall after a reign of only 27 days.

Based on a true story, Camilleri's richly imagined novel tells the story of a woman whose courage is tested at every step by misogyny and reactionary conservatism.

Thoroughly recommended.

Ian Pullar

