

To apply for the next luncheon, you will need to print this first page and complete the printed booking slip. It can not be emailed to Jack Harrison but must be posted with a cheque to his home postal address.

The Editor

Booking slip

2nd December 2011 Meeting

Complete and return with your cheque by 10th November to
J.T. Harrison, 2 Amalfi Place, Longueville NSW 2066 (phone 9427 5399)

Here is my payment of \$_____ (at \$40.00 per head)

for _____ and me to attend the ARISSEA luncheon
at 11.30am for 12.30pm at the Bowlers' Club, 95 York Street, Sydney on Friday 2nd December.

Please provide _____ vegetarian meal(s).

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone No. _____

* Print your surname here. _____

Make your cheque payable to the *Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools* and cross it 'Not negotiable'.

Money cannot be refunded for cancellations made after 17th November



November 2011

Newsletter

Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools and Senior Educational Administrators

From the President



Again, via the Newsletter, we have the opportunity to share experiences among our members, with many enjoying travel during our winter months and others continuing to add value to our communities through volunteering. I look forward to as many members as possible joining together at the December lunch.

Since I last wrote, the recently appointed Director-General, Dr Michele Bruniges has taken up her new position. We have welcomed her to this significant role and have received in return her greetings to members of ARISSEA.

Her recent experiences have been in Canberra as Chief Executive of the ACT Department of Education and Training and as Deputy Secretary within the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations where she initially managed the Office of Early Childhood Education and Child Care before appointment as Deputy Secretary, Schools with wide responsibilities for the delivery of the Australian Government's commitments to school education.

Among a number of achievements in the ACT, Michele introduced a new model of schooling to support families in the first years of a child's life. I am sure she will bring outstanding leadership to this expanded arm of the Department.

Public education announcements seem to have flowed more slowly following the coalition's election victory in March than during the term of Dr Metherell in the 80s. The recent announcement of the portfolio as the Department of Education and Communities brought to Education, early childhood responsibilities that were previously with DOCS. This change had been suggested to the previous Government on a number of occasions at Upper House inquiries as a means of bringing a stronger educational focus to early childhood services.

For the Department it offers more than management of its preschools as there is opportunity for expanded leadership in the field and a coordinated approach to children's

educational development. The Director-General is knowledgeable and experienced in this agenda.

The NSW Department has had a rich heritage in early childhood programs and was an early innovator of the Montessori approach over a century ago. In more recent times, Audrey Bevan led the way in the development of Departmental preschools. Many of our members have played key roles in ensuring quality programs in preschools.

Departmental preschools are unique in that they serve in disadvantaged areas and bring the community together by connecting the school with its local families and providing children with a good start to their schooling. Whilst there has been a great expansion of early childhood services in recent years, with Government funding available for families, Departmental preschools are located mainly in areas where services are not easily accessible because of cost and availability.

They provide within the context of a community, a quality program for a mixed range of students that supports the learning of even the most disadvantaged. As an educational program focused on the year prior to school, preschools nurture each child's self esteem, wellbeing and development.

Even with the expansion of early childhood services, the Minister acknowledges that NSW, "lags behind other states and territories in both participation rates and affordability" in preschools.

A recent Government announcement about preschool fees may reduce the impact that preschools bring to children's learning in disadvantaged communities. The Government proposes that families from next year will be charged market rates to attend Departmental preschools, although it proposes that discounts will apply depending on socio-economic status and Aboriginality. Whilst this may soften the blow, market fees are likely to deter the most disadvantaged who often reject any semblance of charity.

Non-participation by an important group within the community would detract from achieving the educational purposes and benefits of the program. In addition the new fees introduce a different approach to funding a significant program available to the disadvantaged in Government schools. Whereas preschool education has been free, it will now be subject to the charging and collection of market fees for service.

At a more personal level, for some of our members and their families, circumstances such as illness and hospitalization continue to raise concerns. For those, we keep you in our thoughts and extend to you our best wishes. For some of our members and their families, circumstances through illness and hospitalization continue to raise concerns. As you confront issues, we keep you in our thoughts and extend to you our best wishes.

Our hard working Secretary, Brian Ford, is in this situation at present, but he remains as cheerful as we know him to be, still planning ideas for ARISSEA. I extend our very best wishes to Brian, Denise and family.

I thank the Executive for its commitment to serving the members and for the excellence of their contributions. I also invite members to send any feedback to me that might assist us in this work.

Alan Rice

August Lunch



Audrey Bevin

Members say

George Green

New Director-General

I was delighted to hear of the appointment of Dr Michele Bruniges to the position of Director-General NSW Department of Education and Communities.

Before moving to senior positions with the ACT and Federal governments, Michele enjoyed a very successful and varied career with the NSW department. Many ARISSEA members, like me, will have enjoyed working with her at various times in her career. She has been kind enough to provide me with details so that I might share them with ARISSEA members.

Michele completed a Diploma in Teaching at Goulburn CAE in 1979. She was appointed to Leppington Primary School in 1980 as a classroom teacher. She transferred to St Johns Park High School as a Mathematics and Computer Studies teacher in 1986 and then to Ingleburn High School in the same role in 1989.

In 1991 and 1993 Michele was National Projects coordinator with the Australian Education Council, leading the National Mathematics Subject Profiling Project. She returned to the Department in 1994 as CEO Mathematics in the Curriculum Directorate.

From 1995 to 1999, Michele was Manager, School Assessment and Reporting Unit, with major responsibilities for the Basic Skills Testing Program, the Selective High Schools entrance tests and the Opportunity C placement program.

From late 1999 until early 2003 Michele was Director of Strategic Information and Planning, before taking up the role of Assistant Director-General, Educational Services until January 2004, when she was appointed Regional Director, Western Sydney.

Michele “defected” from the NSW department in 2005 when she accepted the position of Chief Executive of the ACT Department of Education and Training. In October 2008 she moved on again, this time to the Commonwealth as Deputy Secretary, Office of Early Childhood Education and Child Care, within the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. In April 2009 she was appointed Deputy Secretary, Schools, with wide responsibilities for the delivery of the Australian Government’s commitments in school education.

Michele holds a number of degrees and diplomas. She completed a PhD in Educational Measurement at the University of New south Wales in 1999.

I know that all ARISSEA members will wish Michele well in her new role.

August Lunch



Col Cooksey and Jack Harrison

Stewart House Supporting the work of the *Out of School Hours Program Assessment Committee*

In 2007 the Board of Directors of Stewart House decided that an inspection/assessment of the Stewart House Out Of School Hours Program is to be undertaken every two years. The Board delegated the responsibility for the review of the quality and effectiveness of the residential programs to the *Stewart House Out of School Hours Program¹ Assessment Committee* (SHOOSHPAC).

The program operates from 3.00 pm to 9.00 am on weekdays and from 3.00 pm Friday to 9.00 am Monday every second weekend.

Components of the program include providing safe, comfortable accommodation, quality meals, laundry services, local transport, venue entry, sensitive supervision, opportunities to develop social and personal skills, a choice of high interest holiday-type activities for city and country children and adolescents.

In November and December 2009, Pat Morgan and I were involved in observing and reporting on the operation of the program. At its March 2010 meeting, members of the ARISSEA executive committee reviewed the Association's involvement in the 2009 SHOOSHP assessment and advised Graeme Philpotts, General Manager, Stewart House that the Association would like to have the opportunity to provide expert support for:

- The 2011 Stewart House Out of School Hours Program Assessment, and
- Any review of the assessment process, including the *indicators*, proposed by the Stewart House Board of Directors.

The time has come once again to consider the Stewart House Out of School Hours Program assessment. The assessment committee will meet for the first time at 10.00am on Friday November 11, 2011. Pat Morgan, George Green and I will be attending the meeting.

In a recent email confirming the meeting Graeme Philpotts wrote; "I know there are others in ARISSEA whose expertise would be invaluable" and extended the invitation to include other interested members.

If you are interested, available and prepared to volunteer your services please let me know and I will pass your name and contact information on to Graeme Philpotts.

If you would like more information please contact me.

Geoff Walton:

Phone 02 9639 6847 Mob 0418 241 406 Fax 9686 6760 Email:
geoff@sandglass.com.au

August Lunch



Brian Gillet and John Allsopp

Members say

Graham Sims

Bridging the Gaps

As motorists, or citizens trying to get around in our ever expanding city of Sydney, we whinge (a good old Aussie word) about our crowded roads. If they're "freeways", they're inadequate. If they're "tollways", they're too expensive. And, increasingly, it seems, all our new roads are tollways!

In all our sound and fury about our roads, we tend to forget about our bridges, or we simply take them for granted. Yet by topography and design, (or, rather, the lack of design), Sydney is a complex city to get around, and, however inadequate our roads may be, we would, as a city, be completely 'stuffed', (another good old Aussie term), if it were

not for the many bridges which enable us to cross over the many arms and branches of Sydney Harbour, and our associated waterways such as the Georges, Cooks, Port Hacking, Hawkesbury, Parramatta and Nepean rivers.

Just imagine trying to get around Sydney without the Gladesville Bridge, Anzac Bridge, Iron Cove Bridge, Ryde Bridge, Roseville Bridge, De Burgh's Bridge, Tom Ugly's Bridge, Captain Cook Bridge, The Spit Bridge, and the bridges across the Hawkesbury to the north, the Nepean to the west and the Port Hacking to the south. I'm ancient enough to remember a Sydney before some of these bridges existed in their present form.

The Gladesville Bridge of my youth was a modest, low-level, single-lane, opening bridge, which caused daily bottlenecks on Victoria Road, and which not infrequently jammed open or shut. (A Gladesville vehicular ferry was kept in operation, "just in case".)

As you drive over the soaring arch of the "new" Gladesville Bridge, glance to your left as you head towards Ryde and you'll look down on the sandstone pylons of the old bridge that I remember.

By the way, if you've ever wondered why Gladesville Bridge is so high, (especially when the old bridge was so low), it was deliberately so built to allow oil tankers from the then Gladesville refinery to pass beneath. The bridge having been built, the refinery closed, and the great height of the 'new bridge' has never been needed!

Similarly, the "new" Glebe Island Bridge, (which we now know as Anzac Bridge), across Blackwattle Bay, replaced the old low level, opening Glebe Island Bridge.

Both this and the old Pyrmont Bridge, which also opened, were daily traffic nightmares, as they both required frequent opening to allow ships into what was then a busy, working harbour.

My late father had a produce store at North Strathfield, and one of their major suppliers, Mackenness and Avery, had their distribution warehouse at the city end of Pyrmont Bridge, right where touristy Darling Harbour is today. I well remember my father's frustration when his truck would be delayed on the way in, by the bridge opening, and then delayed again on the way out.

And, guess what? The new Anzac Bridge, as with the Gladesville Bridge, was built so high to allow oil tankers to pass beneath. The nearby refinery at Greenwich closed ... and no oil tankers have ever passed beneath. Ironical, isn't it?

Ryde Bridge, which links Strathfield/Concord/Rhodes to Ryde and the north, was, throughout my youth, an opening bridge, although not always successfully so, as the opening mechanism sometimes jammed, leaving the huge concrete counterweights suspended ominously above us in our fragile cars, (or, in my case, my even more fragile motor-scooter!)

We were all relieved when the concrete monsters were eventually removed and the bridge now remains open.

By the way, the G.P.S. “Head of the River” Regatta was held from 1893 until 1935 between Ryde Bridge and Cabarita ferry wharf. It was then transferred to the Nepean river at Penrith and is now held at the Olympic Canoeing Centre at Castlereagh.

To the east of Ryde Bridge is the Putney-Mortlake punt, the last, anachronistic vehicular ferry still operating in inner Sydney. Its days are numbered, but it’s worth a trip, just for nostalgia. Other ferries, such as those at Berowra, Sackville and, perhaps best known, Wiseman’s Ferry still operate on the outskirts of Sydney.

The Georges River Bridge, (known to all dinky-di Sydneysiders as “Tom Ugly’s Bridge”, at “Tom Ugly’s Point”), proved so inadequate for Sydney’s southern traffic flow that a second bridge was built across the Georges River at Taren Point, and called Captain Cook Bridge.

Even this was inadequate, and a parallel bridge now spans the river alongside Tom Ugly’s Bridge, with northern traffic using one, and southern the other.

“Tom Ugly” himself, supposedly a less than strikingly handsome toll-master, would no doubt shake his head in amazement.

Speaking of tolls, which we tend to regard as one of the curses of modern motoring, it’s worth remembering that many of our roads, bridges and ferries in earlier times required the paying of a toll (and with no alternative route in many cases).

The original Pyrmont Bridge, for example, was known as “a crazy structure”, owned by a private company, which charged very high tolls for the privilege of being able to cross it to get into Sydney itself. There were such daily traffic jams of horse wagons, drays, coaches etc jostling for access to the nearby factories and wharves, that, in 1884, the government nationalised the bridge and abolished the toll, whereupon traffic congestion increased so much that the “new” swing-opening Pyrmont Bridge had to be built.

Those readers familiar with Penrith and the Lower Blue Mountains area will know the funny old black iron bridge across the Nepean River at Emu Plains. Until the early 1970’s, this was the only road bridge across the Nepean near Penrith, and formed part of the Great Western Highway. We now take the much larger “new” bridge and the M4 for granted.

By the way, the old bridge, with its solid steel sides, was constructed overseas as a railway bridge, imported and re-assembled as a road bridge.

So flood-prone was the Nepean before Warragamba Dam was built that, as a boy, I have seen the flood-waters lapping the sides of this old bridge, virtually isolating Emu Plains and the Blue Mountains from Penrith. The debris could be seen high in the trees along the river bank.

We now have at least two new bridges interlinking Sydney and its environs: The Alford's Creek Bridge and the magnificent new structure at Coledale, more like a suspended highway than a bridge, and designed to avoid damage by the frequent rock-falls which plague this coastal area.

These and our many other bridges, such as Roseville Bridge, the Spit Bridge, Figtree and Fullers bridges, de Burgh's Bridge, Tarban Creek Bridge etc, etc, we all take for granted, perhaps forgetting just how hopeless it would be to get around Sydney without them, and, of course, the many railway bridges, just as vital.

And yes, dear readers, I am well aware that I have not even mentioned Sydney's most famous bridge, the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge, "the Coat hanger". It is quite impossible to imagine Sydney functioning without it. Yet Sydney did so function, as a divided city, until only 75 years ago.

But that, my friends, is another story!

August Lunch



Bill Muir, Ritchie Stevenson and Warren Fairfax

**Anecdotes from the life of
Nicholas 'Nick' Corish
NSW Government School Teacher
Part 2 of 4**

On his arrival at Mt Murray, Nick found that conditions were not good. Thirteen years earlier, in 1885, (thirteen years after the school first opened) toilets were constructed for the first time – unfortunately the site was a very boggy one and most unsuitable for the new pit toilets provided.

But, at least the children (and the teacher and his wife for that matter) didn't have "to go" in the bush and no longer would the teacher have to send off repeated requests for a toilet!

In 1892 the local school inspector wrote to his superiors:

The so-called residence at this school consists of two small rooms about 10 x 8 feet and 8 x 8 feet. The teacher being a bachelor lives there but it would be impossible to send a married man to such a residence .

The file was marked "No Action" by the Chief Inspector.

In November 1894 the teacher wrote:

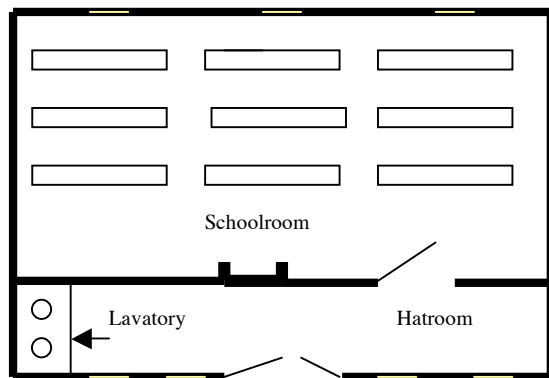
The slabs in the walls have now shrunk so that the wind, rain, and in winter, the snow can enter with unhindered force. The shingle roof has suffered from the attacks of whiteants and has become almost useless, and allows the rain to come through. The chimney is badly constructed and, as part of the bricks have fallen out, it adds greatly to the discomfort of the place,

The Department didn't build a new residence. They did however pay for the piece of calico requested by Nick's immediate predecessor and for it to be nailed up as a ceiling, to go with the "new" toilets.

Just before Nicholas arrived a new single classroom was built to replace the old one. The new one was 28 feet x 16 feet (ie 9.0m long and 4.8m wide). The Department of Education had adopted a standard floor plan for one-teacher schools in the late 1880's and it is probable that the new schoolhouse was based on this design (see plan below)ⁱ.

The teacher's residence remained a rough timber slab hut with a shingled roof which was not replaced until 1898 but it did get the new striped calico ceiling to keep out the draughts that the previous teacher complained came in through the cracks between the slabs and sheets of bark. The previous teacher was going to be dismissed for poor performance but was allowed to resign instead.

Mount Murray remained a provisional school until March 1900. It wouldn't have been very comfortable teaching more than 25, five to fourteen year old pupils in a room 28 feet long and 16 feet wide (a little larger than the size of a modern lounge room).



PLAN OF SCHOOL 1890
For 40 pupils

On 24 March 1898 Nick's father, Andrew, died at his home at 427 Wattle Street Ultimo and a curious thing happened. Andrew's eldest son, Jack, placed a funeral notice in the Sydney Morning Heraldⁱⁱ on the day of the funeral (Wednesday) and, in naming all the children of Andrew, used "Michael" for Nicholas.

This is the only time Nick's claim to a second given name is supported in writing – maybe it wasn't a tall tale after all.

In March 1900, with Nick still the teacher, Mount Murray once again became a "Public School". Nick had continued studying and as the result of exams held on 25 June 1900 he was provisionally awarded classification at Level IIIa (subject to passing in Music). He passed Music at the 1901 exam and his new classification was confirmed. The provisional classification earned him a pay rise to £88 a year (\$176).

Around 1897 the Pullen family moved from the country and was living at Botany Street, Hurstville, where Lilian sewed clothes for a living. Nick travelled back to Hurstville as often as he could to see Lilian, the school friend who had become his girlfriend.

Nick's increased salary must have ended any debate for, at the end of the summer school holidays in 1901 (on 24 January), 26 year-old Nick married 21 year-old Lilian Pullen at St George's Church of England, Hurstville, NSW.

Nick immediately took his young bride bush to Mount Murray for the start of the new school year. Lilian used to say that when school finished for the day the kids would melt into the bush and there would be no one around. She was very lonely and missed the city.

At that stage the school residence was in such poor condition that Nick (with his wife) became the first teacher to board locally. Nick soon wrote to the Department of Education seeking a transfer because of problems that arose in the house where they were boarding.

Both Nicholas and his landlord (the local publican) wrote to the Department seeking a transfer for the Corishes. Nick had been at Mount Murray for a little over three years (and Lilian had been there only four months) when he was transferred on 15 May 1901 to Merrilla Public School, about 14km west of Goulburn.

Merrilla

Nick and a pregnant Lilian arrived at Merrilla in May 1901. Their first child, a son Richard Cyril Corish, was born on 27 October – nine months and three days after their wedding. Based on pupil attendance Merrilla was at that time a “Public School”.

However five years later, in September 1906 the regular attendance had fallen to such an extent that it was made a half-time school with Mummel School. This lasted until March 1907. This meant that for those 24 school weeks Nick was required to teach at two schools.

Similar schools were quite common in the bush where one third of the schools were of this type and taught one sixteenth of all students while another third were one-teacher public schoolsⁱⁱⁱ.

Mummel was a very small village 12 miles north-west of Goulburn and Merrilla, only slightly larger, was eight miles from Breadalbane. Merrilla and Mummell schools were about 17 miles or 27.36 kilometers apart^{iv}.

Nick rode a horse to travel between the schools. Usually the teacher spent the mornings at one school and the afternoons at the other. Nick rode 54.72 km each school day for a total of 7,660 km in the seven months. This is equivalent to riding from Sydney to Perth and back to Adelaide in seven weeks.

The track would have been rough and the weather often windy, cold and inclement with occasional snowfalls. It was a very hard time for both Nick and his wife, especially as Nick insisted on sound lesson preparation which would have been done at night by candle light or by kerosene lantern.

While they were living at Merrilla, Nick and Lilian’s second and third children were born: Lilian Hazel Corish on 23 September 1903 and Nicholas Allan Corish on 20 September 1905. One of Nick’s older brothers, Richard, lived in Goulburn around this time and there is little doubt that the families would have visited each other occasionally.

In May 1907, Merrilla was reclassified as a Public School but Nick had already received notice of a move after six years.

Collector

On 11 March 1907 Nick was appointed to Collector Public School on the main road between Sydney and Melbourne, with a salary increase to £120 a year with an allowance of £12.

By now Nick and Lilian had been married for six years, had three children and had lived in three different villages. Although they didn't know it they would remain at Collector for the next eight years where a third son, Ronald Hugh Corish was born on 13 September 1907.

While living in the schoolteacher's residence at Collector a rare event occurred – the family received a visit from one of Nick's older brothers, Edward (Ned), who had become a “swaggie” or “sundowner” during the depression.

A sundowner was a person who wandered the roads and tried to time his arrival at a country farm at sundown when the work for the day had ended. Country hospitality guaranteed a meal in the expectation that the meal would be in exchange for some work around the farm the next day – but the sundowner was usually long-gone by sunrise next day.

Many men became sundowners during the depression. When Ned arrived at Collector a photograph (below) was taken immediately – without even cleaning up the children.



Brother Ned visits at Collector (about 1910)

[L. to R.] Lil, Nick with Alan, Ned (standing), Hazel, Lilian with Ron, Mavis not yet born

Nick and Lilian's final child, a daughter Mavis Margaret Corish was born on 6 April 1911 and was the only one of the five children not conceived in the early part of the Christmas school vacation.

When it came to childbirth, as there was no doctor at Collector, Lilian went to Sydney for access to medical services. She usually stayed with her mother-in-law as she did for Mavis' birth when she stayed at 540 Cleveland Street. Lilian's earlier skills as a dressmaker came in handy as she taught sewing to the girls in each of Nick's schools. This was an unpaid job expected of the teacher's wife in small schools.

“Stretching” the facts became a signature of Nick’s stories in later life but, without a doubt, his most brazen untruth centred on the famous bushranger, Ben Hall and his hold-up of the hotel in Collector (today called the *Bushranger Hotel*).

Mavis recalled that Nick never let the truth stand in the way of a good story as he repeatedly told his children how, on the day that Ben Hall and his gang rode into Collector, he (Nick) had hidden behind a tree and watched the hold-up take place and saw John Dunn murder the local constable Samuel Nelson. Actually the hold-up occurred in 1865, fourteen years before Nick arrived in Collector.

Nick was 38 and still living in Collector when his mother, Gwenillian, died in her home at 540 Cleveland Street, Sydney in 1913.

Ned wasn’t the only important visitor to the family. When the Department of Education Inspector came on his regular visits he would always be invited to dinner with the Corish household^v. Lilian would cook a huge feast and all the children had to be on their best behaviour so their father would get a good report.

Nick was trained in first aid and people used to come to him for medical help and advice. This was particularly true in the smaller towns they had lived in like Mount Murray, Merilla and Collector and it would continue in his future appointments at Springvale and Walbundrie. Anywhere that there was no doctor Nick would be the first to deal with all accidents and injuries in the village and surrounding district.

On one occasion a child at Collector became extremely ill and Nick diagnosed diphtheria and gave her the appropriate medicine that – according to the doctor from Goulburn when he arrived – undoubtedly saved her life.

The family’s time at Collector came to a rapid close in the early hours of 24 November 1915 when fire broke out in the schoolroom. The fire occurred at night while Nick was either at, or had been at the local hotel and Lilian was at home in the school residence with all the children.

Lilian told me that she rang the school bell in order to gain help (this came largely in the form of inebriated men from the hotel) but there are other versions of events that night. The schoolroom and the major portion off the residence were lost but the residence’s kitchen and the school’s weather shed were saved.

In later years Nick occasionally told how he rallied the firefighters but this is not how his older children remembered the event – nor does it agree with the police report. Nick himself wrote to the District Inspector the next day and carefully omitted who discovered the fire and Nick’s role in fighting it but he did note that while the school and everything in it was destroyed it had been possible to save all of the family’s furniture and clothes from the totally destroyed four-room residence attached to the school.

Later on the day of the fire Nick wrote to the District Inspector a letter which began rather bluntly *"I beg to state that the school and residence were destroyed by fire this morning"*.

The next day the local constable sent off his initial report to his supervisor for forwarding to the coroner. In it he stated that Mr Corish was asleep *"under the back verandah"* when he was awakened by the glare of the fire. The School Inspector's report to the Chief Inspector went on the 26th and by the 3rd December carried the unsympathetic comment:

"Mr Corish has I presume been doing nothing now for over a week."

In fact Nick had been transferred temporarily to Goulburn two days after the fire.

Nick's obvious concern for children, and the big role Lilian played in the country towns, is conveyed in this letter^{vi} sent to Lilian as they left Collector:

Collector

18-1-16

Dear Mrs Corish

The ladies of Collector wish me to write to you to express their sorrow at your early departure. We shall all miss you very much indeed. Your kindness to the children at school will always be remembered, also your valuable help at any social function. Our gift is just something you may have and keep as a remembrance of the Collector ladies as a token of their love. And we sincerely hope you may be long spared to use it. And we sincerely hope that in your new sphere of life you will be as well loved as you are in Collector.

None of us will ever forget Mr Corish as long as we live, for we owe some of our dear one's lives to him. And we wish you all God Speed and long useful lives. Our loss will be other's gain. With much love and deep regret.

I remain Yours Sincerely

On Behalf of the Collector ladies

June Roberts

It would be twelve months before tenders were called for the construction of a new school and residence at Collector.

Because of space limitations I have serialised Brent Corish's excellent article, rather than attempt to reduce it to a few pages. This is Part 2 of 4. Part 3 will continue in the February Newsletter.

Editor

August Lunch



Laurie Craddock, Brent Corish and George Green

August Lunch



David Bowman and Cate Vacchini

Members say

Joan Healy

I had a perfect excuse for missing the AGM in May. Tony and I were enjoying a 'Scenic Cruise' from Budapest to Amsterdam. Sixteen days of beautiful sunshine, if not always warm, being waited on hand and foot while enjoying wonderful scenery, fine wines and food, together with some excellent company.

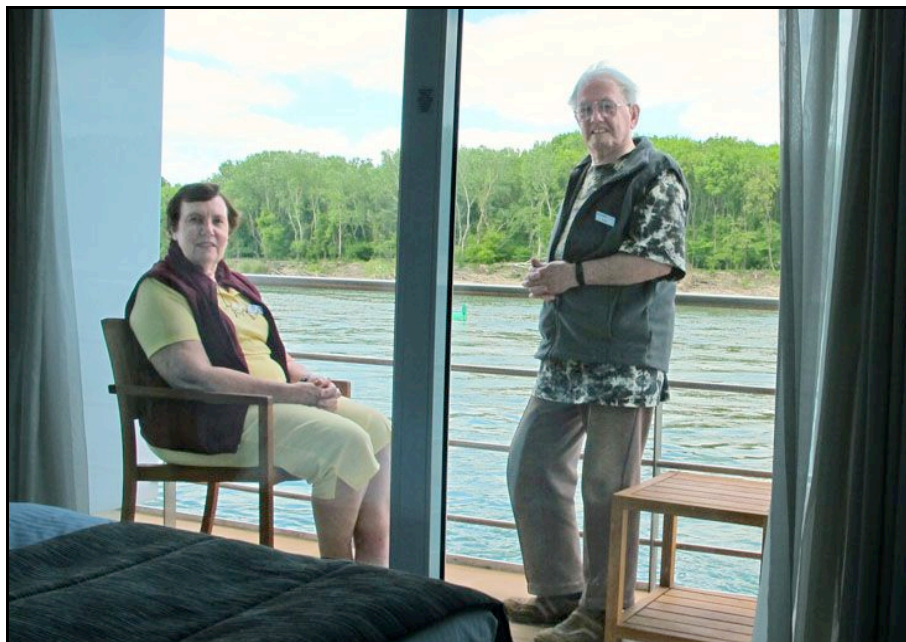
In previous trips overseas we had visited a number of the places before and even done a bit of cruising on the Rhine, but this trip was an opportunity to bring it all together. Some of the new places we visited were Bratislava, Cheský Crumlow, Durnstein, Nuremberg, Rudesheim and Bamberg.

These Mediaeval towns are great fun to explore and to photograph, with the benefit of excellent commentary from our guides. We were equipped with individual “communication” devices to so that we could stay in contact with our guide while walking through these towns.

Our evening entertainment ranged from glass blowing demonstrations, the construction of cuckoo clocks, beer tasting, Oom-pa-pa bands, and a zither player to name a few.

We went through 68 locks and passed under numerous bridges – some so low that it was necessary to actually lower the wheel house so we could pass under. While a number of us braved the early morning cold at 6.00am to watch us pass through the first lock, but by the time it came to the last twenty or so, it was a case of “ho hum, just another lock”.

A very surprising sight were the ‘beaches’ on the banks of the Rhine and even extensive sand bars in the main channel, because the water level is so low. This caused our Captain to reduce speed in a number of places but did not affect our enjoyment of the cruise. Some of the locals told us they had had no rain for two months and there had been a poor run off from the winter snows.



Joan and Tony Healy

One of the really enjoyable land excursions took us to Siegfried’s Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum in Rudesheim. Our guide activated a number of the instruments including one that actually played violins as well as a keyboard. That really put Grandma’s pianola in the shade.

Apart from the drag of so much flying time to get to Budapest, I would recommend this trip to anyone who wants to be thoroughly spoiled.

Members say

Alan Pratt

During a recent trip to visit friends in Grafton, I detoured to Seelands to search for the site of the first “small school” to which I had been appointed in 1967. My career-long respect and affection for the “small school” began with that appointment.

Situated on a sloping paddock overlooking dairy farms, the single timber classroom, with no electricity, running water or telephone stood out as the only visible building. Apart from learning to deal with snakes, one of my enduring memories of teaching in that school is that in order to use film strips as teaching materials, I would detach my car battery and hook it up to a 12v projector – windows shaded by large maps (both Mercator Projection and the Routes of the Australian Explorers !!!!) , the lesson would begin !

Nearly 50 years later, driving along roads now serving substantial homes on acres, and regaling Kerri with stories of the “good old days,” I was finally able to find the school site. I narrowed down the site to the house block which had a large tree I seemed to remember from 45 years ago – the clincher was the Departmental long-drop toilet frame still resting against the property’s back fence. Luckily a next- door- neighbour was home and he confirmed that the school had been on that block and that the school building had been removed some years ago.

When I was recently given my grandfather’s diaries as part of genealogical research, I was delighted to see that we had shared the experience of being a “teacher in charge.” Harry Maxwell Radford started his teaching career in 1893 in Victoria as Pupil Teacher, Class 4. By 1898 he had achieved the necessary Certificate of Competency and was appointed to a “small school” ten miles from Horsham.

Given the current interest in teacher salaries and rewarding excellence in teachers, I found his comments on his salary particularly interesting.

“The salary was 70 Pounds, plus a percentage of 35 Pounds based on the results of the school when the District Inspector examined it. Thus, if the school gained 80% the teacher would receive 80% of 35 pounds added to the fixed 70 pounds. So the salary rarely reached 2 pounds per week, paid monthly. I managed to lift my school results from 76% when I took charge to nearer 90% before I left.”

My maternal grandfather went on to become a respected Principal in several Victorian country towns – I am glad that we shared the privilege of being “teachers in charge” of small rural schools!

From a School Principal's speech at a graduation.

He said:

"Doctor wants his child to become a doctor.

Engineer wants his child to become an engineer.

Businessman wants his ward to become a CEO.

BUT a teacher also wants his child to become one of them!!

Nobody wants to become a teacher BY CHOICE." Very sad but that's the truth!!!

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life. One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?" To stress his point he said to another guest; *"You're a teacher, Bonnie. Be honest. What do you make?"*

Teacher Bonnie, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness replied, *"You want to know what I make? (She paused for a second, then began...)*

"Well, I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could.

I make a C+ feel like the Congressional Medal of Honor winner.

I make kids sit through 40 minutes of class time when their parents can't make them sit for 5 min. without an I Pod, Game Cube or movie rental.

You want to know what I make? (She paused again and looked at each and every person at the table)

I make kids wonder.

I make them question.

I make them apologize and mean it.

I make them have respect and take responsibility for their actions.

I teach them how to write and then I make them write. Keyboarding isn't everything.

I make them read, read, read.

I make them show all their work in math. They use their God given brain, not the man-made calculator.

I make my students from other countries learn everything they need to know about English while preserving their unique cultural identity.

I make my classroom a place where all my students feel safe.

Finally, I make them understand that if they use the gifts they were given, work hard, and follow their hearts, they can succeed in life."

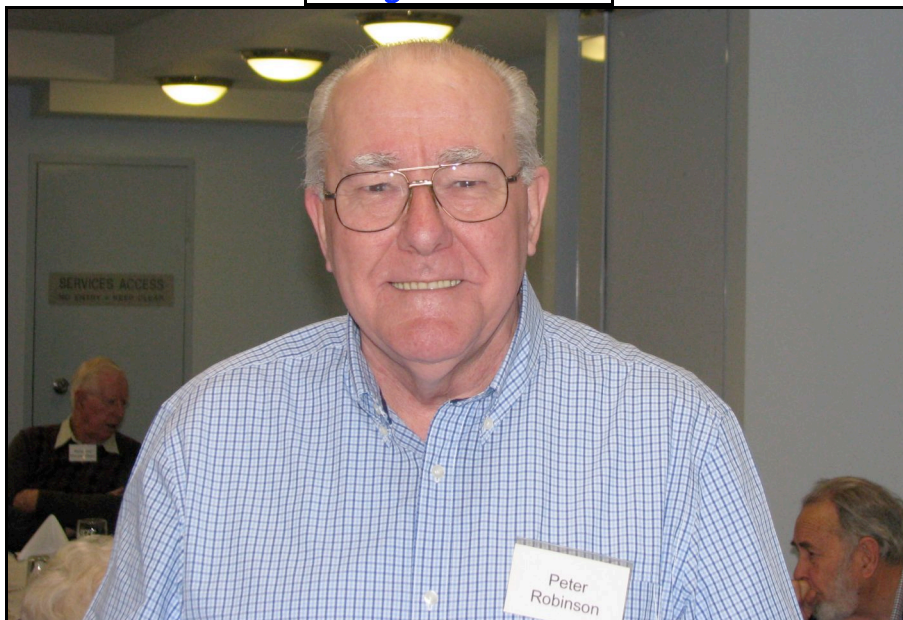
Bonnie paused one last time and then continued.

"Then, when people try to judge me by what I make, with me knowing money isn't everything, I can hold my head up high and pay no attention because they are ignorant. You want to know what I make?

"I MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ALL YOUR LIVES, EDUCATING KIDS AND PREPARING THEM TO BECOME CEOs AND DOCTORS AND ENGINEERS... What do you make Mr. CEO?"

His jaw dropped and he went silent.

August Lunch



At lunch, the camera was turned on the Editor, Peter Robinson

Address changes

(Changes shown in Bold)

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03/08/11 BASELEY J (Jack-Helen)
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26/10/11 FINDLAY LA Allen
75 St Andrews Village, 140 Cherry St Ballina 2478
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From the Editor

Members are reminded that material is needed for the next Newsletter.

Accompanying photos are most welcome, preferably as JPG email attachments.

Please do not embed photos or graphics within the text.

Copy deadline: 13th January 2012.

Peter Robinson,
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ARISSEA Committee Members - 2011-12

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