

# ANZ Retired Officers' Club – Queensland

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SECRETARY/TREAS.  
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VICE PRESIDENTS

BRIAN DOWNS  
GRAEME YOUNG  
GRAEME DREW  
JOHN COLLINS  
DON KIORGAARD

## Dates and Venues for future Gatherings

**2<sup>nd</sup> June**

### Luncheon Meeting

Irish Club

1<sup>st</sup> Floor

175 Elizabeth Street

See notice this page

**26<sup>th</sup> June**

### Sunshine Coast bi-monthly meeting

Headland Golf Club

Buderim

See notice this page

**27<sup>th</sup> June**

### Informal Get-together

Geebung/Zillmere RSL

See notice this page

## Brisbane May Get-together

A group of 13 members, wives and guests enjoyed a cold drink (or two), a fine meal, and some pleasant company at our gathering at the Carindale Hotel on 12<sup>th</sup> May. Our guests were **Cyril Entriiken**, who is still working with ANZ as an Investment Adviser, and **Rod Jenkins**, who now works for Remax Community Realty at Sunnybank. It was good to have a couple of new faces along.

## Sunshine Coast Branch

from **Bill Buder**

Our bi-monthly luncheon and AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> April was well attended, including visitors **Brian and Pat Downs**, and **Nev and Libby Luscombe**.

Treasurer **Keith Hayman** presented a financial report, which was adopted.

I was re-elected as President, with **Darrell Cook** elected Vice-President, and **Peter Mackay** the Treasurer. Keith was thanked for his work as Treasurer over several years.

Our **next luncheon** will be at **Headland Golf Club, Buderim**, from 12 noon on Thursday, **26<sup>th</sup> June**. Visitors are welcome. If wishing to attend, **please contact me by Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, for catering purposes**. My phone number is 5492 6721.

## Brisbane Meeting June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Our next luncheon meeting is on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at the Irish Club, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 175 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane. We gather from 12.00 noon for lunch at 1.00 p.m.

**For catering purposes**, please confirm attendance to either **Graeme Young** (3353 1058 or e-mail [g.m.young@bigpond.com](mailto:g.m.young@bigpond.com)) or **Graeme Drew** (3263 6620 or e-mail [thedrews@bigpond.net.au](mailto:thedrews@bigpond.net.au)) by Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> May

**All members and wives are welcome.** Wouldn't it be good to have attendance similar to April (62).

## Geebung Get-together June 27<sup>th</sup>

Our **next get-together** is to be held at **Geebung/Zillmere RSL Club** on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June**. We will gather in the Blue Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor (next to the lift) from 12.00 noon for lunch at approx 1.00 p.m.

38 attended our previous function last year (which was combined with a group convened by **Geoff Ludgate**).

Let's try to beat that.

## Bereavement

Mr. **Lloyd Jones**, passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2008, aged 90.

Lloyd joined the E S & A Bank in 1934 and served in several areas including Roma Street, South Brisbane, Cairns (where he married in 1939), was Chief Clerk at 313 Queen Street, worked in the Branch Department, and finished his career as an auditor, retiring in 1974 at the age of 57. Lloyd had several strokes and became very frail over recent years. Lloyd was a true gentleman with impeccable manners and integrity. He will be sadly missed.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Lloyd's family.

## Opening a Branch – 1953 Style

from *Winton Grieve*

Year: 1953

Place: Robinvale, Victoria. Situated on the Murray River – nearest major towns were Mildura, approximately 60 miles N.W., and Swan Hill, approximately 90 miles S.E.. There were no sealed roads. District population at that time was around 1200 but, with the opening up and development of a new Government sponsored Soldier Settlement Area after World War II, population increased. Returned soldiers were each allocated around 10 acres of Mallee Scrub which had to be cleared and developed for the growing of grapes – irrigated from the Murray River. They were provided with a home, tractor, and small salary until the blocks became productive. The only established farming operations were wheat, sheep, and along the river, citrus and market gardening. Average annual rainfall was around 5 inches.

In early 1953, Herbert Cuttle, an influential local businessman and olive plantation owner became very disgruntled with the two existing banks – Bank of NSW and the Commercial Bank of Australia, and approached ANZ to open a Branch.



*CBA, Robinvale*

Our Chiefs agreed, so **Harold Boyle** (28 years old) and myself were chosen for the task.

There was no accommodation available in town, so we batched in an old homestead on an olive plantation

some 10 miles away. Whilst batching, I would arise early in the morning, cut the wood, light the stove, and Harold would cook the breakfast. There was no hot water, so cold showers were the norm. After some months, Harold managed to rent an old home to bring his wife and two children to the town, and I was able to obtain alternative accommodation.

The Bank building consisted of an old army hut owned by Herbert Cuttle.



*Side view of ANZ< Robinvale*

It had to be transported to the site, and it spent the first night in town on the main street due to delays. The Bank's carpenters were assigned the job of fitting the old hut out a few days before opening, but on arrival in Robinvale, they decided to do some kangaroo shooting, with the result that our premises were not completely ready.



*ANZ Bank, Robinvale*

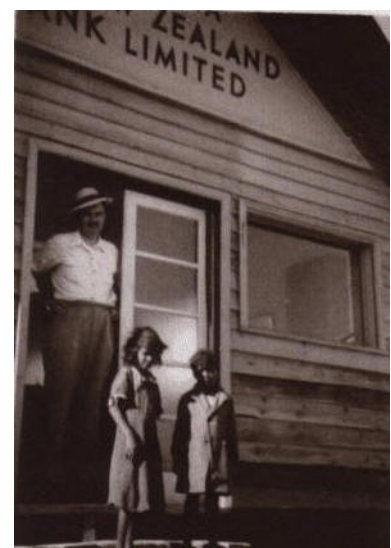
Our stationery arrived two days before opening but there were no cupboards available for storage. The day before opening, Harold and I travelled to Mildura in his old Austin A40 motor vehicle to collect our first supply of cash. On arrival back at Robinvale we discovered that every paper bag of coin (pennies and halfpennies included) had burst due to the

extremely rough corrugated road – all had to be re-bagged.

Opening day was rather hectic, not because of the volume of new customers but because the Manager's room, Teller's counter and stationery cupboard were still being finished off by the Bank's carpenters. There was one day in the following week when we did not have a customer, so the cash was returned to the safe without any alteration to the Teller's book.

On odd occasions, Harold would spend a full day travelling down along the river, talking to the citrus growers and market gardeners (mainly Italians) in the hope of gaining new business. On these days I would arrive at the Branch, take off the safe combinations and assume the role of Manager/Teller. When need arose for a toilet break, I would telephone the junior girl in the Wales who would call around and guard the premises while I made the long walk to the E.C. situated down the back yard.

I spent 18 months in Robinvale, and during that time, business slowly grew, but at the time of my transfer, it was still only a two-handed Branch.



*Harold Boyle on front steps of Branch*

Opening Upper Mt. Gravatt Branch in the late 1960s with **Graham Robbins** was much easier and less stressful!



## Not so Well

**Welfare Officer, Allan Wiles**, reports:

I was recently speaking with **Betty Alford**. She is still living in the family home which she moved into at the age of 4 when her family came to Brisbane from Bundaberg. She has lived there 82 years. She is a little concerned that she may have to leave the home at some stage because she has only 2% sight and suffers with very painful arthritis. From time to time she has visits from nieces and nephews, as well as **Shirley Cowie**, who keeps in touch on a regular basis. Betty would welcome a visit or a phone call from her old friends. She can be reached on 3276 7097.

I recently spoke with **Jim Gallen** and told him that many of our members were asking after him. He is not all that well at the moment but appreciated the call. We are all thinking of you Jim, and send you our best wishes.



*John Tudhope sitting in a chair in Saddam Hussein's Al-Faw Palace in Baghdad. See story on next page.*

## News of Members

From **Bob Morris**: Greetings from Japan. Sorry I won't make the Carindale meeting due to my current location in beautiful Nagano, Japan. Have been staying with our daughter and have visited an historic Japanese village where we got to sleep and eat Japanese style. Neither is good for an aging back. Had my 60th birthday here so I guess that I have some excuse for the aches and pains. Give my regards to all the gang - hope to make the next meeting.

**Kev Usher** writes that he has just returned from a cruise on Sun Princess ..Sydney to Perth (around the top) and then back to Sydney on the Indian Pacific and then flew home to Kabra. Absolutely wonderful time.

Kind regards and best wishes.

Some members have been enquiring after **Jack Butler**. We have learned that Jack is currently enjoying good health and playing golf regularly, although his handicap has blown out a bit. (I suspect he still plays a mean game. Ed.)

## Hey, Keith. Go get the pennies.

*from Keith Moncreiff*

It was never explained to me that, as Exchange Clerk at the Toowoomba Branch of the E.S. & A. Bank in 1938, one of my jobs would be to carry rather heavy bags of coin on my pushbike from another bank to the E.S. & A.. I have often wondered in the years since if I was alone in this regard.

Anyhow, the teller, **Bill Cossart**, was always running out of pennies (those big brown coins we don't see these days and which bought a small ice cream in the thirties!!) This was mainly because we had a customer who owned the Willowburn bus run. The fare from town to Willowburn was 4d (four pence). Many customers proffered 6d and required tuppence change and it was a well patronized run.

The Commercial banking Company of Sydney (CBS) was the major supplier of pennies to the E. S. & A., principally because the Empire Picture Theatre banked with them

and they were pleased to unload their surplus coin to us.

So when **Bill Cossart** made the 'coin calls', I would mount my £3/10/- Flying Eagle bicycle with the bank's rather heavy coin bag and ride the half mile to the CBS. Have you ever tried to lift £5 of pennies on to the handles of a bicycle and then ride down the two main streets of Toowoomba? It's a pretty fair balancing act.

I don't know how much the pennies weighed but I just weighed 10 pennies on my jam making scales and that weighed a quarter of a pound (about 120 grams). Multiply by 120 for the answer.

In those days we were just coming out of the Great Depression and I considered myself lucky to have a job, for times were tough. My £80 p.a. salary, although not grand, was welcome, so I did not mind the diversity of duties.

## John Tudhope – Our Man in Iraq

It wasn't the heat and dusty conditions – after all you could find that in Outback Australia – but the armed escort from the military section of Kuwait International airport, that brought home the reality.

It all started earlier in the year when the opportunity to do a stint in Iraq arrived. I was determined not to forgo this opportunity as I had done in the previous year to a 7 week stint in Afghanistan with the Army aviation element.

We had a weeklong pre-deployment preparation in Sydney, with briefings on cultural awareness talks by people of Iraqi and Afghan nationality now living in Australia. We paid close attention during the session dealing with the impact of IEDs (improvised explosive devices). Graphic photos and videos showed their effects both on the human body and armoured vehicles. The after effect of suicide bombers was also shown in graphic detail.

Our flight to Kuwait left Sydney mid afternoon, took on more passengers in Darwin, then flew all night, stopping at Diego Garcia (a US base on an Indian Ocean island which is UK territory) to refuel. We were on a civilian aircraft on charter to Defence and I was fortunate enough to have a business-class seat. That was as far as the comforts extended – there were no business-class meals, just sandwiches in cling wrap and drinks in cardboard containers or cans.

Before moving on to Baghdad, we 'staged' through an airbase in the Kuwaiti desert and the bus trip there took around an hour. While feeling tired after 24 hours in elapsed time since leaving Sydney airport, everyone was interested in what the countryside looked like, particularly when remembering back to pictures of a flame-filled skyline following the departure of the Iraqi army during the first Gulf war. There was sand and more

sand. The haze partially obscured the sun, which was reduced to a golden glow behind a curtain of dust.

At the Kuwaiti airbase there was a large US logistical presence to support their ground troops in Iraq. It was very hot and dusty and our accommodation was large air-conditioned tents. This transit camp had all the fast food outlets we know – McDonalds, KFC and Subway. Each week other country nationals –mainly Indian – set up market stalls within the base and when they realised you were from Australia, you were addressed as "Meester Reeky Ponting".

This was home for a few days while we acclimatised, had final briefings and were issued with weapons, ammunition and body armour and received weapons training before flying to Baghdad. It was very hot and taxing out at the weapons range and we welcomed the relief as we halted fire as camel herds passed through downrange. The herdsmen were not too concerned about live rounds. They would make it across - "God willing".

When it was time to move to Baghdad it was by Australian military aircraft. The wait in the hot sun for our Hercules to arrive was made more uncomfortable after donning our body armour and helmets. We were greeted in Baghdad by more heat.

I was on the staff of HQ JTF633 (Joint Task Force). This is based at Camp Victory, Saddam Hussein's former Al-Faw Palace complex. HQ JTF633 has a joint-force team of Australian Navy, Army and Air Force personnel who provide the command function for the Australian Task Groups in Iraq, Afghanistan and the wider Persian Gulf region as part of Operations Catalyst and Slipper.

The palace complex is built around a man made lake and canal complex and Camp Victory is the primary component of the Victory

Base Complex (VBC), which occupies the area surrounding the Baghdad International Airport (BIAP). The Al-Faw palace which serves as the headquarters for the Multinational Corps-Iraq, is located on Camp Victory. Other camps that make up the Victory Base Complex include Camp Liberty, Camp Striker, and Camp Slayer.

Al-Faw Palace is quite spectacular. One feature is a large chair that was said to be specially made for Yassar Arafat when he visited Saddam at the palace. For those who get access to the palace, which serves as a US HQ, it is standard practice to have your photograph taken sitting in this large chair. (See *photograph on page 3*)

My initial sleeping accommodation was a demountable hut surrounded by concrete blast walls. Several days later when a bed became available, I moved to the "Roundhouse" which was on the end of a finger jutting out into one of the large expanses of water within VBC. It was within easy walking distance to where I had to work, but after lugging your body armour, you were soon sweating and reaching the airconditioned HQ was welcome.

The constants were heat, periodic explosions, gunfire and patrolling Blackhawk helicopters. The base was subject to small arms fire on most days. Occasionally, rockets or mortars would be fired from the surrounding suburban areas. This was why our buildings had blast protection around soft structures and windows. The US forces have a blimp tethered within VBC so that it hovers near the base perimeter to monitor activity out in the nearby suburbs. A couple of months after I left there were attacks which killed three and wounded 68.

*In the next newsletter we will publish some details of John's experiences in Iraq.*

### 2008 Annual Subscriptions are now due

Members are encouraged to make payments to the Club **electronically** through their Internet Banking facilities. It makes the Treasurer's job much easier. Please follow the undermentioned when effecting electronic payments to our club.

In every case:

**(a)** Record your personal details in the 'payee information' section i.e.

(Name) (Initial) e.g. "Drew G (please don't forget to include this which is the link for us, and yes we have received some funds with no details provided.)

(Activity/Event). Christmas function .....2008 Subs..... etc

**(b)** Email details of the deposit (amount, date) to Graeme Drew [thedrews@bigpond.net.au](mailto:thedrews@bigpond.net.au) (This is optional)

**Your annual subscription is currently \$10.00.**

For any members new to using internet banking for payment of subs and activity costs to the club, when using your internet banking facility:-

Simply access your bank's "Pay Anyone" facility and follow the instructions including the following details for your transaction:

**BSB:** 014002

**Account Name:** ANZ Banking Group Retired Officers' Club Qld.

**Account Number:** 361132367

Please ensure that you enter your Name, Initials & "2008 Subs" in the payee details section e.g. "Drew G. 2008 Subs".

**Alternatively**, please mail your cheque to the assistant Sec/Treas whose address is included in the subscription tear off slip. Using the tear off slip allows you to update any changes of address whether postal or email and any other details which may require updating.

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### Membership Subscription/Renewal

**ANZ Retired Officers' Club (Qld) Membership Subscription for Year 2008**

**NAME**.....

**MAIL ADDRESS**.....

**E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable)** .....

**CHEQUE {payable to ANZ ROC (Qld)} HEREWITH. To Graeme Drew, 24 Augusta Street, ASPLEY. QLD. 4034**

### Back in Town

**Graham and Jan Robbins** recently returned to Australia after a seven week round the world trip that included a cruise of the Mexican Riviera, a week in Washington with their USA family, stays in Madrid, Istanbul and Athens, a fairly comprehensive tour of Turkey which included a visit to Gallipoli, a cruise of the Eastern Mediterranean, excursions to Cairo and the Pyramids, Jerusalem and Bethlehem and visits to Cyprus and the Greek islands of Santorini and Mykonos followed by a few days in Singapore to wind down before heading back to Brisbane..

### Retired Officers Interest Rates

<u>Under \$20K</u>	<u>\$20K+</u>
4.86%	6.23%

May 2008



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and

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## Birthdays

### June

01/06	Roach, Henry
01/06	Wilson, Chris
02/06	<b>Bray, Bill*</b>
02/06	Rooney, Mark
03/06	Barnes, Rob
04/06	Gilvarry, Noel
05/06	Clair, Neil
06/06	Nellor, Bob
06/06	Robbins, Wayne
06/06	Swan, Graham
07/06	Cardiff, Nev
08/06	Darby, Jim
09/06	James, Sel
10/06	Cramb, Greg
11/06	Clark, Bob
11/06	Quinlan, Laurie
11/06	White, Peter
12/06	Blyth, John
12/06	Connel, Robin
12/06	Doblo, Russell
13/06	Wyvill, Keith
15/06	Kitson, Ken
15/06	Strong, Jack
18/06	Sorensen, Tony
19/06	<b>Bromfield, Daven*</b>
19/06	Dickens, Greg
20/06	Dowse, Noel
20/06	Elliott, Kevin
22/06	Craig, Brian
22/06	Flood, Vernon
22/06	Kersnovske, Graham
22/06	Webster, Martin
23/06	Mullane, Ted
24/06	<b>Fisher, Joe*</b>
24/06	King, Alan
25/06	Cotter, Michael
25/06	Robinson, Peter
25/06	Worthington, Alan
26/06	Hooke, Greg
28/06	Monks, Ian
30/06	Lowry, Bren
30/06	Pascoe, Rob

### \*Honorary

Best wishes to all members celebrating a birthday. That young **Daven Bromfield** whose photo was in the April edition of our newsletter, turns 91 on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

## New Members

The Club has admitted one new member since publication of the last newsletter.

**Paul Humphreys** who completed 36 years service

**Welcome Paul.**

## Subscriptions Received

The following members are those who have paid their subscriptions since the April Newsletter up to the time of compilation of this newsletter. If you are unsure whether you have paid, please check for your name in the February, March and April Newsletters. If you are still not sure, please contact either Graeme Young or Graeme Drew.

Alcorn, John

Barnes, Rob

Burton, Rod

Carlos, Jenny

Craig, Don

Dowse, Noel

Drouyn, Frank

Elliott, Duncan

Evans, Ken

Fields, Brian

Henderson, Les

Hindmarsh, Alan

Hooke, Greg

Humphreys, Paul

James, Sel

Lucy, Brian

Michael, Peter

Phillips, Seth

Rice, Jim

Robbins, Wayne

Tome, Rod

Whitmee, Julie

Yates, Col