



November 2015

Newsletter

Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools and Senior Educational Administrators

If you wish to attend the next ARISSEA luncheon,
please print this first page,
complete the Booking slip,
include a cheque for your payment and
post to John Allsopp.

I hope that you find this Newsletter of interest.

Peter Robinson, Newsletter Editor.

Booking slip

4th December 2015 Meeting

Complete and return with your cheque by 12th November to:
John Allsopp, 23 Lyndon Way, BEECROFT, 2119 (phone 9980 2114)

Here is my payment of \$ _____ (at \$45.00 per head)

for _____ and me to attend the ARISSEA luncheon
at 11.30am for 12.30pm at '**99 on York**', 99 York Street, Sydney on Friday 4th 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 19th November.



November 2015

Newsletter

Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools and Senior Educational Administrators

From the President



Like immediate past presidents, Syd Smith and Ray Gillies, I have set some personal priorities that will guide my twelve month term as President:

- Refine the work on the Constitution
- Re-energise our organisation by attracting membership
- Enhance our commitment to Stewart House support
- Use the launch of the history of the Institute to generate awareness of and publicity about our organisation
- Review communication with our membership

Constitution

Your Executive Committee has now considered and endorsed the updated version of the new draft Constitution. This update reflects feedback from members and discussion at the AGM as well as a suggested name change for the Association. This final draft will be distributed for final consultation and members will be asked to endorse the draft at the December General meeting

Membership

We have an ageing membership. There are now potential members who never worked with the former

Inspectorate. Please consider inviting potential members (and their partners) to the Christmas luncheon on 4 December and urge them to join former colleagues in the Association. I am sure that many potential members do not know about our organisation or have not received that vital personal invitation to join our ranks. I ask each member to consider a personal approach to those who are eligible for membership. Details of the Christmas Luncheon appear elsewhere in this Newsletter with an RSVP to John Allsopp who has taken on this organisational task after 21 years of Jack Harrison's stewardship in this role.

Stewart House

ARISSEA has a long history of support for Stewart House. Donations from our members and fundraising and support by the Friends of Stewart House both need a boost. ARISSEA continues to provide 'in kind' support. Geoff Walton, Dr Kerrie Ikin and Chris Carroll will collaborate with Stewart House Board members, Tom Croker and Dr Ken Boston to conduct an assessment of the Stewart House Program against standards and respond to the Board's invitation to seek stakeholder views on the future operation of Stewart House. This exercise began on 19 October.

History of the Institute Launch

The publication "The Institute" was launched by Professor Andy Hargreaves and author Dr Reynold Macpherson on the evening of 23 October 2015. This event provided an opportunity for ARISSEA to showcase our involvement in the preparation of the history, generate publicity about our organisation and extend an invitation to eligible members to consider membership.

I acknowledge the contributions made by our liaison officer with ISEA, Alan Pratt, advisory panel members Geoff Walton, Kerrie Ikin and Alan Pratt, editorial committee Bill Grant, Chris Carroll and Grant Beard as well as the 23 members who contributed to the publication itself. Book orders can be placed at:

<http://www.iseansw.org.au/institute.htm>

Communication

In the past twelve months, a lot of work has been done on the ARISSEA membership data base by Allan Mills. Further, the work done by the Executive Committee in preparing various drafts of the new Constitution has highlighted a number of issues associated with communication across the organisation. We have begun to review how we communicate with and report to our membership.

I look forward to working with you over the 2015-2016 year.

Chris Carroll

From the Secretary

Since our July Newsletter we have welcomed John Smyth to his first Lunch Meeting. John told us that he had joined ARISSEA in January 1991. We also welcomed Barry Laing, a past President of the ISEA and were delighted to receive and approve his application to become a member of ARISSEA.

Executive Committee met on October 7 and after discussion came to the following decisions about:

Lunch Meetings: Over the last two years several of the Lunch functions have "run at a loss" and to ensure that this trend does not continue we would increase the cost of attending our Lunch Meetings from \$40.00 to \$45.00, starting with the December/Christmas 2015 function.

Draft Constitution: The committee recommends that members endorse the name Retired Senior Educational Administrators Association (RSEAA) in our Application for Registration as an Incorporated Association. We intend mailing a copy of the penultimate Draft Constitution to all members for comment in November and present the final draft for endorsement at the December Meeting.

Geoff Walton

August Lunch



Geoff Walton and Eula Guthrie

Members say

Jan Dale

Travels in France and Ireland

John and I recently returned from travelling in France and Ireland. Our Initial goal was to hire a boat and travel with friends for 10 nights on the Canal Du Midi in the south of France. The rest of the time in France was built around that experience.

As travelling to that part of the world is a long trip, we decided to add on something extra and chose Ireland, as it was a country we had never seen and we both had Irish ancestry.

Initially we spent three nights in Paris staying in the Montmartre/Sacre Couer area where we have previously stayed. We love the buzziness of this area and we did revisit some parts of Paris of special interest.

We then travelled by train to the medieval and charming village of Carcassonne where we spent two nights in a quaint B&B built into the wall of the castle. Each morning fresh croissants and French baguettes were delivered to bags outside our room.

These, with condiments, juice and coffee from our room were enjoyed in our own courtyard. Living inside the castle with its magnificent views as well as restaurants and specialty shops was quite exciting.

From Carcassonne we travelled to our departure point on the Canal Du Midi and boarded our boat. Although there were only three couples, we had booked a boat with four cabins with ensembles so that we could use the spare cabin to store luggage.

The boat was well equipped so we could make meals as well as eating in cafes and restaurants along the canal. Wine was in plentiful supply and at good prices. The barbeque on the boat proved to be very useful and the two bikes were ridden whenever possible.

The canal is very beautiful and mostly lined with large trees on both sides. Of all the villages and sites along the way probably the most interesting was the Enserune archaeological site and museum: a Romanised Gallic village. We hiked approximately 2 km from our boat to visit this amazing site.

We had to negotiate many locks along the canal. The most challenging of all was seven consecutive locks through which we travelled during the only two hours of bad weather during our time away.

The sky turned black, rain poured down, thunder roared and lightening struck and shortly after we had completed this challenge, the sun shone again.

We arrived early at Port Cassiferies so had time to wander down to the Mediterranean and enjoy a beach walk. A foot dipped into the sea and a delightful dinner before returning the boat.

We then travelled to Marseille and spent two interesting days and nights in this beautiful port city. We flew from Marseille to Dublin where we hired a car and spent eighteen nights travelling clockwise around the Emerald Isle. Mostly we travelled the 'wild Atlantic way' around the coastline, marvelling at the stunning cliffs and constant green vision, little fishing villages, beaches and castles.

We also covered some of the inland including Tipperary and the Rock of Castle. We enjoyed the friendliness of the Irish people, the pubs and the music as well as the amazing hanging baskets of flowers and beautiful potted plants in every village and city.

In Tralee, I was able to photograph the home of my maternal grandmother and in Belfast we photographed the house where John's mother lived until she was two years old. So it was a little bit nostalgic for both of us.

We had packed for cold and wet weather in Ireland and with the exception of a brief period of rain and wind at the Cliffs of Moher and a downpour as we travelled to Dublin airport for our flight home, every day was warm and sunny, just as it had been in France, so I guess we were blessed.

Friends of Stewart House

Thursday 19th November: Lunch at Cellini's, Level 2, Queen Victoria Building. This will be a pleasant get-together with friends. No set menu. (at own cost). Table booked for 12 o'clock. Contact Margaret Harmer 9744 2625 by Thursday, 12th November.

Tuesday 19th January 2016: Annual General Meeting. Masonic Club within the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169-171 Castlereagh St, Sydney.

Thank you to all members of Friends of Stewart House, relatives and friends of members who help the children who attend Stewart House by supporting our activities throughout the year, either through attendance or donation.

You make a difference
to the lives of many young people.

August Lunch



Bill Grant and John Smyth

August Lunch



Kerrie Ikin

THE CHINA OF YESTERDAY

Sometimes I have the opportunity to give lectures to visiting Chinese educators from the mainland or university students from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. It seems they still think we are doing wonderful things in Australian education and continue to enroll in short courses at Sydney University. They often return to China with a diploma or some sort of accreditation to add to a degree they are studying at their home university.

Often they will ask me if I have ever been to China and I can tell them yes I have been there three times: 2004, 2002 and 1977. The 1977 trip often mystifies them, some saying they weren't even born then, others keen to confirm the country is not like that any more. On some occasions they don't want even to know about it.

Knowing there have been great changes since 1977 goes without saying but I continue to marvel how many of China's great cities have changed so quickly over that time.

How a rising middle class with rampant consumption habits has replaced poverty in many cases and how ironic it is, that an alleged Communist state can adopt the veneer of capitalism.

China has always had its fair share of contradictions and nothing was different when I went there in January 1977, during one of the coldest winters on record that century.

I was fortunate to join a group of Geography teachers and academics that were one of the first to visit at that time.



You were never a tourist of course. You went there to be 'educated', to hear about the great achievements of the Chinese state, to learn how collective farming had increased food production and why backyard manufacturing was working so well.

Supervision was tight of course. You never went anywhere without one of the guides and in any city we visited we heard the same speech from the senior party official.

Obviously this was a slightly unstable period in Chinese history. Mao had died two months earlier and a great mausoleum was under construction for him in Tiananmen Square.

In this transitional period a new president, Hua Guofeng had taken over. Every classroom had giant photos of Engels, Marx, Mao and Hua hanging on the back wall and black and white television was obsessed with anti Gang of Four propaganda.

The instability was particularly notable in Wuhan, a big, dirty industrial city on the Yangtze, when we were quickly awakened from our hotel at 5am to catch a train to the north. On our way to the railway station we saw burnt out buses and vandalised shops, all indicators of riots from the previous evening.

You never felt threatened however. In fact the organisers went out of their way to show us the full force of Chinese hospitality.

At one hotel I accidentally left a pair of underpants in my room, yet when we arrived at our next destination there they were all wrapped up, laundered and dried with my name clearly written on the wrapping. (You can assume I did not really worry if they had never been returned.)

There were quite a number of incidents that I will never forget. There was the freezing walk on the Great Wall as a minus 15 degree wind blew in from Mongolia, leaving the lower half of my body completely numb.

When I finally boarded the air-conditioned bus again the blood began to flow back into my frozen legs, slowly seeping into my dormant muscles and causing me unbearable pain. Two others in the party had frostbite and another suffered exposure.

It was also interesting at that time that a very strong earthquake had affected the area north of Beijing. Some of you will recall Gough Whitlam and his wife, Margaret were there at that time but many people were still frightened to return to their homes because of after shocks and tremors in the area.

Subsequently they dug trenches in the street and slept out in the open in spite of the freezing temperatures. Chinese people are tough and resilient, however and through voluntary efforts eventually rebuilt those parts of cities that had suffered damage.

The reliance on mass labour was also inspiring. During the winter while the river flow was particularly low, literally hundreds of workers with wheel barrows removed sand from the former river bed and transported it to trucks to unload for future building projects.

I recall visiting a commune where a farmer invited us into his home and proudly showed his prime possession: a small portable radio in pride of place on his mantelpiece. I met shy children who had never seen a western person before. Suddenly they would run up to you, touch you and run away.

Perhaps they wondered if we were human after all. Once I shook hands with a braver member of the pack and noted how rough his skin felt. I surmised he worked at some sort of physical job. It was obvious that at that time there was "No great leap forward" but it was certain to happen soon.

It was also interesting how the cold affected everyone at the time. Many people had respiratory problems and had no inhibition in spitting everywhere, even on the floor in the passageways of trains. A guard would mop it up at hourly intervals but it wasn't until you returned to the Hong Kong border that large signs indicated that spitting was illegal and would lead to huge fines.

Classrooms were barely heated, only with a small brazier in the front of the room and the windows wide open. In one place we visited we were shown a model of a dam that demonstrated how the spillway operated. It was so cold even inside the room that when the demonstrator opened the model spillway a huge lump of ice came tumbling over.

Teaching seemed to depend largely on rote learning then. In a class of over 55 students the teacher had a wall map of the Yangtze River and as she pointed to settlements along its watercourse the students recited the towns and their associated products. All the children owned a textbook of sterile appearance, with not even a single illustration in it.



At regular times during the day students would be taken out into the grounds and made to do exercises, another way to keep warm in the frigid conditions. There was also a crèche in a tractor factory in Loyang which cared for the worker's children during the day. Children were taught their colours by pairing identical coloured wires with each other, hence participating in the wiring of the tractor.

One three year old gave an emotional rendition of the national anthem while an older dance group performed a dedication to the late Chou-En-Lai. What was so remarkable about this was they had tears in their eyes signifying how emotional they were about his passing.

Security was also a priority for the Chinese in the late 70's. At one cotton mill we visited there was an underground bunker built to cater for air raids by the Russians (that never eventuated, of course). As we were led down a steep underground pathway illuminated by uncovered globes at head height on the ceiling, I kept feeling a tap on my shoulder and then a soft bang.



It was only after 15 minutes of this that I realized that my tall physique had connected with the globes and disconnected them from their fittings. Hence the bang as it smashed onto the floor behind me.

Like most people who visited China at that time, such stories from the 70s are of an age gone by and probably are of no consequence to the young Chinese middle class of today. How such changes could occur in 40 short years is beyond belief when we appreciate the China of today.

In 2004 when I was in Chengdu, I visited a teachers college. Upstairs I was invited to talk to a group of young trainee teachers.

When I offered to answer questions a confident young woman asked me how I had managed to become a curriculum adviser in the NSW Department of Education. When I asked her why she was asking this when she had yet to even graduate as a teacher she immediately replied that she wished to be an education administrator quickly and not remain in the classroom for too long.

This I thought explains the China of today - everyone in a big hurry to get rich and have a much easier life than that of their grandparents in 1977.

Members say

Audrey Mathers

Dear Peter,

Congratulations on your editions of the newsletter that I read with great interest up here in Noosaville. I have now been here for 4 years and enjoy the climate and being close to my daughter, but I do miss my Sydney friends and the luncheon meetings of ARISSEA.

As a past president (1997) I felt I should respond to your appeal, as I have not contributed in the last 2-3 years. I am now 87 years old and have been thinking of the past. Perhaps members may be interested in the following reminiscence that go back to the 1940's.

Regards and best wishes

I WAS AN ORIGINAL QUIZ KID

The “Quiz Kids” was an half hour programme on 2GB and the Australia-wide Macquarie Radio Network commencing in April 1942 and had been modelled on an American programme. A panel of five children were asked general knowledge questions by a quizmaster, a score being kept each programme.

When I joined the programme towards the end of 1942, I completed the permanent team that is now referred to as “the original Quiz Kids”. This team remained together for the next two and a half years until I, the oldest of the team, was sixteen and a half years old and about to start university. Too old to be a Kid!

How was I selected to become a Quiz Kid, did I apply? No, we were all approached by the producers, who had a good relationship with the Department of Education in those early years. In my own case, the producers approached the teacher of the Opportunity Class for bright children at Woollahra Primary School, asking her for the names of previous pupils who would now be in Third Year at High School, who she considered might be suitable.

My teacher gave them four names, all of girls still classmates at Sydney Girls High. We were all asked in for testing and were judged on our ability to answer a range of questions, on the quality of our voices for radio and on personality. I was the lucky one chosen.

The programmes were recorded each week in the Macquarie Radio Theatre in Phillip Street before an audience of two to three hundred people. We five Quiz Kids, dressed in black academic gowns and mortar-boards, sat behind a semi-circular table with our names prominent on the front as in the photograph. There were two girls, Dorothy Reeve and myself (Audrey Baker) and three boys: James Hagan, Alan Mitchell and Bernard Lake.

We became good friends over the two and a half years. The quizmaster was John Dease, a radio announcer with a school masterish voice and manner (in fact he had been a schoolteacher earlier in his life). The questions were sent in by listeners and covered just about everything: history, geography, current world figures, origins of words and phrases, literature, science, music, sport, games, abbreviations and so on.

I remember one abbreviation that had us stumped. 'T.S.R.' The question was something like: “If you were driving around the countryside you would be quite likely to see a road sign with letters T S R. What would this indicate?” For five city children not able to get around the countryside in the war years, this was difficult and we did not know.

Of course all grown ups knew it meant Travelling Stock Route. I remember Dad was quite annoyed with me for not knowing such a simple thing.

I used to dread the trip home in the car after recording a programme. Dad never praised me for the questions I was able to answer, only criticised me for anything I did not know -- always in his opinion these were the simplest things.

We got through 20 to 25 questions each half hour programme. John Dease addressed each question to a specific Kid in turn. If the Kid to whom it was addressed could not answer, the hands of those who knew used to fly up and John tried to pass the question to the first hand up.

You can imagine the competition to answer and the excitement generated. The score was kept and announced several times during the programme e.g. Quiz Kids 10 Listeners 1. Normally we were successful with most of the questions and we were told that our overall success rate one year was 88%.

Listeners whose questions were selected received five shillings in war savings stamps and this increased to a one pound war savings certificate if we were unable to answer it.

People have often asked me whether we were told the answers beforehand. We were never given any hints whatsoever about the questions and answers. We were all avid readers both of non-fiction and fiction.

We all obviously had retentive memories and were high achievers academically, all attending selective high schools. The boys were all at Sydney Boys High, Dorothy was at North Sydney Girls High and I was at Sydney Girls High.

Incidentally we were all good enough at sport, all of us eventually representing our schools in a sport, Alan at cricket, James rowing, Bernard swimming, Dorothy at tennis and myself at basketball. Most of us were elected school prefects in our final year also. So we were normal children as well as being bookworms.

The Quiz Kids was an immensely popular programme, maintaining No.2 position in the ratings for all programmes in Australia in 1943-44. I later learnt there was an immense amount of fan mail too which the producers wisely decided not to let us see, except in a few instances. I still treasure the copy of a poem which Mary Gilmore sent with a handwritten message of praise, also another from Jack Moses, author of the song 'Nine Miles from Gundagai'.

In 1942 when I became a member of the team, remuneration for the Kids was little more than pocket money. We were given ten shillings and sixpence each programme and every four weeks a War Savings Certificate for ten pounds. When I had been on the programme for three months they also presented me with a 10 volume set of encyclopaedias called the New Book of Knowledge.

In the school holidays at the beginning of 1943, the producers organised three three-day educational trips for us: to Newcastle, where we had the whole steelworks operation demonstrated and explained to us by senior staff, and, what I found quite thrilling, an underground inspection in a coal mine with a rousing welcome from the miners.

In Wollongong we were entertained by Mr Hoskins himself (chief executive) and again were taken through the whole steelworks industrial process. Our third trip was to Canberra where we attended the opening session of parliament and were entertained to afternoon tea in the cabinet room by the Prime Minister John Curtin. He was a charming man, easy to talk to and quite willing to answer our questions and show us his office.

One interesting point was the way the catering staff circumvented the wartime ban on pink icing instituted by Mr. Dedman. The cakes at first glance looked as if they had pink icing but a close look revealed that they had white icing which was sprinkled with red jelly crystals.

We stayed at the Hotel Canberra where we observed a lot of politicians while we had meals in the dining room. Mr. Menzies came across and asked to be introduced to us. This did not overly impress us for at that stage in the war Pig-Iron Bob was not a popular political figure.

During 1943, pressure from our parents forced the producers to raise our wages to a level commensurate with the programme's popularity and we were never again taken on any trips. However the five of us were good friends and did have social activities at times. I used to go to the pictures with Bernard Lake with free tickets supplied by his father who was head of M.G.M. Sydney and Jim Hagan took me golfing.



The Quiz Kids programme compered by John Dease kept going after we in the original team became too old and had to depart. If my memory serves me correctly, the programme lasted about 15 years, but did not survive long after the advent of television.

My reputation as a Quiz Kid seems to have preceded me wherever I have gone in my adult life. It has generated a warmth of feeling, for people seemed to have a genuine regard for the children they listened to on the programme.

It may have served me well in some ways too. If I did not fit the conventional role of a minister's wife in every respect, somehow it became understandable and even acceptable because I had been a Quiz Kid. Perhaps a tacit recognition that I had abilities to do different things as well as being the minister's wife.

Jim was confronted with my reputation too. When visiting a parishioner on a farm in Condobolin, he was startled to find my picture staring at him from the kitchen wall that had been papered with cuttings from magazines.

Later when our son did brilliantly at school, he didn't receive much credit for it. The comment locally was: "What can you expect? His mother was a Quiz Kid."

Editor Peter asked what was the 'pink icing' business about.

During the war, the government introduced rationing and other austerity measures. Mr. Dedman was the minister in charge of that area of government, and one of the austerity measures was the ban on pink icing on cakes. Everyone thought it was ridiculous. All it would be saving was the cochineal used to make white icing pink. I have always wondered what on earth the cochineal saved could contribute to the war effort.

Regards, Audrey

August Lunch



Tony Re

Members say

Tony Re

While I do not agree with the views of either Will Robertson or Ron Prowse, it was refreshing to read them in our Newsletter. Editor Peter is to be thanked for including them. Both enabled me to reflect upon aspects of my career and more recent changes in education.

Will's article shone a light on an era in public education in which many of us were schooled. As a young student from a Catholic background attending Bellevue Hill PS, I felt at times that I was alienated from the mainstream, especially at school assemblies. I now wonder how my many Jewish school friends viewed the Christian ceremonies throughout the year, especially the Christmas festivities. The singing of the 23rd Psalm, though, might have been a uniting force but I doubt that it resolved all the cultural confusions among the students.

Like colleagues in the "Institute", I was able to use these experiences from primary school in teaching and administration. They enabled me to gain greater insights into the beliefs and practices of others and the need to accept students and their parents for who they are rather than from where they have come. They might even have unwittingly been a motivator to work in settings where there were many cultures. I do not know whether this really is so but Will's article gave me something to ponder upon.

But this is the past and we need to look to the future as we are doing with our change of name. As President Chris has outlined, we can only move forward if we can attract more recently retired senior administrators. Those who have served in the twenty-first century can give all members an opportunity to understand better the

public educational world of today and an opportunity for individuals to compare and contrast. I suspect that those of us fortunate enough to hear Jane Simmons' talk at a luncheon last year did just this.

Something that has changed from Will's world, and no disrespect is meant to Will, is the acknowledgement in public schools in 2015 of the very varied religious practices and ceremonies of students from differing cultural backgrounds. As well as "Merry Christmas", during the year students might hear "Eid Mubarak", "Hanukkah Sameach", or "Happy Vesākha" and we can be certain that they will readily accept the goodies on offer from another culture. And we can be sure that, regardless of our religious beliefs or lack of such, we will enjoy eating, drinking and sharing goodwill with family and friends over the coming festive season.

August Lunch



Cate Vacchini

Members say

Tony Negline

SURPRISES from a genealogical search and
related matters

Surprise One: A First Fleeter in the family.

My GGGG Grandfather, Joseph Wright, was transported to Botany Bay arriving on the *Scarborough* in 1788. It was the first and last transportation to such a place. All others were to Port Jackson, Sydney.

Surprise Two: Wright's conviction and sentence.

Joseph Wright, as a 17 year old lad, was charged with stealing 218 pounds weight of lead from the roof top of a house in Chelsea. He represented himself at The Old Bailey in 1784, pleading not guilty. He was convicted and sentenced to seven years transportation to Africa but that was changed later to Botany Bay. Wright was detained for three years as a prisoner on the hulk *Censor*, moored on the Thames River, before his sentence

commenced.

Surprise Three: The nature of policing at the time of Wright's conviction.

Mundle in, *The First Fleet*, mentions that:

"Law breaking constituted the most trifling of misdemeanors. Law enforcement was a far from exact science. There was no police force per se in England until 1829. In the 1770s, policing was a hotchpotch of uncoordinated activities devoid of any real investigative capabilities. Those charged with enforcing the law were generally volunteer parish constables appointed by the village, or justices of the peace in the larger towns. Through a lack of efficiency and no real need for accurate evidence inside the courtroom, it was not unusual for someone to be found guilty on the word of someone who simply stood before the court and alleged that the accused had committed a crime."

In this state of affairs many were accused falsely, sentenced unfairly, imprisoned wrongly or executed innocently. This was how the law sent so many guilty and innocent people for awful punishment, often for petty wrongdoings.

Surprise Four: Life on the hulk.

The conditions during Wright's time on the *Censor* were appalling. Hygiene was poor and disease spread quickly; typhus was rampant and dysentery widespread; there was little medical attention; most men were doubled ironed, suffering among other things the horrible effects of the continuous rattling of chains; filthy and cramped conditions prevailed; there were frequent floggings; food was often inadequate and kept to a minimum; water for drinking was poorly filtered; and working parties were taken ashore during the day for hard labour, dredging the river or draining the land on its banks, and then returned on board at night. (No wonder some preferred the gallows.)

Surprise Five: Marriage at Port Jackson.

Wright's unimaginable hardships were surprisingly lessened at Port Jackson through Governor Phillip's humanity as well as his policy on convict marriages. Phillip believed that marriage produced a sense of care and responsibility in the convicts. With permission from the governor, Joseph was married to Eleanor Gott in Sydney in 1790 by the Reverend Richard Johnson, the first Christian cleric in Australia, Chaplain of the penal colony and who, in Captain Watkin Tench's opinion was, 'the best farmer in the country'.

Gott arrived with the Second Fleet on the Hell Ship *Neptune* where prisoners had been treated with brutality, kept in chains and starved. She had been sentenced to three years transportation in 1789 for stealing a gown and a cloak from her employer. This rare three year sentence may have taken into account that she was a skilled worker and had pleaded guilty to the charge.

Together, Joseph and Eleanor embraced the sense of family responsibility that Phillip expected. They sought to make life easier for their children than it had been for them. Eleanor, who could write her name and had been taught to be a shoemaker by her father who was a shoemaker, made certain that her children learned trades. They were good family people who now, surprisingly, have over 13,000 descendants.

Surprise Six: Emancipation and questions arising.

I was further surprised to find that in 1794 Joseph Wright was one of a group of 22 pioneer emancipists granted 30 acres each at Mulgrave Place on the Hawkesbury. According to Barkley-Jack in, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, the Wrights, and the other settlers, through hard work and resilience, genuinely sought to cultivate their land, raise a modest amount of stock, were law abiding; reached a measure of being self-supporting; and made a reasonable life for their children albeit tainted by the convict 'shame'.

Several questions arose in relation to this circumstance. Why Mulgrave Place? Why 30 acres? What was known about that area of the Hawkesbury in 1794? How did the Wrights travel there from Sydney? What was their family situation? Did they survive Mulgrave Place?

Surprise Seven: Seven Revelations and other possibilities.

By 1791, let alone when Joseph Wright was pardoned three years later, much of the region west of Sydney to the Nepean and Hawkesbury Rivers had been explored.

Watkin Tench in, *A Complete Account of the Settlement at Port Jackson*, reproduced in the book 1788, gives an account of an expedition, (Karskens calls it, 'The Great Trek'), undertaken in April 1791 led by Governor Phillip, including Tench and 19 others, "to ascertain whether or not the Hawkesbury and the Nepean were the same river." The account describes the struggles the expedition had with the terrain between Sydney and the Hawkesbury where Mulgrave Place was later founded and describes the difficulties of travelling by foot in that area.

The Surveyor-General of Lands for the Penal Colony, Augustus Alt, had the task of identifying and laying out land for Settlements at Sydney Cove, Rose Hill, Prospect, Parramatta and other locations including Mulgrave Place. This work was focussed on establishing systematic agricultural communities to supply food for Sydney and as areas for the decentralisation of the Sydney settlement.

As one of those designated communities, Alt laid out Mulgrave Place (later named Pitt Town by Lachlan Macquarie) in an official plan entitled, "*A Plan of the first farms on the Hawkesbury River for 22 settlers to take up farms along the Hawkesbury*". The surprise remains that this Settlement was, "specifically for convicts pardoned on the condition that they not return to England, and that they would go there to supply food for themselves and send surplus crops to Sydney." Joseph Wright's family was one of the 22.

The condition about the convicts being sent to Botany Bay with the intention of not returning to England was implicit in instructions to Arthur Phillip in 1787. The plan was that they remain in the colony to form agricultural communities like that proposed for Mulgrave Place. If after serving their sentence they wanted to return to England, then permission to do so had to be sought. Permission was generally not given. Therefore the upshot of this was that they either assisted with the establishment of the Settlement as emancipists or remain as convicts. So in effect, the length of their original sentence was not relevant. The intention at the time was to remove them from England forever.

- A further surprise was that the land allocated to each family was 30 acres. Why 30 areas?

Acting Governor Grose would have been aware of the 1787 instructions to Arthur Phillip that, "to every male (ex-convict deserving favour) shall be granted 30 acres of land, and in the case he shall be married, 20 acres more." This instruction was not completely carried out in respect to the land grants at Mulgrave Place. The Wrights received only 30 acres, not 30 acres for Joseph and another 20 acres because he was married.

- The land at Mulgrave Place was a rich and fertile, albeit a flood plain. The farmers quickly produced crops that became a major contributor to stabilizing the colony. This outcome was at odds with Grose's attitude toward land allocations to emancipists. It was his view that, 'ex-convicts couldn't be relied upon to farm as well as the officers and free settlers'. Because of this attitude Grose seemed intent on holding back on land approvals and support for ex-convicts, hence the allocation of 30 acres, not 50 acres or more to the Wrights or to the others. Yet Barkley-Jack later found little evidence that the Mulgrave Place ex-convicts were like that. Within a year of setting up their camp, the Wrights for instance, had twelve and a half acres cultivated with corn and wheat and were raising several hogs.
- It is conjecture, but as the central concerns of the colony's Administration would have been for the survival

of the Settlement itself; the need for food; the need to create and develop communities; and for a list of administrative achievements as evidence for the administrators' claims for diligence and preferment this may have caused them to be given some assistance with travel by boat to establish the Mulgrave Place settlement rather than risk the effects of the difficulties of the overland terrain.

Surprise Eight: The first born.

Robert Wright, Joseph and Eleanor's second son, the unborn child that Eleanor carried with her to Mulgrave Place, my GGGG Uncle, was as Barkley-Jack notes:

“ the first European child likely to have come into the world beside the Hawkesbury River when he arrived on 15th June 1794 and baptised at Parramatta on 6th July. He was born and lived free.

Surprise Nine: The wonder of genealogy

The word genealogy is from the Greek meaning 'knowledge of generations'. It is an appropriate meaning because these days it relates to the pursuit usually undertaken to position oneself within a larger historical family picture.

This particular search certainly placed me within a larger family picture with the identification of Joseph Wright and Eleanor Gott and their part at the beginning of the pathway to modern Australia.

August Lunch



Terry Burke and Alan Laughlin

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

In a time and place not long ago, a large shopping centre had decided to reintroduce 'the Christmas spirit' back into its environment, having previously succumbed to the forces of 'political correctness' by removing all references to Christmas.

In a special 'flyer' to all its shopkeepers and stores, the Centre Management acknowledged that the Christmas spirit had been missing, and encouraged each and every shop to reinvigorate its appeal to customers, by having overt and attractive Christmas messages and exhibitions on display. The reintroduction of 'Father Christmas' was mentioned as a specific example.

This suggestion was taken up with a will, and, before long, virtually every shop, big and small, had a Father Christmas Ho! Ho! Ho-ing outside its doors. Some were fat and jolly, experienced in their field. Others were a bit tatty around the edges, while still others were, to be blunt about it, somewhat grumpy old men, on and about whom wafted a spirit not necessarily of a yuletide nature.

Things got rather hectic. Children complained that there were so many Father Christmases, that they must be fakes. Parents complained that it was a gigantic 'con job', put on by the Centre Management to deprive them of their hard-earned cash.

Many customers complained that they could barely move around the centre, without bumping into, or being accosted by, a miscellany of old men in red suits, with unconvincing cotton-wool beards. No-one, it seemed, was happy.

At a special, emergency meeting, the Centre Management decided that, despite their best intentions, things had gone too far. Nonetheless, if they abandoned the Christmas initiative altogether, they would be accused of returning to the very political correctness from which they had tried to move beyond.

Their legal department explained that the essence of their dilemma was the uncontrolled proliferation of Father Christmases. There were, simply put, too many, and there was no quality control over their selection, deportment, costumes or suitability. All of this, said the legal team, could be put right, so with the Centre's approval, they went about doing so.

A special-purpose body was established, called the Christmas Representative Approvals Personnel, (C.R.A.P.) and it worked extremely diligently to draw up a statement to reflect the tight parameters within which ALL Father Christmases would be expected to operate.

It became known, ever thereafter, as 'The Santa Clause'.

Members say

Geoff Walton

The Sydney Morning Herald of the 29 July carried a Death Notice for Hilary Margaret Jackson aged 101.

At the time of her death, Hilary Jackson was the most senior member of ARISSEA.

Hilary entered duty as a teacher on 30 June 1933. She was appointed as Inspector of Schools (Infants) Metropolitan North on 12 January 1959. In 1965 she transferred to Metropolitan Central and later in 1971 Metropolitan West. The position of Inspector of Schools (Infants) was phased out during the early 1970s and Hilary was appointed District Inspector of Schools, Pendle Hill in 1976.

David Maher remembered Hillary as a “most gracious and dignified lady” who enthusiastically promoted and supported the work of teachers responsible for the education of K-2 students in schools. David also acknowledged that Hillary had willingly shared her expertise and with Inspectorate colleagues in their work with schools and teachers.

Hillary Jackson was elected President of the NSW Institute of Inspectors of Schools in 1969.

Members say

Geoff Walton

David Maher forwarded an email to me that he received from Jorie Ryan. The email was to let David know that her former husband, John Manefield, died in Alice Springs Hospital on July 15 after suffering a severe stroke while on holidays near Tennant Creek.

I first met John during a visit I made to Crookwell HS in the mid 1980s. I then had an opportunity to work more closely with him after he was seconded to the Directorate of Studies during Term 3 1984.

John was appointed DI Inverell in January 1985 and later appointed to positions in Metropolitan North Region.

During the Schools Renewal restructuring, John held appointments as a Cluster Director and then a Director, Quality Assurance.

In 1996 he took on an executive role in the ISEA.

After retiring, John continued his work to improve the provision of educational programs across Australia, as a principal of Atelier Learning Solutions.

John was living in Adelaide with his second wife, Alison.

David Maher writes that he remembers John “as a fresh-faced young man with rosy-red cheeks”.

We extend our sympathies to the members of his family.

Address changes
(Changes shown in Bold)

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02 9557 8227

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02 8801 1538

HAZELL Morna Mrs
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PARKES 2870
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O'Neill Denis
aceydenis1938@gamil.com

Middleton Ian
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Deaths

11/09/2015 BREWER William (Bill)
CHARLESTOWN 2290

28/07/2015 JACKSON Hilary
Regis Ku-ring-gai Gardens
HORNSBY 2077

15/07/15 MANEFIELD John Dr
KENSINGTON GARDENS 5068

07/10/2015 MASON William (Bill)
WOOLWICH 2110

Have you contributed in the last 2-3 years?
If not, your ARISSEA friends may like to know

what you've been doing,
what you are thinking or
what you remember.

Members are reminded that material is needed
for the February 2016 Newsletter
Accompanying photos are most welcome,
preferably as JPG email attachments.

Copy deadline: 15th January 2016

Peter Robinson,
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August Lunch



Brian Davies

Our December meeting is usually the most popular luncheon meeting of the year.

No
business
to speak of.
Just an opportunity
to talk, listen, remember and
share memories, anecdotes, stories
& laughs

The
weather is
usually not cold,
windy or wet. Forget about
the George St chaos for the light rail
work.

Just
plan for a
leisurely train ride
into Town Hall station, then
a pleasant walk through the QVB
building, then across York St and up in
the lift to the '99 on York'. Inexpensive drinks. Good food
Merry Xmas
Hope to see
you there