



OUTBACK ENQUIRER

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Sept 2005

THE MAIDEN SPEECH THAT FLOORED THEM

Who instructed "suits" tucking into lunch at an elegant Sydney restaurant.

"Parliament House is a great place but it reminds me a lot of boarding school. It's elaborate, there are some wonderful people, but it's not a natural place. It's 26km of corridors and on top of a hill, buried in a hole." Well he's a bloke passionate about our state and we'll be hearing lots more from him!

Barnaby Joyce has been described as "an old fashioned agrarian socialist from the Deep North" by a reporter from the "Deep South".

We just reckon he's a good bloke! A local reporter travelled to Canberra for the Senator's maiden speech. Excerpts printed below.

Strong Family Values

"We must construct a strong and self sufficient nation on a platform of a society where children live quiet and unaffected prior to the turmoil of adulthood."

Nation's Wealth Must Relate To Its People

"The purpose of the economy is not to produce the lowest price product to the end consumer, that may be a consequence of a good economy but it is not the purpose. The purpose of the economy is to create the greater nexus between the wealth of the nation and its people and this is generally done through small business."

Today we have accepted a situation in Australia that would be unacceptable elsewhere in the world that we allow two retailers to control between 75% to 85% of our retail market.

In the USA you need to count the top 12 retailers before you arrive at the market share that our top two have. In the UK it is the top 8.

In Australia this disenfranchises the right of our citizens to attain the greatest level of their personal freedom by attaining the highest level of control over their destiny which comes by being master of your own business.

The freedom I will pursue is the choice to enter and chart your own commercial life and in doing so give a greater breadth to the economy in which we are all benefactors. New and expanded products, new managerial techniques, new holders of wealth investing in new areas of the nation is a vision that is peculiar to any economy or part thereof that stays in front of the vast wave of economic prosperity."

Utilise Resources of the Inland

"If we do not decisively move now to give a greater reason to live elsewhere, and preferably inland, then what are we to expect except an exacerbation of the current water, transport, social and environmental problems that are becoming more and more evident in these mega cities in the most sparsely populated nation on earth."



Out of the Comfort Zone

"The only thing that is stopping us is the fear of trying. It seems peculiar to a nation that prides itself on its stoic heroism of Gallipoli or the Kokoda Track that we are fearful of setting a concrete new agenda of development of new areas."

continued p2



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Party For All

“We are now the party of many including builders, plumbers, newspaper agents, hair dressers, pharmacists, fishermen, accountants, real estate agents, graziers, regional towns people and those who believe in the socially conservative society is a protection against pains of social experimentation and prefer not to take the risk.”

Value Of Standard Of Living

“Brick and tile suburbia of the capital cities have to be mindful of the encumbrances they place on the property of others as it works to the detriment of the value of landed assets, the calibrator of personal wealth, so fundamental to our freedom. It also detracts from the capacity of our nation to produce export income, which is the calibrator of our standard of living.”

Barnaby concluded with this well-known poem

If

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

(Remainder on website at .www.outbackenquirer.net .)

Turn to page 11 for a story by a long time BJ supporter



Celebrations

Charleville members of M.U. Australia (Mothers' Union) recently gathered in All Saints' Anglican Church for their monthly meeting, and to share afternoon tea in celebration of Ida McCoy's 90th birthday.

Pictured with Ida (seated) are:

L to R Sister Martina, Jean King, Margaret Campbell, Sister Margaret, Hope Walker, Olive Warren, Lois Ware, Narelle Whip, Edith Collins, Shirley Cadzow, Eileen Kiely, Alice White, and Ida's daughter Betty who visited from Sydney for the occasion.

Photo Courtesy of Western Times.

(Another gem from our religious knowledge coordinator)

YOU MIGHT BE IN A CHURCH OUTBACK IF

- ✓ People grumble about Noah letting dingoes on the ark.
- ✓ The restroom is outside.
- ✓ A member requests to be buried in his 4-wheel drive truck because "I ain't never been in a hole it couldn't get me out of".
- ✓ When it rains, everybody's smiling.

"Plan the difficult while it is easy." Lao-tse (570 BC - 490 BC); Chinese philosopher.

"Words are dwarves, examples are giants." Swiss proverb.



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*"We all want to build more wealth
but many of us have little idea how to go about it effectively."*

Gary Williamson, a CPA and Principal of Franklin Financial, says that if you have a mortgage, or own your property, you are almost certainly in a position to take the first step to real wealth creation. Below he lists some of the most frequently asked questions and reasons for delaying your decision to build greater wealth.

You say: But I'm still paying off my mortgage.

Gary says: So are most of our clients. They have learnt the priceless lesson that their property is the key to investing. You don't need to wait until you own it. In fact, by then it is sometimes too late to reap maximum benefits of longer term rewards.

You say: I have a few debts to look after first.

Gary says: By refinancing your mortgage we can consolidate your debts into your mortgage and even ensure that you are paying less, as well as freeing up to 95% of your property's value for investment.

You say: I am Self-Employed and can not make Tax Returns available.

Gary says: This can be an obstacle when dealing with a bank but through our panel of lenders we can negotiate a mortgage without the need of Tax Returns and gain access up to 90% of your property's value for you to invest. This arrangement is called a 'low doc' mortgage and we specialize in this area.

You say: I am not a risk taker.

Gary says: We have over 40 years experience in the financial market and we aren't risk takers either. The investment strategy that we recommend depends on your particular situation. Initially we usually direct our clients to property investment to start their portfolio. We do all the up front work and guide you through the steps required to make it easy to get started. In addition, we constantly monitor your investments and keep you informed.

You say: I don't like the idea of facing the bank and all the hassles of changing things.

Gary says: Handling the hassles, the paperwork and negotiating with lenders is our job. One phone conversation with you is all we need to establish whether or not we can help you to begin investing.

You say: I have a feeling that my credit rating is less than perfect.

Won't I get knocked back?

Gary says: This need not be a reason for denying yourself the opportunity to invest, Franklin Financial is Australia's leading specialist finance broker and provides innovative and fair solutions to borrowers who do not meet traditional lending criteria.

CASE STUDY

SP came to us with the situation where she had been knocked back by the bank because she couldn't qualify for a loan with her pension and casual work.

We were able to offer her a solution where she could gain access to the equity in her property and use the money available to her to invest and generate more income for herself and pay off her mortgage more quickly. We also structured the loan so that SP had a safety buffer so that she wouldn't have to worry about an emergency.

You will be surprised at the investment power that your properly structured mortgage can generate. Take the first step and find out if we can help you to generating greater wealth. It only takes one phone call and there is no obligation.



Gary Williamson
Certified Practicing Accountant
Director, Franklin Financial
1-300-364-751

Enquire online at: www.FranklinFinancial.com.au

See our display ad on Page 7



Wisdom from the Car Yard

"The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."



WINDY HILL

A visit to the mighty Tinnaroo Dam, and a look at the Windy Hill wind farm just blew me away! (If you'll pardon the pun) – those 20 stately giants of wind chargers whirring away in a grassy paddock and producing sufficient electricity to power 3500 homes. Sure, they cost a million dollars each, but just imagine being able to utilise the power of the wind in this way, sent to us by the God of this universe, free of charge, and it just keeps on coming.

A couple of months later we visited a property northish of Charleville to purchase some bulls. On a windy Spring morning we arrived at the beautiful new, functional brick homestead (not a bit like most old ones which have the housekeeping person travelling kilometres – indoors – each day just in the course of doing the chores), which was built on a knob that would have been perfect for a wind farm.

At a million dollars per turbine it's hardly an option for a private concern, but surely worth a thought by suppliers of power.

Back to the Tinnaroo Dam, and we recently met the now elderly gentleman who was first on the site with his machinery for the building of the dam, cleared the site, pulled the cables across and was last to leave.

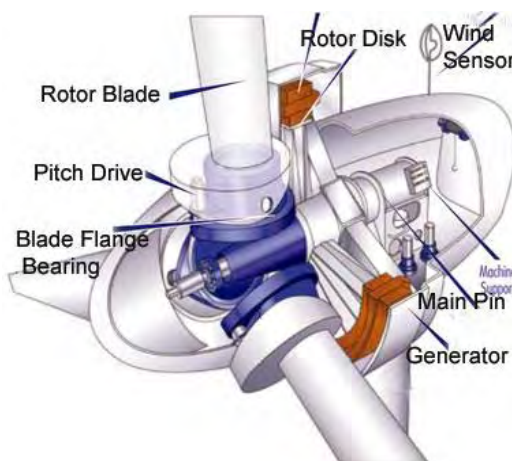
Prior to beginning this job Jack Brennan bought two new TD 24's. As the big sale of the year, I.S.A.S., the International distributors, took Jack and his family to Melbourne for the Olympic Games in 1956.

by GTW



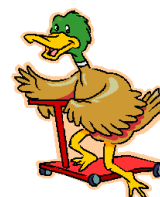
Converting wind energy into electricity -How does this work?.

The sun heats the earth's surface unevenly, creating differences in air temperature and subsequent differences in air pressure. The result is what we experience as wind. The force of the wind increases as the difference in air pressure increases. The wind slowly turns the turbine blades, which drive a generator to produce electricity. This electricity travels through a transformer and into the local electricity network through transmission lines that distribute electricity to homes.



The Real Meaning of Performance Evaluation Comments -

- Accepts new job assignments willingly: Never finishes a job.
- Active socially: Drinks heavily.
- Approaches difficult problems with logic: Finds someone else to do the job.
- Character above reproach: Still one step ahead of the law.
- Competent: Is still able to get work done if supervisor helps.
- Consults with co-workers often: Indecisive, confused, and clueless.
- Delegates responsibility effectively: Passes the buck well.
- Demonstrates qualities of leadership: Has a loud voice.



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Brave Boy on a Deadly Journey

During the Second World War, many families in Holland fought secretly against the enemy.

Andre's family was one. Several members of his family were interned in concentration camps or executed, but the young



teenager carried on his father's work with the Resistance. A couple of years ago Andre learned to use a computer and has been busy transcribing his memoirs. Here is an extract. Andre was about 13 years old at this time.

I'm Being Followed!

I agreed to take a hazardous journey some forty miles into the country, carrying some very dangerous 'contraband'. This journey would take me first to the city, some twenty miles away and I had I had to get round two heavily armed road blocks. The reason I was asked to go on this particular job was due to the fact that I knew a way around those roadblocks.

This day, I noticed far too late that I was being followed.

Travelling With the Enemy is the Way Through the Roadblocks!

That I was being followed was bad enough, but that I was being followed by a bike rider dressed in the uniform of a high ranking nazi, could be disastrous. His bike was much better than mine and in no time he'd catch up with me. He seemed to be alright as Nazis go and he seemed to be more interested in a travelling companion than everything else.



Now I could not turn off the road and was forced to head to the first roadblock. To my great relief, the guards waved us on and we exchanged greetings and the second roadblock gave us the same treatment.

In the back of my mind was still the thought that, if they had

stopped me and searched me, I could have been shot on the spot.

Then I walked right into a Gestapo raid!

The rest of my journey was along a quite country road, through a small township, and my destination was a large brickworks a little out of town and the Manager, who lived on the premises.

My normal approach was to ride pass my target and keep my eyes peeled for anything unusual. This time however, I did not take the precaution and went direct through the front gate, where I was met by an armed soldier and a dog, and I realized that I had walked right into a Gestapo raid.

Sometimes it is best not to obey orders

I was ordered to park my bike and was marched into a large building and pushed into a room, already occupied by a dozen or so people, staff I presumed, who did not take much notice of me, having enough trouble as it was.

More by instinct than good management, I found a bit of a hiding place, where nobody could see me and, when everybody was ordered outside, I stayed where I was with my eyes closed.

How long I stood there, I have no idea, but by the time I ventured out, the Gestapo seemed to have left.

..and after the Narrow Escape

I sat outside, near my bike, for a long time, to get my body and soul together again.

When I got to the house, I was invited in, was told that my 'contact' had been warned of the raid and got away and would be back the next day. After all what had happened that day, I was more grateful to stay for dinner and spend the night.

(Andre is a master of understatement)



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German the Middle of Nowhere

After we, two German exchange students stayed about four months in a boarding school in cold Tasmania, we wanted to experience the real Australia, you know—heat, sheep and hot cowboys!

As it took us 17 hours from Brisbane to Charleville by train, we had to realize how vast Australia is. Well, maybe it is only the train, which went impossibly slow! Sometimes we felt like walking was faster. But it was amazing to watch the changing landscape and kangaroos and emus racing with the train. When we left the air-conditioned train, happy that we finally had reached our destination, the incredible heat knocked us out.



In the next three weeks we should experience the daily life on properties. We had to learn to get along with lots weird and scary stuff: meeting big hairy spiders while sitting on the toilet,

insects in the kitchen and frogs behind the fridge, croaking more loudly than dogs bark, having no electricity for ages

(we were starving because we couldn't cook tea), living with bird killers, seeing stinking dead dingoes hung up a tree and driving ancient utes where the only working thing is the accelerator and the steering wheel (nothing like the "Simple Life"!)

But don't get us wrong! We had a great time here. We enjoyed watching koalas and pelicans during sunset, feeding baby goats, cruising around with motorbikes and fighting in the mud during the last big rain – just normal farming life, which was really exciting for us, the "German city-girls".

Finally we want to thank our generous host families at "Wansey Downs", "Oxford Downs" and "Woolabra" who made our stay as wonderful and fabulous as possible. They were very patient driving teachers and understanding spider and frog removers. We loved staying with you and we will always remember our unforgettable time in the middle of nowhere.

From Hanna Hesse and Anna Schweinbeger



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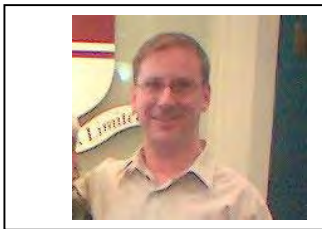
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(see our editorial on Page 3)

What Job Ads Really Mean

"Duties will vary"

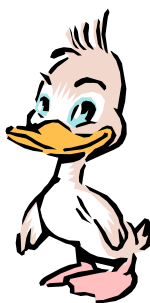
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"Problem-solving skills a must"

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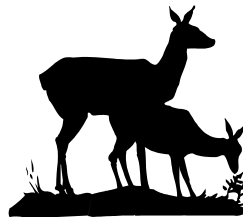


View From the Top of a Windmill

What a wonderful sound was the rain drumming on the roof a month ago! The night the rain started we had a huge invasion of gigantic moths which, last time I saw them in the Spring of 2000, were harbingers to 8 inches of rain. Unfortunately, these falls were not in any way uniform throughout the district. And those of us who were under the deluge don't know what to expect from it apart from water in dams, as this is not our usual time of year for that sort of rain. On the other hand, Hamilton in the Western Districts of Victoria which expects its rain at this time, is just not getting it. As far back as Easter, the country from here to Melbourne was quite parched with the exception of a few little areas of irrigation.

On a quick trip to Brisbane a while ago I had the pleasure of catching up briefly with long ago native of these parts, Joy Drescher. A most entertaining speaker (I think unintentionally) but, MAKE NO MISTAKE!, anyone who took her for a fool would be quickly put straight in no uncertain manner! Currently mayor of Beaudesert Shire, politically involved and ever hopeful of a seat in Parliament, renowned for her colourful attire, Mrs Drescher is a small but volatile package of great value to the community at large. On the subject of computers, "Of course I can use a computer – I write a page for the Beaudesert newspaper every week! There's a whole lot of other rubbish written on the left of the screen, but I don't know what it's there for, so I just don't worry about it! I can send an email, but only if you send me one first – then I just have to hit the 'reply' button!"

Speaking of the National Party (which we were indirectly) Barnaby Joyce, Queensland's new senator elect, and Vaughan Johnson, member for Gregory, were guests at a dinner meeting in Charleville at the end of April. Both gentlemen addressed the gathering, bringing those present up to date with what is happening both statewide and on the Federal scene. Although Mr Joyce did not take up his appointment until July 1 (and therefore was not in receipt of a Senator's salary), he travelled widely throughout the state since his election last October at his own expense.



Another Show has been and gone. Although the rain just before the event laid the dust well, it was responsible for the cancellation of some events. However, in spite of all, 'the show must go on' – so we can only say "Better Luck Next Time".

Some months ago I rang a neighbour, but he wasn't at home so his visiting cousin, an elderly lady, answered the phone. We had a very interesting conversation covering lots of topics, so much so that 'the man of the house', hovering nearby, was prompted to say on completion of the call "I'd like to meet that lady, she sounds interesting." Nothing ventured, nothing gained – I rang back and invited the lady and her daughter and their hosts over for afternoon tea. What an afternoon of talk we had! The lady's uncle built this house and lived in it, so she often visited as a child living only about 20 kilometres away. She and her daughter had come out to Charleville on the Westlander's 50th anniversary run to visit a number of relatives living in the area. Her daughter is married to a Frenchman and lives in a village in Flanders, but visits Australia frequently. We must meet them again, there is just so much to talk about.

During last winter we had reason to drive to Cairns. Having never been north of Townsville we looked forward to the trip very much. It was quite an interesting drive through Alpha, (did you know that feral deer are a problem on the roads around Alpha?), Clermont, Belyando Crossing, Charters Towers and on to Townsville.

We noted many round plastic tubs along the northern part where cattle were consuming liquid supplements – and looking good too. Then heading north into the previously unknown. What a cosmopolitan city Cairns is! And yet how familiar and ordinary it is too. In the middle of the night the streets were full of all nationalities of people, dining in restaurants, on the footpaths, walking and looking as we were. Particularly impressive was the city's free form swimming pool, right on the very edge of Tropical North Queensland

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View From the Top of a Windmill

Part 2

From Cairns we drove across to Karumba, just to say we'd seen the Gulf of Carpentaria. An interesting drive, scrub in parts, none in others, and not a blade of green grass did we see from Morven to the Gulf and back (apart from the coastal strip). Lots more round, red tubs of liquid supplement along the way. And did you know, the brolgas are a different colour up there? – a darker shade of their silvery grey. A popular spot in night-time Karumba is the barbecue area of the Sunset Tavern, right on the edge of the Gulf waters. To sit there in the garden, beer in hand, and watch the flaming orb of the sun drop down 'into' the water is a calming, peaceful experience. And to wear a shirt with 'Eromanga' on the pocket and find that the publican used to visit the Corlis family at the Eromanga Hotel back in the sixties is just another example of how small a place the world is.

Next day it was back through Normanton and Cloncurry, passing



thousand upon thousand of the antbeds endemic to that area – just like an army of grey and khaki-clad soldiers on the march.

Overnight in Winton, to dine al fresco on the footpath outside the hotel in the main street. From there it was but a short day's drive till we were home again having had brunch in Barcaldine in the café that provides newspapers and magazines to read and board games to while away the time.



From our religious knowledge coordinator: These are real answers from a recent scripture test.

In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, which the animals come onto in pears.

Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.

Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

A while ago a friend was helping her husband brand some calves, when she noticed that her wedding ring was no longer on her finger. What was the point of searching when the cattle had been all over the yards and had probably walked on the ring? Her husband promised to buy her another next time they went to town, a fairly infrequent happening. Several weeks later they were again in the cattle yards, and as Pat sat on the top rail waiting to be useful, she saw something shining on the ground. Sure enough, it was the lost ring! I wonder just how many valuable items have been lost in cattle yards, and stomped into the ground by the stock, never to be seen again.

Recently a friend gave me a packet of tea after she'd been to a teahouse for morning tea with her sister. I duly brought it home and put it in the kitchen cupboard for a time when I felt like something different. That time came a week or so later. I thought she was just giving me a packet of tea. What I didn't realise was that she was giving me a magnificent experience of the senses! – the flavour and the aroma are beyond words, so subtle that I can't say what they are. So now, on days when I've made some headway with a particular list of jobs, I reward myself with a cup of Lady Rose Grey, and am beginning to become agitated about the day when there is no more.

Photos - 1 hour - Perfect

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Can't Keep A Good Woman Down!

Readers might like an update on a teacher who recently worked in the South West. Her father served in World War Two in the US Marines in Guadalcanal. This lady is a very talented person. She has skills including textile art and fabric dyeing. She is practical and has a love of people and her art. For many years she has worked in remote communities and with disadvantaged students. She is able to teach lifelong skills helping students make their own materials or fabrics and then turning them into wearable art or more functional garments.

Where is she now? As far as she can be from a man who did not appreciate her. *"She is woman hear her roar"*!. Having braved the wilds of a township a little south of here, she returned to the city for some much needed medical treatment (a heart condition). She then embarked on an adventure to through the Tanami Track, via Alice Springs, to the Eastern Kimberley.

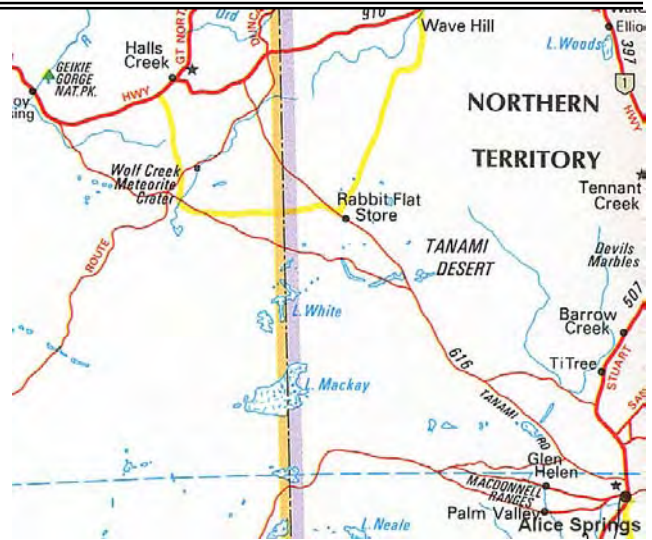


This was quite adventure because she had only recently recovered from her surgery and was travelling solo through some of the most remote and least populated parts of Australia.

We hope to have an update from her soon (and news of how the community recognised and remembered the anniversary of the end of 1939-1945 War).

This area would have been just as remote during World War Two. The defence of the north of Australia fell largely to the involvement of Aboriginal people in Norforce and the "Nackeroos" or Northern Australian Observer Unit. Readers will already know about he bombing of Darwin 19 February 1942. Broome suffered Australia's second worst air raid on 3 March, when 70 people were killed and 24 aircraft including 16 flying boats were destroyed. Simultaneous to the raid on Broome, eight Japanese fighters hit Wyndham. Broome was again hit on 20 March, the same day that Derby suffered its only raid. Closer to Queensland, Horn Island was hit on 14 March and additional raids against Horn Island met no air resistance but ceased in August 1942. Townsville was attacked in July, 1942.

All income from the Outback Enquirer is donated to the:
 Lest We Forget War Memorial & Heroes Museum,
 Library and Education Centre Project
www.lestweforget.net
tich@lestweforget.net



For more information on raids on Australia's mainland during WW2 go to the Australian War Memorial's encyclopaedia at http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/air_raids/index.htm

Readers will be interested to see that the Memorial's site will link through the collections databases and to additional links to related collections. These are a gold mine for genealogists who want to check service details or the confirm units of service. Depending on what happened to a relative (awarded medals, taken prisoner of war, had photograph taken officially, wrote personal records, which are now held by the Memorial, killed or died during service). Follow links to obtain available service records and to access unit records some of which are available electronically.

Your Rosey correspondent.

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MARTIN GETS WITH IT

Martin Wingett graduated from Charleville High School last December and like a lizard drinking he has been flat out ever since. Martin teamed up with the local training mob – Mulga Training Network and hasn't looked back. Martin travels with the mob to take training and IT support services to people in the country "further out". Triumphs have included receiving the presentation when the mob won the Minister's Training Initiative Award at the regional finals and a trip to Brisbane for the State finals.

Working and studying has brought Martin the skills and knowledge to open his own business in computer support. So if your computer is giving you grief or you just want to learn how to send an email then give Martin a call on 46541616 or 4654 7679 or:0428721794



REJOYCE! – WITH BARNABY

August 16 2005 – the day of Senator Barnaby Joyce's maiden speech to the Senate had arrived! Four long-time supporters of Barnaby's who had travelled to Canberra for the occasion met with and were entertained to lunch in the Parliamentary Dining Room by the Hon. Bruce Scott M.H.R., member for Maranoa and recently elected Chairman of The Nationals – Queensland. Bruce's staff had obtained tickets for us to sit in on Question Time, so we were escorted to the correct gallery and left to enjoy the antics of the House of Reps. It was interesting picking out familiar faces on the floor and identifying the not-so-familiar ones from the provided seating plan. That was an enlightening experience, the hour flew by, and too soon it was close to our self-appointed time to have a quick, sustaining coffee and navigate our way through some of the 24kilometres (so I've been informed) of polished wooden corridors in Parliament House. Eventually, to my great surprise! we arrived at the Senate Chamber and were shown to a gallery where Barnaby would be facing us to deliver his speech. As we had more than 1 ½ hours to spare, we were able to observe more supporters of Barnaby, and his family (parents, siblings, wife, daughters) and close friends arriving.

At last the moment arrived, the culmination of 9 years of supporting, lobbying, promoting and at times commiserating, and we were able to share in the collective pride of hearing the strong tones of Barnaby's "Thank you, Mr. President....."

Following Barnaby's speech, the last of 3 maiden speeches that evening, he and his family, friends and supporters were guests at a cocktail party held in The Nationals Party Room. He has already made his presence strongly felt in the deliberations of the Senate and all indications are that he will continue to stand up for the rights of his Queensland constituents.

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THE EXPERIENCES OF AN AUSSIE TEACHER IN A CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

Candle Light Library Tours.

Shortly after starting to teach English at the university I decided to investigate their library, an imposing building facing one end of the main sports field. In front of this four storey building is a tree shaded garden with bicycle racks, and scattered concrete tables and seats on which the students can rest or read. Inside it looked old, dull and in need of a cleanup and a repaint job. It has since had a paint job and the toilets have been rebuilt. To the left and right of the foyer are passages leading to rooms with shelves of books for special departments, but almost nothing on history or English.

First Find A Guide

Up a set of stairs to the second floor and on the left at the end of a long passage is the Teachers Reading Room. You need a library card to enter this room. I did not have one, but the lady (Florence) was kind enough to show me around. I wanted to see the English language collection and asked if there were any books on Chinese history written in English. She agreed to help.

Then Look For The Books

The room is over ten by twenty metres with sets of bookshelves down the right-hand side and a few shelves backing onto the wall on the left and end of the room. The middle area is filled with big tables and many chairs, much like a large dining room. A desk and several shelves just inside the door provide the inquiry counter and space for the special books such as dictionaries. Most of the shelves contain what they consider to be the latest books relevant to the subjects taught.

I found a very small section of English books about linguistics, travel, and a few other topics but only enough to fill one or two shelves. There was a large section on computers and programming, enough to fill about six sets of shelves, and a large section of books and journals written in the Russian language, which is no longer, taught or used. No one is allowed to borrow books from here. This area is used only by teachers and by post-graduate students.



And It Helps To Be Able To Read Chinese

Florence also showed me the computer, which is used to look up books, if you know how to use it, and if you can read Chinese. We could find nothing to interest me, and there was nothing on history, but during our conversation she



mentioned an old section. She then took me downstairs to a small room with many drawers filled with index cards. The lady there could read and write English but could only

speak a few words but very quickly was able to find one card on Chinese history. It was a book titled "Chinese Minorities" which was written by Prof. Colin Mackerras and donated to the library early that year. This was the entire collection of books on Chinese history written in English. She thought the book was with one of the senior staff. I asked Florence about the old collection that she had mentioned, so we went up to the second floor again, turned to the right, through a door and into another large room. Along the left hand side was a long counter with several young women talking, drinking tea, or resting. On the right were several computers for searching books, and several glass display cabinets with new or special books on display, and a few chairs.

Books For Hire

This is where the students come to find books by using the computer, and then they go to the counter and ask the staff to go and fetch the book. Students are not allowed to browse in the general collection. Only teachers and post-grad students are allowed to do this and may only take one student at a time with them. Teachers don't do this of course. No wonder that the students complain that they cannot find books and spend much of their time at the local book shops which also carry new books just to hire out.

Into The Dark

We walked along the counter through, the security gate, out of a door behind the counter, then along shelves of books to a set of dark narrow stairs. Florence led the way down the stairs then squeezed between the shelves and the wall to find the switchboard and turn on the lights. There were not many lights but enough to see our way around the shelves looking at the various sections. On one side of the room there were masses of books in English, on various topics from science to languages, shipbuilding, lasers, steam engines, environmental science, GIS., many fairly recent and many very old going back to early this century. Many of them are real collectables and would be worth a fortune in antique bookstores.

The other side of the room contained books in other languages, Russian, French, German and so on.

As well as being very dark it was also extremely hot. The thermometer on the wall showed 33 degrees, and it was only 9.30am. This was early September and we had been having many weeks of extremely hot and humid weather. Often it was over 30 degrees at 7.30am.

Some Bright Spark

We finally found the English learning books but the light had blown. No problem, I would just swap it with a bulb from the Russian sector. Inserted the bulb but instead of light there was only sparks, and then the whole section was in darkness. It seems that the wiring was also faulty. Poor Florence was most embarrassed; she had been trying so hard to please. The perspiration was pouring off her, which is a rare sight with the Chinese. She asked me to wait and she would go and get a light. Ten minutes later Florence returned with a candle and a box of matches.

So That's Where the Donations End Up!

We both laughed as we continued with our inspection along the rows of English language teaching books. There were hundreds of textbooks, class sets, reference books, English and American literature and many other things that the students had been wanting. Schools in the United States have donated many books. I suggested that many of these books should be moved upstairs to where they could be used by more of the students. The reply was that there was no room. I suggested that maybe the Russian books could be brought down to the dungeon. Maybe one day!.

Florence in Context

We didn't find any history books but as it was getting late and I had a class to teach I grabbed two books and returned to the reading room to collect my bag and sign for the two books. I still had no library card. Before I left I told Florence about the nurse who carried a lamp as she moved in the dark among the dead and wounded during an early war. I suggested that she too be called "Florence" because she carried the lamp (candle) as Florence did. I didn't mention about so many dead books. She laughed and agreed.

Running Out Of Candle

The next day I finally got my teacher's library card. I had to pay five yuan for it. I then made another trip with Florence and her lamp while I introduced another foreign teacher to the collection. The following day I took one of my students on a tour while I held the candle. By this time the candle was getting shorter.

Electrical Safety

A man offered to fix the lights and tried to change the bulb. I tried to tell him that the fuses had blown but he didn't understand. After his unsuccessful attempt I took him to the fuse box and showed him the fuse, which he took out. I wasn't prepared to attempt this myself because this time I may put the whole building in darkness. Instead of a piece of wire it contained a piece of 3.5mm lead solder. So much for using a safety device!. He then went upstairs and swapped it for another fuse. Finally we had light but still little in the English learning section.

Later in this section of the library I found the book on Chinese Minorities and one on Chinese Opera, both of which were written and donated by Prof. Colin Mackerras. Months later the Russian books from upstairs have been moved downstairs but few of the English books have been moved upstairs. The staff cannot distinguish between English, French or Russian, so nothing changes. Florence, the lady with the lamp is still there, but alas, no more Candle Light Library Tours. Lin Hao-Wen



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We decided to colour co-ordinate the childrens gear bags so that they all had the same colour saddle, bridle and clothes bags. This helped to eliminate some of the fighting when it came to getting ready to saddle horses or have a shower. Our friends then started asking if they could get some made, and things have just gone on from there. "



In a short time the market has spread out far and wide throughout Australia and the range of products shown on the website demonstrates the amazing effort this family have put in.

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Bags can be personalised by adding your Business Name & Details, Personal Name or other Graphics. When designing and making these products we took into account the harsh conditions that most rural workers and competitors have to face."



We use heavy duty zips ,handles, and also have a double base on these bags. The double base gives you two layers on the base, which also protects the bag handles, which go all the way around the bag. We also sew around the inside of the bag twice to make it stronger
 The bags from the Bridle size up all have a leather patch that can be stamped or branded. They have a cattle tag with our company details for a zip pull, and the bags are individually numbered.



Our products have been purchased by Bull Riders, Campdrafters, Sporting Clubs, Shearers, Station workers, Boarding School Students, Riggers"

..But Wait There's More

On the website are photographs of competitors in many local events and these can be purchased on a picture CD.

..and Still More

Kylee has developed the website so that she now provides an opportunity for other business to market their products from her site or can advise them as to how they can develop their own.

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Feedback from Iraq

This is a letter from Ray Reynolds, a medic in the Iowa Army National Guard, serving in Iraq:

As I head off to Baghdad for the final weeks of my stay in Iraq, I wanted to say thanks to all of you who did not believe the media. They have done a very poor job of covering everything that has happened. I am sorry that I have not been able to visit all of you during my two-week leave back home.

And just so you can rest at night knowing something is happening in Iraq that is noteworthy, I thought I would pass this on to you. This is the list of things that has happened in Iraq recently: (Please share it with your friends and compare it to the version that your paper is producing.)

- Over 400,000 kids have up-to-date immunizations.
- School attendance is up 80% from levels before the war.
- Over 1,500 schools have been renovated and rid of the weapons stored there so education can occur.
- The port of Uhm Qasar was renovated so grain can be off-loaded from ships faster.
- Over 4.5 million people have clean drinking water for the first time ever in Iraq.
- The country now receives 2 times the electrical power it did before the war.
- 100% of the hospitals are open and fully staffed, compared to 35% before the war.
- Elections are taking place in every major city, and city councils are in place
- Sewer and water lines are installed in every major city.
- Over 60,000 police are patrolling the streets.
- Over 100,000 Iraqi civil defense police are securing the country.
- Over 80,000 Iraqi soldiers are patrolling the streets side by side with US soldiers.
- Over 400,000 people have telephones for the first time ever.
- Students are taught field sanitation and hand washing techniques to prevent the spread of germs.
- An interim constitution has been signed.
- Girls are allowed to attend school.
- Textbooks that don't mention Saddam are in the schools for the first time in 30 years.

Don't believe for one second that these people do not want us there. I have met many, many people from Iraq that want us there, and in a bad way. They say they will never see the freedoms we talk about but they hope their children will. We are doing a good job in Iraq and I challenge anyone, anywhere to dispute me on these facts. If you are like me and very disgusted with how this period of rebuilding has been portrayed, pass this on to a friend and let them know there are good things happening.



US. Army Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division scan the landing zone for possible hostile forces 26 August 2005. The soldiers provided a security cordon so their unit could build a playset for a local schoolyard in northern Baghdad. The mission was aptly named Operation Jungle Gym.

(Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Russell E. Cooley IV)
(Released) 050826-F-9712C-131

A Chaplain's E-Mail From Iraq

I would like to ask our own media elites: "Were you just as outraged by what happened under Saddam? If so, you didn't show it."

...the moral superiority of non-involvement and non-commitment.... it's not much of a strategy of how to go through life. Taken to its logical conclusion the message is: don't commit to your country, don't commit to your spouse, and don't commit to your kids, church, or community. Don't commit to cleaning up your own mess or any cause that demands any more from you than rhetoric. ...

Commitment is love acted out. It is sad that the non-committers missed that. They and their moral high-ground haven't been near a mass grave. The kids I see and eat with every day still want to help this country, in spite of getting shot at while doing it. That is love acted out. You either get it, or you don't.

Appeasement generates a mentality that allows Europe to ignore nearly 500,000 victims of Saddam's torture and murder machinery and, motivated by the self-righteousness of the peace-movement, has the gall to issue bad grades to George Bush...even as it is uncovered that the loudest critics of the American action in Iraq made illicit billions, no, TENS of billions, in the corrupt U.N. Oil-for-Food program.

From Chaplain Steven P. Unger;LCDR, CHC
USN; Multi National Corps-Iraq

"If there be trouble let it be in my day so that my child may have peace"

"...what we found is what we always find: a majority of people being intimidated, terrorized and oppressed by a radical, fanatical and clinically INSANE few. We found people who want us to finish this fight, no matter how long it takes, and who were genuinely appreciative of our efforts..."

Matthias Dapfner , Chief Executive , Axel Springer AG



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DEEP THOUGHT - WORD FROM THE WISE

- A day without sunshine is like, night.
- He who laughs last, thinks slowest
- The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory



The 2005 Minister's Training Initiative Award For The Southwest Region has been awarded to a local group. Mulga Training Network (MTN) as members of the Mungallala Progress Association brought this award home. From a small venue the group take computer, business and other accredited training and technical support east as far as Amby and southwest all the way to Hungerford and Thargomindah.

MTN trains local people in local venues - dusty sheds, halls or verandahs. "The vehicles, the trainers and our swags may not be the latest model (nor are they taxpayer provided) or the best looking but like the stock horse, and the kelpie they get the job done and stay the distance."

The "Mulga Mob" are people deeply committed to maintaining and enhancing the social capital of the remote communities' social capital and all provide their services for little or no cost. Tracey Yaun and Martin Wingett travelled to Toowoomba to accept the award.

Tackling Real Problems

A spokesperson for the group explained " we take a real problem – that of obtaining a relevant response to computer, business and other training needs in our remote communities. Our response is to educate people in a time and manner that is appropriate to their way of working. We provide on going support such as mentoring through further education and providing access to the technology resources they need." "Our focus is the outback work ethic of "Getting the Job Done", not on "Who Is going to Pay for It" and this in essence translates to our members contributing the major portion of the cost of any project from their own pockets.

It helps us to keep this vital work going if we can rely on paid training work from local offices of organisations (eg local, state, federal government) that have training

budgets allocated from taxpayer funds. However it seems that it is only when the organisation has exhausted the training funds allocated say to a Farm-Help or to a Job Network client or to their own office workers that those in charge refer to the person to us for "free" help. Often we find that these funds have been allocated to courses that are inappropriate to say the least. Our focus (for mature age clients) is on recognising the person's skills and knowledge and building on their strength to provide useful and age appropriate qualifications.

It is not helpful to a mature age person to find that their newly attained Certificate II in Business only qualifies them to compete with 15 year olds in an entry-level job market. Their maturity and decades of actual work in reality can be translated into, & built on, to provide a qualification that more accurately reflects their skills and knowledge and the needs of the marketplace. You have to wonder where the taxpayer funded advisors gained *their* qualification when you see the usefulness of some of the advice they give out!"

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