

Retired Officers Club - Queensland

Newsletter No. 505 September 2020



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Please use this address for all general and newsletter emails to the Club

Account details

Payments to the Club should be made to:
ANZ Retired Officers Qld.
BSB 014002
Account No. 3611 32367

John Collins sent in a whole heap of observations to be used as fill-ins. They are nice and short and will be useful to pop into the little bits of white space that dot our newsletters.

John poses the question -

Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?

Secretary Says

♦ A little cocktail of Notices from Secretary Greg.

Xmas functions

Members please note the following tentative dates for the 2020 Xmas Functions:

Darling Downs – 15th October

Central Qld – 11th November

Far North Qld (Mareeba) – 26th

November

Sunshine Coast – 26th November also North Qld – date to be confirmed

Brisbane – too hard basket

Sadly, COVID19 is impacting on our planning.

FNQ, NQ & CQ have good chances of proceeding as their numbers are not too high. With some luck Sunshine Coast and Darling Downs might also happen, but Brisbane is at best a 50/50 chance.

Naturally safety–first is our guide and I am sure our Treasurer will be able to apply his Risk Mitigation skills to the exercise.

So please keep watching for emails from us and beware of old folk coughing in case you end up in a coffin.

Passing of Will Bailey

Many members will be aware by now of the passing of **Will Bailey**. The link below takes you to the Obituary on the ANZ ROC Victoria website.

https://anzroc.com.au

- 1. If you Ctrl+Click it opens on their Home Page.
- 2. Click on Latest News item Vale Will Bailey
- 3. Then Page appears with Heading Vale Will Bailey printed twice; Click on the bottom heading and it

opens up to the Obituary.

If any members wish to share any memories please send through to our email.

Let's help NSW

When **Graeme Bool**, NSW ROC Secretary advised the availability of their August newsletter, he said: Good day to all Club Members.

Our August NL has been completed, and is now on Web Site for viewing via link:-

http://anzroc.blogspot.com.au

Please enjoy the read and Club update on Covid-19 position, and we will update members further in September Newsletter.

Meantime all members please keep safe & well.

Their Newsletter carries a familiar pic on Page 6. I reckon our Queensland members can supply a few names to our NSWelshfolk...

A further report from Greg concerning the passing of lan (Sprag) Wilson appears on Page 4 and a further, last minute report on the passing of Glen Twidale is scattered through the available space.

Glen Robertson

♦ Cancellation of the Gold Coast September Luncheon

Because of the continuing Covid 19 crisis, which affects our world at present, I have taken the decision to cancel our scheduled luncheon for September, 2020.

We have not had a Luncheon since September 2019, and that is disappointing.

I really enjoy our "get-togethers" and I know that others do also.

Hopefully, we are able to meet in March, 2021 and that our world is a much safer place by that time.

I wish you all safety, good health and happiness.

Out of the In Box

Chris Dooley

♦ Something of interest

This year's August calendar will be the only time you will see this phenomenon in your life time.

August this year has:

5 Saturdays,

5 Sundays, and

5 Mondays

That only happens once every 823 years.

The Chinese call it "bag full of money".

Alan Phillips

 Commentary on August newsletter

There is so much good content here that it is difficult to know where to start with my comment this month.

Loved the opening with the reference to a poem of note. Nice to know that Whittaker's arrow was eventually found; do hope the newsletters end up with the same fate.

Reading and rereading poetry just happens to be a favourite pastime of mine. I must put some on my site! It's so easy with the technology available to download poems from many sites to add to a collection.

Even just the poems from the early day "school readers" make a good collection. Remember

"The Teams") Henry Lawson;

"The Australian) Roderic Quinn;

"Crossing the bar" Lord Tennyson;

"Women of the West" George Essex Evans

and of course "My Country" Dorothea Mackellar.

Loved the "Jees Grandma" photo, it's so appropriate in these times; in lieu of "Grandma" please read "Pa" by which title I am honoured to be called.

Thanks Greg for the article on **Des Skelly**. You will be missed when you take your well-deserved leave from the committee.

Of course it all has to be put together, so thank you "Weird Guy".

Gordon Andrews



Report on the passing and funeral of **John Redman**

Noel Wyeth, Marilyn & I, attended John's funeral with a group of 80 at the invitation of son Peter & daughter Dianne Carey

His passing

Dianne told us John suffered a stroke at home.

She was alerted when he failed to respond to her weekly phone call

We were not surprised when she told us John had prearranged the order of service including his Eulogy with the local priest

His history

John joined ANZ Mudgee NSW in 1947. Shortly after took leave of absence to assist his mother on the farm following his father's death

Later worked in Sydney where he heavily involved in speedboat racing in his spare time. Came to Manager Methods Dept. Brisbane in 1968

Subsequently was Branch Manager at Graceville, Caloundra, Bundaberg prior various senior positions within State Admin

During the 1969-73 period life in Methods was rather hectic with Merger and Computerisation

His workmates

I joined Methods in 1969. During this period, the following were members of the team:

Bevon Baildon,

Roe Saw,

Peter Linton,

Peter Brennan,

Les McConnell,

Alan Pratt,

Denise Muirhead,

Glenda Liddell.

Helen Broadfoot

I am sure readers will recall these officers and perhaps point out any omissions

Thank you Gordon for sharing this with Club members.

Denis Brown

♦ On Des Skelly's story

The report on the old Des stirred up a host of memories long, long forgotten. We go back to Creek Street days in the beginning of the "Sixty's".

I came from Nambour Branch to the big city. One of the first I met was **Norm Linthwaite**. Creek Street, of course, was not computerised and was not far removed from the old hand ledgers era.

Trading bank tellers were on one side of the office and Savings bank tellers on the opposite side. For a country kid this was one hell of a enlightening.

Des was in the Savings section with old Len Hermansen and a young Colin Smith. On the Trading bank side were Doug Cox (Bulk Teller down stairs), Horrie Jackson (No. 1 Teller), Ray Rowlings (No. 2 Teller), Len Williams (No. 3 Teller) and yours truly (No.4).

Others in the building were Peter Brennan and his wife-to-be Lyn, the lovely Judy Sparkes, and Jack Connolly (Acct.). Also Alf Madsen, now a retired cane farmer, who I run into on a regular basis, John and Lyn Roberts the two messengers, Jack Beattie and Charlie Hancock. Bob Carseldine and Mr. Bailey (Asst. Mgr.)

I can see many others but the old memory is rather shot.

Brian Mahon also comes to mind. He was also my Manager when we opened Emerald Branch. Of course we were guilty of assisting the Gresham Hotel to continue trading. Those carefree days didn't last as I was removed to do my New Guinea service in Lae.

Update

We are thoroughly enjoying our life in the Lakes Village here in Bundy. Pat remains busy as usual keeping house and keeping me out of mischief.

There are five of the fellow 'inmates' here, including me, who were born and reared in Wondai.

That can be a rather dangerous situation at times. However we do spend much of our time in the hobby shed telling lies with lots of good humour. We do make good things. One of the fellows whose wife was reared in NSW ANZ branches as her father was a Branch Mgr. there. Small world.

Keep up the good work team. I really enjoy the monthly missive

More from Members

Peter Lamb

About Peter and Beth Aitken

I read with interest and sadness about the passing of **Beth Aitken**.

I live in Caloundra and heard of the accident at the time it occurred, however I did not put two and two together.

While I did not know Beth, I worked with **Peter Aitken**.

Peter worked on the first floor of B (Q&C) in the late 80's as an Advances Clerk. That was at the time of "Managers Row" with Ron Ashley, lan Bressington, Ainslie Cutts, John McCrystal, Paul Krampera, Lester White and few others who all had offices fronting Queen Street.

Peter expressed interest in renewing his connection with Peter and with the help of Jenny Goss, this was achieved.

Greg Hooke

About the Aitkens & Godfreys

Very sad about Beth Aitken.

Peter worked for me at Bundy but I knew them from my earlier days in Brisbane.

Beth came from good banking stock.

I was reflecting today on when **Les & Anna Godfrey** left Townsville to return to Brisbane.

They had moved up north with four kids and when they left only one went back with them. Anna told me she shed quite a few tears that day.

Such lovely people.

John Collins would like to know –

If a poison "use-by" date expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?

Bruce Smith

 Bill and Garry Greet remembered

Sharon and I went for a drive up to Hervey's Range recently to celebrate Sharon's birthday at *The Heritage Tea Rooms*.

These tea rooms are situated in the former Eureka Hotel (circa 1865), reportedly North Queensland's oldest heritage listed building.

On a pathway at the rear of the hotel there is a list of previous owners of the property, including the Fryer family who were old longstanding customers of Flinders & Denham Sts., Townsville Branch.

What really caught my attention was a photo of previous owners **Bill & Dell Greet** (1984-2000).

interest and I set out to learn Garry's story. (See article next page.)

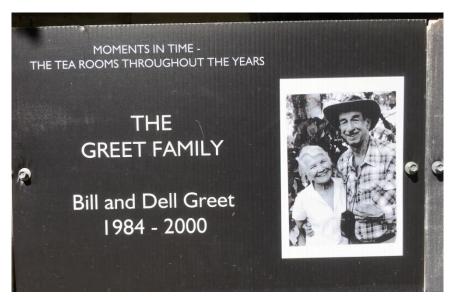
Lyle Brady

♦ Bill and Garry recalled

Lyle was only at Mount Isa in 1971/2 and so missed **Garry** there. However he remembers **Bill** from his Townsville days (1979 – 1984) and confirms that Bill did indeed work for a Trustee Company. That company was Union Fidelity.

When Lyle went to Jandowae in 1987 as Accountant he recalls that Garry was at Oakey. Also that Garry retired from Oakey and lived there after his retirement.

Lyle also suggested contacting **Betty Richter** and **Warren Patterson** for more information about Garry.



I remember working with Bill at Townsville (Flinders & Denham), probably in the late 1970's.

No doubt other members also worked somewhere with Bill.

He left the Bank and worked for one of the Trustee companies – possibly Australian Trustees!

Bill's younger brother Garry also worked in ANZ and I am fairly certain he was in Mount Isa at the same time as Lyle Brady, Trevor Chant and Graham Irvine (amongst others)

♦ Editor's interest

Garry and I knew each other a very long time ago. Our paths took us in different directions and we never maintained contact. But Bruce's piece pricked my

Betty Richter & Warren Patterson

Workmates of Garry

Warren and I both worked with Garry. He was a very good, quiet person who loved his golf and Lions Club. I liked Garry, he was a good fried to us both.

Garry died in 2013. He passed away at home very suddenly. He had returned home after a game of golf, sat in a chair and told his wife Sheila he would be along soon. He died in the chair.

Warren and Betty connected me to a eulogy written by his brother, Clive, That provided information about Garry in retirement.

Garry Greet



Written by the Editor but with considerable reliance on the input of others.

Garry was born in Rosewood and I was born in Maryborough. He beat me into the world by three months. But I beat him into the ANZ in a photo finish and into marriage by two years and five days.

40 years of service

Garry spent most of his 40 years of bank service in Queensland country branches, which included Townsville, Charters Towers, Jandowae, Bundaberg, Moura, and, of course, Oakey from where he retired..

Involved in the community

Throughout his working life and in retirement Garry involved himself in the communities where he lived. He was a Lions Club member for 40 years and frequently took on secretary and treasurer roles in local Clubs. That continued into his retirement.

Loved golf

He also took his passion for golf into retirement. He not only enjoyed the game, he also worked as a volunteer green-keeper and general handy-man at the Oakey Golf Club where he was known as Mr Fixit.

Travelling man

Travel also found its place in his retirement. He and his wife, Shiela, travelled extensively around the world and throughout Australia. Within Australia they used their campervan for their numerous trips.

In his spare time

When there was spare time Garry maintained a home garden and brewed his own beer. In fact he bottled his last brew on the day before he died.

His was an active life, suddenly ended.

Ian (Sprag) Wilson





 Report from Greg Hooke, Club Secretary.

Greg Dickens & **Ken Kitson** kindly alerted me to the sad news of the passing of our former colleague **David lan Fischer WILSON**; known as lan or **Sprag**.

Ian passed away peacefully on the 24 August (just shy of his 84TH birthday) in the presence of his wife Dell. They had been residents of Malanda on the Atherton Tablelands for many years and often appeared in the photos from the ANZROC FNQ Xmas gatherings.

Ian was born on 6th September 1936 and joined the ES&A (also known to some as the Easy, Slow & Ancient)
Team in 1954. I am fairly sure than Ian was one who told me that ES&A, actually stood for Extra Sex Appeal as it is something that would have tickled his fancy and I am sure many will recall him as one of our gentlemen bankers with a touch of Iarrikin. I recall him from his days as Manager Sandgate where he and the late Percy Adams had a great relationship with their customers and the community. Ian retired in 1990 after 36 years of service.

Sadly COVID19 restrictions forced the family to have a private service. Ian is survived by Dell and family (as extracted from the Notice in the Cairns Post) Monique; David & Mastinah; Peter & Nerida; plus grandchildren Mimosa, Kristina, Ember, Kore & Judah.

Toowoomba residents Greg & Carol-Anne were visiting the Far North and had a lovely catch-up with the Wilsons and were due for another meet when fate intervened. Greg has kindly offered to pen a few words about our late mate.

Our best wishes go to Dell and the family and as usual any reminiscences or messages can be sent to the Club.

Health Reports

John Cole

John has had a few health problems over the past 18 months.

Now, quite recently, he had a stay in hospital with blood clotting on the lung. Currently he is back home and being treated with blood-thinners.

Enough of this nonsense Coley. Just get better or we will have to have words.

Lyle Brady

Lyle says he is not jogging just yet, but has been walking beyond the driveway with the help of the walker.

He feels as though he is on the mend and has started hydrotherapy.

Jogging report next month perhaps?

Col MacKenzie

During August, Colin joined in on a very popular Club activity by having cataract operations on both his eyes.

Welcome aboard Col.

Vale Glen Twidale

♦ Compiled by Greg Hooke

This notice has been compiled from info posted in the ANZROC Victoria newsletter. Glen would be known to many Queenslanders from his Esanda and GM Retail Banking role in



the 1980s. Perhaps also some of our Scottie cohort knew him from his early Toowoomba days.

Report continued on next page

Get-together

The photo reproduced at the bottom of the page was sent to us by Bernadette Kinnane.

It pictures **Jack Connolly**, **John** and **Ruth Roberts** and **Bernadette Kinnane** sharing morning tea at the Kedron Wavell RSL in August.

This group connection goes back to the 1960's at ANZ Brisbane (Queen & Creek Streets) when Jack was the Branch Accountant, John was a Teller and Bernadette worked in ledgers. Ruth was a Lawyer.

Some of you may remember Bernadette in her pre-Brian days as **Bernadette Kerwick**.

Pictures such as this are always welcome. Thank you Bernadette.

TWIDALE L.G.(GLEN) 89 YEARS 16/07/2020

Glen had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease many years ago, but had been able to make the most of his life with support of his family, friends, and Claremont Terrace Aged Care in McKinnon Vic.

He joined the E S & A Bank, Toowoomba QLD in 1947 and held management positions from 1963 onwards. From 1973 to retirement in 1989 he held a variety of senior executive positions in the bank or its subsidiary companies in Tasmania, South Australia, and Victoria where he lived.

Report continued on second last page

The Ken Briggs trifecta

In previous editions of our newsletter we have featured:

- Peter Oakes' first ever pay slip. That was from 1964.
- Myles Clarkson's group certificate from 1971. That was first issue of group certificates following the ANZ/ES&A merger.
- John Tudhope's merger bonus payment slip from that merger.

Now, I think, **Ken Briggs** has gazumped them all with his trifecta.

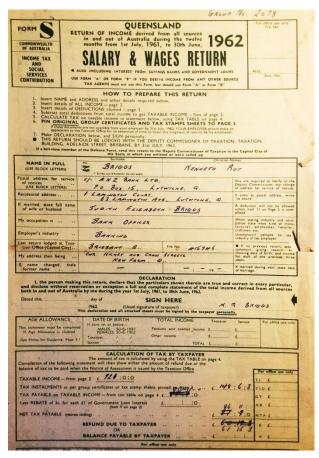
Ken has produced the full set of *group certificate, *tax return and the *notice of assessment which accompanied his tax refund.

All from the 1961/62 financial year.

There is history here.

A handwritten tax return, which was almost certainly sent in an envelope and requiring the purchase of a postage stamp (possibly 4½d.) and the licking of same to attach to the envelope.

A group certificate completed by typewriter most likely driven by a nice young lady in a uniform.









ES&A Staff Group – circa 1921

Researched and contributed by Noel Gilvarry

I was searching ES&A Bank, Brisbane on TROVE hoping to find some newspaper articles but I only found a reference to a staff photo at John Oxley Library contributed by Scottie ex-staffer Kathleen Batham. She joined the National Bank in Mackay around 1916 and transferred to the Scottie in Brisbane following the severe cyclone in January 1918 in which her family lost everything.

I was unable to access the photo online but a very obliging library staffer located the item, photographed it front and rear and emailed it to me.

I recently shared it with Geoff Taylor (our Resident Historian) who responded:

"It was good to hear from you and to see the attached photograph. The fellows that I knew are -

Bill Yates (Snr),

Cec Buckle (he was the accountant at 313 Queen street when I joined in 1946),

Cec Bunzli (Chief Clerk, Branch Dept. in my day),

Tom Veal,

There was a Miss Hepburn when I joined,

T.H Fitzgerald (he was the Inspector when I joined – Inspectors Department was the forerunner to the Branch Dept.),

Jas (Jimmy) Cleeve (he was the Valuer).

I knew the name John Bratchford.

First on the right in the third row is Claude Dinning. He was the Manager at Roma Street prior to Bill Read. Claude was over 100 when he died.

NJG found that Claude had served at Landsborough, Maleny and Nambour

I think that C.A. McIntyre was John McIntyre's father."

In 1921 all of those persons were young but when I joined in 1959 most of them were in senior positions.

I have suggested to Editor Graham that he endeavour to include the persons' position and name in a caption as this is historically significant. The John Oxley Library would appreciate further information so any contribution from members will be important. In due course I will send them the fully captioned photo after Editor Graham has done his thing. Thanks in anticipation Graham.

I will start the ball rolling by suggesting that the bloke 3rd from left of 2nd front row is Arthur Bennett Manager, Nambour. (Some will recall Nambour branch photos and information about Bennett which featured in a couple of newsletters almost 12 months ago.)

When I researched Branches of that era I found:

Kin Kin - Herbert George Barnes, Branch Manager was appointed a JP in

M. Honeyman was Manager Eumundi in 1921.

A P Curran was transferred from Pomona to Nambour in 1924 so was probably at Pomona in 1921.

A branch was erected at Landsborough in 1919 - probably opened in 1920

A branch had earlier been opened in Maleny through the efforts of Arthur Bennett.

In that era there were also branches in Palmwoods and Yandina but I have

I hope members enjoy this historically significant photo and a bit of 100 year old history.



Kirribilli 1971



This photo appeared in last month's newsletter.

We knew it was taken at the Reserve Bank College, Kirribilli in 1971, and very likely it was February. Also that there were two Queenslanders in it.

♦ Response from Geoff Taylor

Geoff picked the two Queenslanders who we were certain of, namely **Peter Manifold** and **Graham Robbins**. He also believes that **Bevan Baildon** is in there and possibly even **Ray Eaton**.

There was the suggestion this would have been the first course at Kirribilli following the ANZ/ES&A merger. Geoff is also of that opinion that it was, so that makes it a certainty.

♦ Response from Greg Hooke

Geoff identified the Editor as a certainty and he thought he could see **Graham Swan**. However the **Graham Swan** lookalike is more likely to be **Des Kidd**.

Last month **Bill Boucher** appeared in both this photo and the ES&A group. Greg had no difficulty identifying him. Sitting third from the right.

October edition

If the October newsletter has not arrived in you In Box by the 9th October, there is a very good chance that there is no October edition, unless someone other than the Editor does it.

Between then and the 18th the Editor's activities will be restricted to kayaking, cycling, fishing and socialising, in and around Golden Beach.



Memorabilia

Follow on from the July newsletter

Last month we included a couple of photos sent in by **Alan King**. The photos were pertinent because this month marks the 50th Anniversary of the ES&A/ANZ merger.

One of the photos was of ES&A and Esanda collectables, but space constraints did not allow a proper description of Alans's collection.

The items displayed in the photo are only a part of Alan's collected memorabilia. He has some rare items. They include a Melbourne road map for the '56 Olympics and a book of AFL teams, amongst others.

Of special interest is a steel framed glass window on which the hanging fleece is etched. It came from Woolloongabba branch. Alan had a wrought iron coffee table frame made for it.

Will Bailey

♦ A Queensland connection

News of the passing of **Will Bailey** reached us earlier this month. He had a fall at home and did not recover from his injuries.

The picture below shows Will with a group of Queenslanders in festive mode at a Fijian resort in 1985.

Will had flown in to join a group of Queenslanders at a farewell night at the end of a week-long sojourn on the island.

Glen Twidale

Glen involved himself in many different activities including ANZROC Vic, Life member of Apex, Freemasons Hospital, Mt Waverley Probus and Auburn Heights Bowling

A keen golfer for many years and a keen St. Kilda supporter, along with many other interests such as music and dancing, he was a very devoted family man to his wife Naida (Decd.), three daughters, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Tribute from Keith Witney

"I was saddened to learn of the recent death of **Glen Twidale**. My first acquaintance with Glen was when he was in a senior management position in Esanda. Subsequently I worked with Glen when he was G.M. Retail Banking ahead of and during my time as A.G.M. Branch Banking in Queensland.

Jill and I remember Glen and his dear wife Naida (Decd.) with affection and respect. Glen had a straight-shooting management style, possessed great commonsense and good judgement and engendered loyalty among those with whom he worked. One of the valuable lessons he taught me was not to accept that something could not be done - there will be a way!

Glen will be sadly missed by many people."



Noel Gilvarry

→ The Cruise that did not go

Last month Editor Graham opened the
batting by advocating for embracing
technology. The last bit about lodging a
Health Directive on MyGov was news to
me, so I mentally filed that article under
Information Sharing.

I AM SHARING A STORY because maybe some members may not be aware of their rights.

OUT OF POCKET - Recently there have been several TV articles about people being out of pocket for prepaid travel in particular with Virgin. This indicted to me that quite probably many (including some ANZROC members) may not be aware of the options that can protect them from such circumstances. We had paid about \$7500 on our Platinum Visa card for a cruise from Sydney to Hawaii plus flights and hotel accommodation that was to depart on Anzac Day.

COVID - As the Covid clouds rolled in the Cruise Company issued Bulletins through the travel agent. I became concerned about the prospect of being closely confined on a ship with a herd of people but having paid in full was locked in. Then thankfully along came a Bulletin announcing that "Passengers over 70 will be denied boarding".

You Bloody Bewdy. A refund will come our way.

IT WAS NOT THAT SIMPLE - The travel agent advised that it could take 4 months for them to get a refund from the Cruise company and the airlines may only issue credits. After a few fruitless requests in that direction I told them that I intended to lodge a disputed transaction with ANZ as openers to chargeback the transaction. They pleaded that I did not take that course. Probably because they are not financially strong and if several travellers did so they would collapse.

REFLECTIONS - I reflected on my days as Manager Cards and the Visa International Regulations book about disputing and charging back of transactions. Through the ANZ website I

lodged a "Disputed Transactions" claim with ANZ Cards. After about 4 weeks I received a letter telling me that my claim had been closed as I had not provided information **BUT THEN THEY NEVER ASKED**.

That got me out of my tree.

FINALLY ACTION - Again through the ANZ website I lodged a complaint that alleged staff incompetence etc.

That got action. Mary Lou rang me from the Philippines. I have to say she knew her stuff. I provided several documents and a couple of days later she rang again to say she would issue a temporary refund but we would have to wait 45 days to allow the merchant time to challenge the chargeback. Recently I got a letter confirming it was closed in my favour.

PROTECTIVE INSURANCE - I always pay for travel on my Visa card despite sometimes having to pay a small card fee because:

- My Platinum Visa card provides free travel insurance.
- Visa cards offer some consumer protection in certain circumstances such a nonreceipt of goods or services.

ANOTHER PROTECTIVE INSURANCE -

On another tangent I always pay through PAYPAL for eBay transactions and online purchases because PAYPAL also provides good consumer protection that I have benefitted from on a few occasions.

If you or a family member are out of pocket there may still be a life line for you. Please be aware that there are time limitations to commence a disputed transaction. I hope this may help some members or their families.

Noel has proposed that we include a section in our newsletters to share information which could be useful to other members and there is no editorial objection to that.

Annoying emails

Now I know you would never get caught by scammers using email. You are far too smart for that. But you could be annoyed with the unwanted emails that keep popping up in your In Box.

You don't have to put up with it.

No doubt you already use the facility that allows you to nominate certain emails as Spam. But you can take that a step further by setting up your own filters.

It is just a matter of identifying the offending emails and nominating an instruction about what should happen to them.

For identification you can choose to use any part of the offending emails. It can be all or part of the senders address, the subject, or any word or combination of words which may be contained in the message.

For instructions you can nominate to redirect the message, delete it or, just advise you.

You can set your filters to operate either at your ISP or Mail Client points. If you're hazy on that point refer to your July newsletter. It's all explained there.

Members Gallery

If you have not checked out the Club's Members' Gallery recently there is very likely e few items you have not seen.

Over the past few months items have been added to the following galleries.

- Head Shots
- Clips
- Groups
- Memorabilia

Any links that have already been provided to you remain active.

Maybe you have a link to just one or two of the galleries. Rather than gather a collection of links, why not get a link to the parent gallery and that will give you access to all with a single link.

Let's know if you want a link renewed or want to move up to the parent link. We will get it to you, 'toot sweet'.

Ian (Sprag) Wilson by Greg Dickens

It is with a great deal of sadness that I have commenced writing these few words about a great friend and mate, Ian (Sprag) Wilson who passed away suddenly on Monday 24th August.

We were there

We (Carol-Anne & I) were supposed to be visiting Ian & Dell for lunch the next day at their Malanda home. Instead Dell had the harrowing task of ringing me to say that Sprag had gone peacefully sitting in his chair after Lunch and doing a bit of yard work. Ian would have been 84 this coming Father's Day, 6th September. It would have also been Ian & Dell's 57th Wedding Anniversary.

A long-time friend

I have known Sprag for over 50 Years, firstly when he was a relief Manager in the Scottie and he came to Maleny Branch one time.

We crossed paths a few times and then met up again when he was the Manager Atherton and I was transferred to Cairns as Regional Lending Manager, Retail Banking, North Queensland. Our friendship quickly rekindled and, as you can imagine, a few drinks were enjoyed at many a Manager's Conference.

When Sprag retired

It was a pleasure to attend his retirement function and to listen to his tales about all things banking, past and present, and incidents that he had experienced from time to time with various customers and Bank Hierarchy. Ian & Dell purchased 6 acres of pristine land with some Rainforest, open grassland and a flowing creek around one boundary at Topaz Road near Malanda where they proceeded to set up their home.

His second job

Although Ian retired from ANZ, he continued to work for a number of years with the Tablelands Potato Growers Co-Op. He was their trouble shooter/go-to man and was very successful in this role.

As an aside my eldest sister who worked for the Federal Department of Primary Industries, met Ian in this role and always commented on his larrikin manner but business acumen. Both in this role, and personally Ian and Dell managed to travel widely around the World and Australia.

He was a swimmer

lan was an avid swimmer and installed a lap pool at their home so he could continue his love of swimming. Talking recently with David his eldest son, he mentioned that when lan was at Coolangatta Branch, he would drag all three kids out of bed early each morning and head off to Kirra Beach to swim laps.

Growing up

lan was the son of a Post Master, who, like *Bank Johnnies*, were transferred around the countryside. His father started work at Mareeba Post office then onto Goomeri Post Office where lan was born. Later the family moved to Adavale Post Office and then back to Mareeba where lan started school. So you can see that lan does have a long history with the Atherton Tablelands and Mareeba.

In 2020

Earlier this year Ian and Dell had purchased a Villa in the Savannah Retirement Village at Mareeba and were planning to move there when their Malanda home sold. When we were up there last year we went with Ian & Dell to inspect the complex and offered our experiences from living in a similar resort here in Toowoomba. They were very excited about this next stage of their lives. It is Dell's intention to still move there in the next few weeks.

He joined the Bank

Further transfers for lan's Father included Chillagoe and Beenleigh. Ian reckoned that Beenleigh, although not famous, was notable for being half-way between Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

lan joined the E.S.& A. Bank at Beenleigh on 2nd February 1954.

Putting that in perspective, I was not quite 4 years old!!!!

The true meaning of ES&A

I had always thought that ESA stood for *Easy, Slow & Awkward* but have since learnt there are many interpretations as follows:

Greg Hooke – Easy Slow & Ancient

Ian Wilson – Eat Sleep & Argue and the one I like best - Extra Sex Appeal.

I am sure there will be many others.

An interesting anecdote

lan's early branches included Nambour, Palmwoods and its Eudlo Agency, Imbil, Woodford and then Townsville at the age of 20 where **Maurie Harland** was the Manager.

Maurie had a bit of a reputation and Ian is one of the many who fell foul of this reputation. He told me he was being "chewed out" in the banking chamber in front of all the customers who did not know where to look.

lan responded with "Mr Harland, I have only one pair of hands and I do the best I can, however if this is not good enough for you then write to Brisbane and get some other poor bastard up here who is good enough" and walked out of the Branch down Stanley Street to Lowths Hotel, ordered a beer, drank it and thought, 'well Wilson you have done it this time' and then ordered another beer!

Eventually he went back and had a long discussion with Mr Harland and things were worked out.

21 and Nasho

Not long after that, Ian turned 21 and Maurie and his wife put on a party for him at their home with a keg of beer and a few of his mates. A few months later Ian was conscripted to do three months National Service at Wacol. He told me that Maurie, having been a Major in the Army was very proud of him going into the Army.

Becoming a Manager

lan's first Managerial appointment was as Manager Buderim, which was being upgraded from Agency status and created a little controversy (sorry Knocker) at the time.

There will be others who will have knowledge of lan's Managerial Branches which included, I believe, Coolangatta and Atherton.

Keeping in contact

Because we have family living on the Tablelands, we travel up there each year and always made a point of catching up with Ian and Dell.

Sitting around their kitchen table over morning tea or lunch was always a joy. Ian was always good for a story and we would reminisce about our experiences and mutual friends.

A reader and a painter

He was a great reader and would always keep the books he read to pass on to me.

Dell did the same with Carol-Anne.

I can't thank Ian enough for the many magnificent Authors he introduced me to.

He loved painting and was quite an accomplished Artist.

Home in Malanda

Their home at Malanda was ideal as lan had his own studio which was filled with his paintings of Australiana. It was his intention to continue to pursue this hobby and they had already worked out which room was to be his studio when they moved to Savannah.

A man remembered

In conclusion, Ian was a country boy with a larrikin spirit and respected by all who met him.

I don't think a bad word was ever said about him and he really was a true gentleman Banker always looking after his customers to the best of his ability.

A great mate who will be missed.

Rest in Peace dear friend.