

ICL AllStars Magazine

Issue 68* Winter 2020* Keeping the great ICL community in touch, in contact and informed

Well, yet another autumnal season over, and what a very eerie situation in which we find all of ourselves, with the wretched Corona virus threat hanging over the heads of our community. We felt it would be inappropriate not to make some comment on this dilemma, here and now.

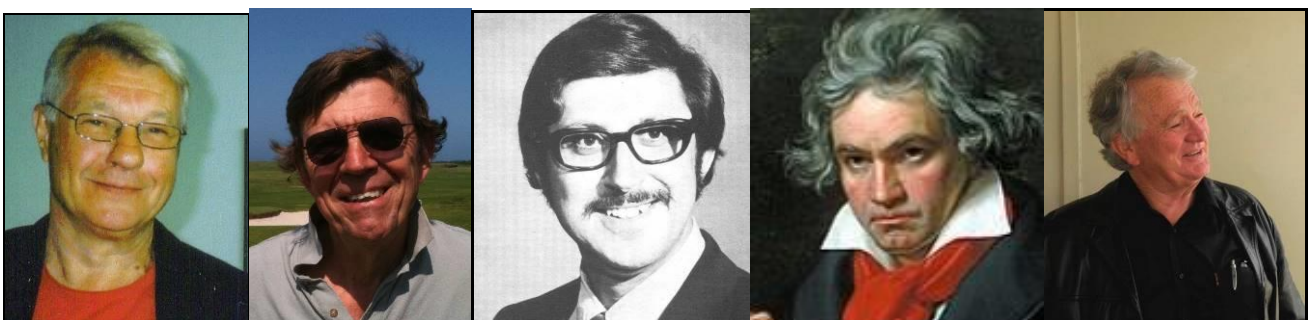
But if you want doom and gloom, try your newspaper, radio or TV. In this edition, we prefer to focus on some philosophy, provided by the inimitable Peter Springett, and some humour from the ever-gracious and amusing **Anthea Vitarelli**. We also have a very much tongue-in-cheek observation of matters from London courtesy of the legendary **John Anderson**.

We then move on to reflections from **Rod Rodwell** on our last edition's grand feature item from **Ian Craig**. RR shares many of the **Craig** words of deep business wisdom.

We have a great story from **Bill Wade**, while **David Hughes** recollects a long time with ICL in Oz including working with such legends as **Ron Nissan**, **Bob Brammah** and **Bob Scott**.



And we shouldn't forget **David Hughes'** colleagues **David Dearman** and **Mike Beilby**. The ever classical **Raf Dua** reminds us of Beethoven's 250th birthday. Ludwig being our drop-in celebrity guest photo for this edition. It's then on to **John Haug**, for an item on why men are happier than women.



Well, you can't complain about too much temperance in this issue: see **Anthea's** racial sarcasm and **John's** sexist remarks. Don't say we don't bring it to you with both barrels.

Keeping the sarcasm progressing, there are two pictorial reflections on Corona from **Trevor Jarrett**.

And then we move to **Steve Wallis** in WA (not pictured). Buddy – we are still waiting on your photo. **Steve** reflects on ICL deals, such as that fantastic contract with Swan Brewery, and his key Perth associates such as **Noel Fogarty**, **Gerry van Pypen** and **Gordon Black**.

Next we go to Geelong, and **Mike Vanderkelen**, for commentary on the building and racing of rather absurd wooden boats. We have **Ken Simper** in an historical Woolworths' pic, and several other AllStars legends who also made the Woolies relationship happen, work so brilliantly, and then go on to make the contract grow and grow. Here, we remember **Ken** who played a valued behind-the-scenes role as one of our activists, and **Bruce Hannah**, who became our key man on site. Others involved in this major win were the extraordinary **Colin Choat**, the amazing **Gary** (the major) **Ghent**, **Angus Neil-Smith** (below far right) and **John Wilde**.



Along our merry way, we have items on or from such distinguished notables as **Jerry Montgomery**, **Pam Garney**, **Kent Brooks**, **Bob Stanton** and **Chris Howells**.



Which is certainly not ignoring articles involving **John Farrell**, **Raf Starkey**, **Peter Gynge**, **Derrick Davey**, **Cedric Dickens**, **Bill Leakey**, **Tim Baker**, the stunning **Val Piper**, the ever-marvellous **Marcia McCausland**, and the amazing **Jan Havercroft** at the ABC desk for the station's Victorian election broadcast.



Close to issue's end we have a special feature, crafted by **Neil Lamming** for our UK-related *LEO Matters* magazine. This looks at that company's early successes down under.

Here we feature the likes of **Wallace Weaving**, **Tony Joyce**, **Tom Cooper**, **John Hoey**, **Beryl Jones** ((néé **Hulley**), **Robert Timms**, **David Jones** and **Pat Magee**.



With this edition done and dusted, and after some 14 years plus at the editorial helm, I am signing off as your modest scribe.

The trip has been a really great one, and an adventure that has been as memorable as it has been enjoyable. Truly delicious.

It has been so very, very good to reconnect with fantastic old colleagues, and to meet others who had once been but names.

Along the way, things would not have happened without the superb support of the late but great **Geoffrey Howell**, the magic proofreading skills of **Jean Hackett** and **Anthea Vitarelli** and, in more recent times, the invaluable contributions of **Raf Dua** and **Kent Brooks** on the database and distribution front, as well of course, as the indefatigable **Peter Springett**.

A special thanks as well to our many fantastic contributors, both the ever-so-marvellous regulars and the delightful casuals alike.

Every valued input was so extraordinarily welcome.

And these inputs ensured we could regularly put a solid edition on the streets.

Having said all of that (and noting that it may take some time to find a new editor), I am more than happy, in the short-term, to keep things happening on a 'business as usual' basis, and with the help of **Kent** and **Raf**. So do keep your inputs coming in. As always, send them to ianscott5@gmail.com.

So to everyone, I say thank you, take care and enjoy jolly good health. Thank you for having me.

As ever. **Ian Pearson**.

Feedback

- Hi **Raf**. Many thanks, once again, for the latest great AllStars issue.

I particularly loved **Ian Craig's** incisive piece. It was a potent reflection of all the things that equally followed me into the later part of my own eclectic career.

Cheers guys. **Rod Rodwell**.



The ever great-**Rod Rodwell** (left), and one of our most successful entrepreneurs **Ian Craig**.

- **Bill Wade** writes: Hi **Raf**. Really enjoyed the latest ICL AllStars newsletter. Thanks.

Such a long time since I laid eyes on you, you old bugger, From memory, that was over a bottle of scotch in Port Moresby.

I recently attended **Roy Lester's** birthday gig and met up with **Trevor Kassulke**, **Bob Brammah** and **Peter Bruin** among many others. Amazing we are all still very much alive and kicking.

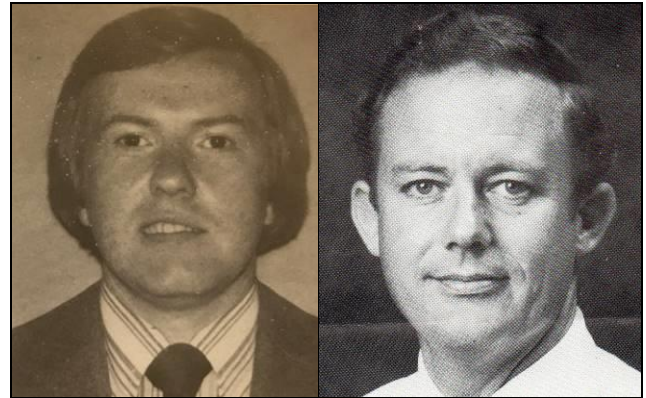
Stay well and keep working. Regards **Bill Wade** (Brisbane)

Raf replied: **Bill**, I can still taste that marvellous whiskey. You realise it was over forty-five years ago.



A dram or three: Bill Wade.in pensive mode.

- **David Hughes** reports: Mention of me in the last edition of the AllStars magazine seriously set me thinking about a phone call one Sunday night in December 1976 from **Chris Robinson**.



Taking council: David Hughes (left) and **Chris Robinson**.

Chris explained he had my CV in front of him and would I like to move to Queensland, as the Brisbane City Council were demanding he appoint a local government specialist.



A capital idea: Brisbane City Council's HQ.

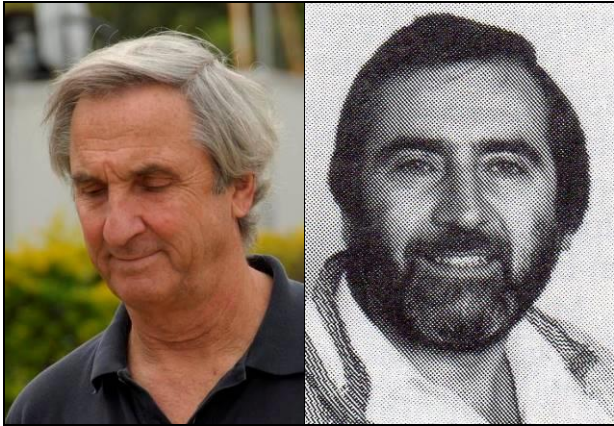
I was taken aback, and had to look on a map to see where Brisbane was.

Just after Christmas, he suggested I fly to Brissy for a month so I could make a start on Brisbane City issues (they were looking for software from the UK) and this I did working with **Bob Scott**.

My first weekend was spent at the Gold Coast with **Bob** – what a difference from the UK.

My visit gave me a chance to see what Brisbane was like and part way through it I rang my wife to say we should take up the offer. We did but it took months, and the intervention of the Town Clerk to get us a visa, but we moved in the ensuing August.

David Hughes cont ...



The unbeatable Queensland team: **Bob Scott** (left) and **Bob Brammah**.

By then **Bob Brammah** had also been appointed to Oz, and he saw us off from London Heathrow airport before himself moving to the Queensland capital a month or so later.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Australia from 1977 to 1991, some of it in ICL and some as a freelance consultant across Asia/Pacific.

In 1978 Brisbane City decided to switch from ICL to Unisys and I found myself with nothing much to do, so I left to work on my own.

This did not prove to be very successful, so I returned to the old company a couple of years later.

Thus started what has probably been the most productive and enjoyable time of my working life.

I was surprised by the interesting projects I became involved in both in Australia and in other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

One of the best was promoting a financial package called LAFIS, initially to the Tasmania Government. Before I left the UK, I had worked with **Peter Turner** on the design of this system.

ICL UK did a lot of its business from a range of local government application software and I was in a team tasked with continuing development of what we had to offer and then promoting and implementing it.

We worked with one of the local authorities to establish what business issues we wanted to support. This led to unique functionality which made it very flexible and also saw it hold all transactions for a long time. This made it appropriate for not only accounting but also project cost management.

When Tasmania came out to tender it was an opportunity to introduce LAFIS into Australia.

One of my UK colleagues, **Reg Aldridge** came over to help me as he had marketing responsibility for the software. And by this time **Peter Turner** had become development manager for it. The three of us were good friends and still are some 40 years on.

In Tasmania we held a workshop for a week with their finance team to decide how LAFIS could be implemented there, and based on that they decided to buy, making it a competitive win over Unisys, their incumbent supplier.

LAFIS then featured in my life for several years. Sales included QEGB with **Bob Brammah** when they liked the idea of combining, in one package, the cost and financial accounting.

Then a sale was made to CFL, also with **Bob**, as they believed LAFIS to be unique in handling both types of accountancy functions.

Kuala Lumpur Council was another win and included all the necessary mainframe hardware.

Queensland Police came out to tender and I was able to use a contact in the UK to find a unique piece of hardware which was particularly appropriate to police, namely CAFS.

QPD were keen to be able to access the police database when they were out on patrol to identify, from car registration plates, the owners of vehicles and to do so quickly.

CAFS ability to search a disc drive faster than anything else on the market won us the business after a challenge from Fujitsu and a visit to the first police user of CAFS in the UK, North Yorkshire County Council, where I had previously been head of IT.

I then moved on from LAFIS to work with Logan City with salesman **Peter Henderson**. They had come to tender for an accounting system with a budget of only \$250k.

But on our first meeting with their Deputy Town Clerk, we spotted an opportunity which we turned into an order several times the value of their planned budget.

Logan was a new Council, established between Brisbane and the Gold Coast where the population was expanding very rapidly.

I was able to point out to them that they were unlikely to be allowed to increase their staffing levels in line with population increase and so perhaps they not be thinking about a computer on every desk, which is what they bought – with a managed service from us to operate the whole system.

The opportunity then arose to work on a few projects in the Asia-Pacific region. Notably, the Papua New

David Hughes cont ...

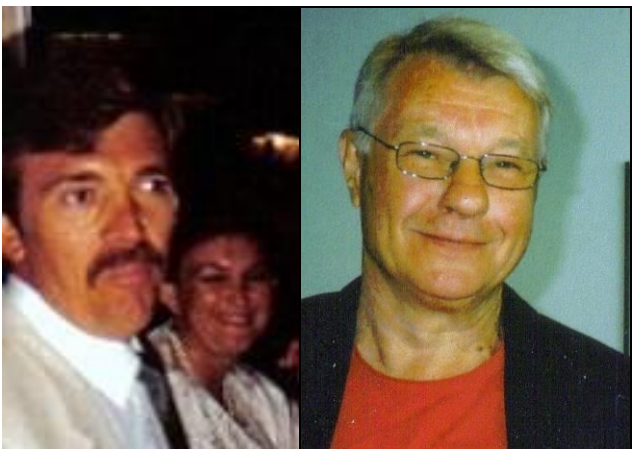
Guinea Government came out to tender for a Land Register project, and I worked with **Mike Beilby** to promote software based on UK software.

This won the deal. I also worked in Malaysia and Singapore with the local ICL offices.



A mountaineering legend for whom an avalanche on Everest spoiled one climb, but that's not to forget his most challenging escapades in Antarctica: **Ron Nissan**.

After this I left ICL and I had four years in Adelaide with my own GIS business (Spasys). During that time I did a marketing strategy for **Ron Nissan** and **David Dearman** (who by that time had joined Unisys) on the GIS market in Australia and New Zealand.



A likely duo: **Mike Beilby** and **David Dearman**.

But then my wife decided she wanted us to return to the UK. We decided that she and our children should first move with me to follow some months later.

The dear lady suggested that even though I was going to still be in Australia I should start to look for work in the UK.

I did so by contacting five people in the UK to see if they knew of any opportunities for me, and within a week **Ron Nissan** (now Vice President of Unisys in the UK) responded to say he needed someone to run a worldwide GIS programme based in Great Britain, and would I fly to London for an interview within the week.

This I did, and got the job and never returned to Australia!! The programme needed a new strategy as the product they were developing did not suit their market position which was selling to large-enterprise customers.

So I had to persuade **Ron** and then the CEO of Unisys based in Philadelphia, USA, to give me a \$3m budget to rip out the database and replace it so the number of users the system could handle rose from half a dozen to virtually unlimited.

This led to a major order from British Telecom, and one from Heathrow Airport.

Since 1991 I have lived, and still work, in the UK.

Unisys sold the GIS programme and moved its base to the USA, but I was not interested in moving there, so I became Unisys' director for the public sector, working with 50 distributors across Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

That demanded that a lot of my time was spent flying, three or four times a week.

But there were fascinating projects too, including an ID card incorporating NEC Japan's fingerprint technology for all residents of South Africa.

The thrill of flying round the world every week soon lost its gloss, and so in 1999 I left Unisys and again became self-employed. Since then, I have done numerous projects, which I continue to pursue.

Of interest was establishing a bid management team at Dimension Data.

Apart from that I have mostly project managed transformative applications implementations in local government and social housing.

- **John Andrews** reports: The COVID-19 lockdown here in London is awful. On the surface, it seems there is no totally effective organisation for any aspect of the crisis.

Except that many GPs are suddenly finding video consultations work.

All well and good, but that's little use for hearing-impaired patients and for those conditions where

John Andrews Cont ...

smell is significant for diagnosis. And trust me, it can be.



London calling: John Andrews.

All of that, plus our weather is dreadful: cold, snow, rain, wind, a bit of sun etc, all in a morning.

Bit like Melbourne as I recall a Sydneysider told me, with mild malice I assume since he's an entirely voluntary Australian citizen.

Back there in Oz, did your stores all run out of bathroom and lavatory products.

Locally, I have this distasteful and horrid vision of many Brits suddenly realising they need to exercise a solid degree of hygiene (it's the specific vision of this process, that puts me off my dinner).

I most sincerely hope all our Aussie members stay healthy.

Kind regards. **John Andrews.**

Editor's note: For our philosophical and humorous view of the pandemic do read (a little later) on.

Steve Wallis from WA writes ...

So very sorry to hear about **Geoffrey** last month. He helped keep alive links to my ICL past, the good ones mainly.

Things like Swan Brewery, the VME/K project and most fondly **Tom Shaw**, to name but a few. From

memory it was '85 when I left ICL to explore emerging 'PC' opportunities.



To be sure, to be sure: **Tom Shaw** (right) seen here with **Bob Shaw**.



A top drop: **Noel Fogarty**, George Geddes (SWAN executive PR), Bruce Mille (SWAN executive secretary), **Gerry Van Pypen** and **Gordon Black**.

Never really thought about a show and tell: it always struck me as being a little self-indulgent. But since your editorial team is unmercifully asking for news and stories, thought I might give you a heads-up of where I am now.

The best starting point is www.glyde.net.au .

It's a tech start-up owned by Fleetwood Corporation in WA.

We independently developed end-to-end technology to get FIFO workers into their 'donners' without queuing to collect keys from facility receptions. We called this STR (straight-to-room). It's actually a lot more but...

We did it this way because it made business and operational sense. And we own a 1300-room FIFO facility in the Pilbra that needed a better way of

Steve Wallis cont ...

getting large numbers of FIFO workers into their rooms, and managing the energy they consume.

But I never imagined something like COVID-19 and 'social distancing' would so underpin STR's relevance.

Anyway, anticipate some self-isolation happening soon. So happy to write a piece for the next publication, but would like some content guidance if possible.

Keep well and thanks for Issue #67.
Kind regards - **Steve Wallis**
Chief Technical Officer - Glyde

And so to that dastardly Corona virus

First, we need to stress that your editorial team is in total sympathy with all the individuals and communities under health and economic pressure from the blooming COVID-19 pandemic.

Like us, you are undoubtedly confronted with the daily media, which seems to have little capacity for dwelling on anything other than the dire consequences of the virus.

But human nature, being what it is, can put a humorous or a philosophical spin on pretty much anything. And it's on those two ways of looking at things that we'd like to briefly dwell.

A very, very politically incorrect item from Anthea Vitarelli

The ever-delicious **Anthea** tells us, on totally reliable information, that the English are feeling the pinch in relation to the recent virus threat, and have therefore raised their threat level from "Miffed" to "Peeved".

Soon, though, the bar may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross".

The English have not been "A Bit Cross", since the blitz in 1940 when their tea supplies nearly ran out.

The virus itself has been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to "A Bloody Nuisance". The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was in 1588, when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

The Scots have lifted their threat level from "Pissed Off" to "Let's Get the Bastard".

The Celts don't actually have any other bothering levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line of the British army for the last 300 years.

Crossing the ditch, the French government announced yesterday that it has raised its own alert level from "Run" to "Hide".

The only two higher public alerts in France are "Collaborate" and "Surrender".

The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralysing the country's military capability.

Italy has increased their alert level from "Shout Loudly and Excitedly" to "Elaborate Military Posturing".

Two more levels remain: namely "Ineffective Combat Operations" and "Change Sides".

The inimitable Germans have increased their warning state from "Disdainful Arrogance" to "Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching Songs". They also have two higher levels: "Invade a Neighbour" and "Lose".

Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual; the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels.

The Spanish are all excited to see their new submarines ready to deploy.

These beautifully-designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish navy.

Nothing to do with the virus of course. But that, after all, is the magnificent Iberia for you. And do think of a magnificent paella while you are about it.

Anthea adds that: Australia, meanwhile, has raised its alert level from "No worries" to "She'll be right, mate".

Two more escalation levels remain: "Crikey! I think we'll need to cancel the barbie this weekend!" and "The barbie is cancelled".

So far, no situation has ever warranted use of the final escalation level.

That, sadly has now changed. Is nothing sacred?

On to a couple of sarcastic pictorial comments from Trevor Jarrett.

TJ was on a visit back to Bali.

We lifted the pics most unceremoniously, and uninvited, from his Facebook site. Hope that's all right with you mate.

It should be noted that both featured pics concern beer – including Corona.

Corona virus commentary cont ...



It's Bintang not Corona. Life is tough in Bali. The ever-shy Trevor with some friends.



Perhaps we'll name the next virus Fosters or Tooheys: Trevor and son Jeremy.

From virus humour and sarcasm to a modest tad of pandemic philosophical thinking from **Peter Springett**.

A Peter Springett tad of great virus philosophy

“And the people stayed home.
And read books, and listened, and rested
And exercised, and made art, and played games,
And learned new ways of being, and were still.
And listened more deeply.

Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.

Some met their shadows.
And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed.
And in the absence of people living in ignorant,
dangerous, mindless and heartless ways,
The earth began to heal.”

“And when the danger passed,
And the people joined together again,
They grieved their losses, and made new choices,
and dreamed new images,

And created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,
As they themselves had been healed.”

But now to the classical From Raf Dua

March saw the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birthday.

The lad was, of course, a German composer and pianist; his music is amongst the most performed of the classical repertoire, and he is one of the most admired composers in the history of western music.

His works span the transition between the classical and romantic eras in the fantastic music of his era.

Regrettably, the appalling COVID-19 (yes, that again) prevented music lovers from going to the composer's special concert at Hamer Hall in Melbourne (a project I first worked on in the late 70s).

However, the marvellous Melbourne Symphony Orchestra broadcast the event over the net.

Although I guess many were thinking the Melbourne 'Sympathy' Orchestra might have been a more apposite title to use on the night.

Nonetheless, I was still able to luxuriate in listening to and watching all the great Beethoven symphonies.

The end piece gave me a magnificent time on my own seriously savouring the 9th.

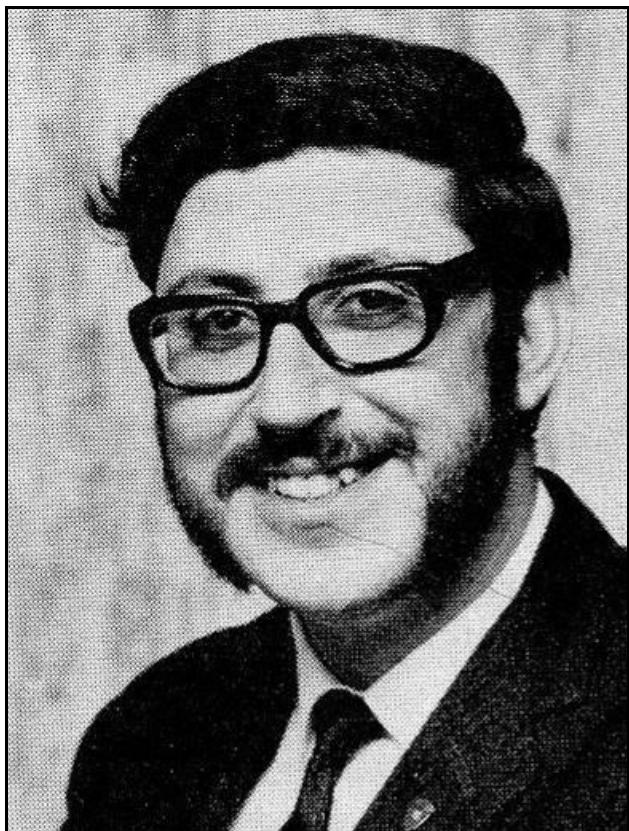
(Well to be absolutely truthful, my dog Jedda and a fine bottle of red were more than super company.)

Oh, how magnificent and grand it all was.

We shall hope that to mark further Beethoven birthdays, the wretched virus will be long gone.

Meaning we can all go back to the concert hall, enjoying things in apposite surroundings, with super acoustics and in the fine company of fellow music aficionados.

To the classical cont ...



Classical in every way: Raf Dua a symphony in motion.



Personally, I've always preferred the 5th: The Dua music critic **Jedda**, post a massive trim from the dog hairdresser.



Happy birthday Ludwig: Like Raf's dog, you too could have probably done with a haircut.

Darwinian-theory

Our great comrade **Michael Beilby** was very recently in Darwin, for a visit from his present home in Vietnam.

He notes the northern Oz capital was looking deliciously green and especially beautiful, though a bit sticky.

He added: "It was fabulous to have dinner one night, with daughter, granddaughter and lovely wife, at Smith Street, Darwin."



Mike and the lovely ladies.

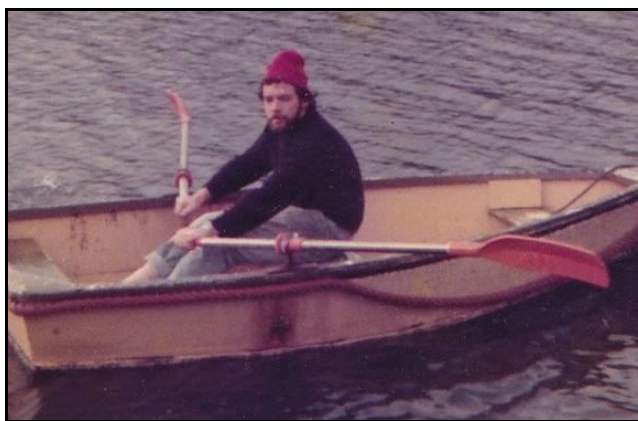
Staying afloat as a wooden boat building mentor

By Mike Vanderkelen

For more than two years I have been in awe of my fellow Corio Bay skiff-builders and owners with whom I have been working to build the St Ayles skiffs used in the fast-growing sport of coastal rowing.

And while my enthusiasm for this might be boundless, and the woodworking skills I have brought to bear would best be described as “modest”, I’ve been delighted to have made contributions both to building the boats and befriending many people from magically diverse cultures.

However, I would be stretching the truth if I was to claim I could “mentor” anyone in the art of wooden boat building. But, at the invitation of the organisers of Geelong’s recent 2020 Wooden Boat Festival, I am forced to do so.



The old man and the sea: Ever with a modest boating penchant, **Mike VdK** on the great Hawkesbury/Pittwater arena, harvesting delicious natural (and so small) rock oysters, if memories can be relied upon.

When this year’s festival rolled around, mentors were needed to help those participating in a waterfront event called the Rough and Ready boat-build.

This competition, sponsored by marine epoxy and paint-maker Bote-Cote, called for teams of three to design, build and launch a boat using three sheets of plywood, ample quantities of Bote-Cote epoxy and as many plastic cable ties as were needed to build a vessel of which a master mariner might be proud.

Built in just two hours on Saturday afternoon, the ‘vessels’ were launched the following morning for a race by two of each team’s members around buoys in the yacht club marina, using any non-carbon form of power from muscles to sails to solar energy.

A diverse group of contestants ensured an equally diverse approach to boat design, construction and power sources.

One team comprised local survivors of breast cancer who support research for that worthy cause, and called themselves *The Jigger Naughts*. These marvellous folk normally power across Corio Bay in their dragon boat. But this time they set a sail in the form of a real bodgy job with a larger-than-normal bra.

They were joined by the Geelong Coast Guard whose crew set out to prove they did not need their own services-at least on this day.

And, not to be relegated to their studios, the Geelong Sculptors deployed their collective imaginations to astound all with their boat design. Representatives of Geelong’s Syriac community from Iraq, as well as Iranians, Pakistanis and Deakin University’s engineering school – many unfamiliar with rowing and boats-rounded out a field of seven boats and crews.

My team, to be mentored, called itself *Above and Beyonds*. They are Master of Engineering students - a girl and two guys - two here from Pakistan to study at Deakin’s Waurin Ponds campus.

Their design was bleeding-edge: a solar battery-powered turbine with an Australia II winged keel, the latter shielded in an old sheet, away from prying eyes.



Casting off: *The Above and Beyond* (at left) cast off alongside *Jigger Naughts* who unfortunately lacked the wind to power their pink bra sail.

Frenetic boat building began at 2pm on Saturday.

All seven teams leapt into action, proceeding to cut and glue plywood sheets into a design of their own invention, their efforts at measuring, sawing, drilling and gluing coming under my supposedly watchful eye.

Staying afloat with VdK cont ...

While hand tools were deployed for the most part, a cooperative spirit saw power tools available and shared among rival teams.



Eternally the French boatman: VdK somewhere on-route up the Hawkesbury.

And it was here that your mentor came into his own, advising the *Above and Beyonds* how best to hold a power saw or drill to ensure digits and limbs remained where they were supposed to be and to ensure that medical services were not required.

All too soon it was five minutes to four o'clock and the last of the cable ties were being pulled through plywood sheets and the Bote-Cote epoxy was being slathered on with unbridled enthusiasm and the hope that all gaps were plugged ahead of a pending launch the next morning.

Sunday heralded two firsts: the Egg Beater Queens became the first women's team in the history of the Geelong Rough and Ready to win the event outright.

Not only did they cross the line first but they were also awarded best dressed, in their pirate attire.

And, in another first (this one to the great disappointment of the huge spectator crowd), not one boat sank including that of my charges, the *Above and Beyonds*.

While my crew were cheered for their innovation, it sadly did not deliver the desired result: with the power expiring halfway around the course.

So the A&B's were forced to engage their auxiliary power and take to the oars to get back to the dock. I

could only attribute the little water in the vessel to the furious paddling that bought them home.



Rescued by pirates: Onlookers applaud the camaraderie when the *Above & Beyonds* needed assistance to get back to the dock after their revolutionary power system failed.

Mentoring duties complete!

Wits end - Men are just happy people From John Haug

John cares to suggest that this needs no explanation, and that it's a fun read, no matter your gender. We do suspect that last though is a distinctly male viewpoint. As such, contrary views will be more than welcome.

The proposition is that Men Are Just Happier People

What do you expect from such simple creatures?

Your last name stays put. The garage is all yours. Wedding plans take care of themselves. Chocolate is just another snack. You can never be pregnant. You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park. You can wear *no* shirt to a water park.

Car mechanics tell you the truth. You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too icky. You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt. Wrinkles add character.

Wedding dress \$5,000: Tux rental - \$100.

People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them. New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet. One mood spans all the time.

Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat. You know stuff about tanks.

A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase.

Men are just happy cont ...

You can open all your own jars.

You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness.

If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend.

Your underwear is \$15.95 for a three-pack. Two pairs of shoes are more than enough. You almost never have strap problems in public. You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes. Everything on your face stays its original colour. The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades. You only have to shave your face and neck.

You can play with toys all your life. One wallet and one pair of shoes, one colour for all seasons. You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look. You can 'do' your nails with a pocket knife. You have freedom of choice concerning growing a moustache... You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives on December 24 in 25 minutes. No wonder men are happier !

*NICKNAMES

If Laura, Kate and Sarah go out for lunch, they will call each other Laura, Kate and Sarah.

If Mike, Dave and John go out, they will affectionately refer to each other as Fat Boy, Bubba and Wildman.

*EATING OUT

When the bill arrives, Mike, Dave and John will each throw in \$ 20, even though it's only for \$32.50. None of them will have anything smaller, and none will actually admit they want change back.

When the girls get their bill, out come the pocket calculators.

*MONEY

A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs.

A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that she doesn't need but it's on sale.

*BATHROOMS

A man has six items in his bathroom: toothbrush and toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, a bar of soap, and a towel.

The average number of items in the typical woman's bathroom is 337. A man would not be able to identify more than 20 of these items.

*ARGUMENTS

A woman has the last word in any argument.

Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

*MARRIAGE

A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't.

A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, but she does.

*DRESSING UP

A woman will dress up to go shopping, water the plants, empty the trash, answer the phone, read a book, and get the mail.

A man will dress up for weddings and funerals.

*NATURAL

Men wake up as good-looking as they went to bed.

Women somehow deteriorate during the night.

*OFFSPRING

Ah, children. A woman knows all about her children. She knows about dentist appointments and romances, best friends, favourite foods, secret fears and hopes and dreams.

A man is vaguely aware of some short people living in the house.

*THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A married man should forget his mistakes.

There's no use in two people remembering the same things!

The last laugh take 2

From David Stafford

David writes, Hi all,

Since laughter is considered to be the best medicine, I thought I would share this in the hope that it might provide a little light relief in these dark times.



Here's to better business times: David Stafford (left) and David Dearman.

So some of **Staff's** reflections on present-time problems in business:

*A bra manufacturer has gone bust

*A submarine builder has gone under

*A company hoping to offer space flights has faced its final frontier

*A factory making party balloons has gone pop

*A glove maker has had to throw in its hand

Reflections from David Stafford cont...

- *A manufacturer of food blenders has gone into liquidisation
- *A family business making dog kennels has had to call in the retrievers
- *A jelly maker is looking very wobbly
- *A company supplying paper to origami enthusiasts has folded
- *A troop of acrobats has gone upside down
- *Several fast-food restaurants have been battered into submission
- *A casino operator has had to cash in their chips
- *A lift manufacturer has gone all the way down
- *A well-known strip club has gone tits up
- **Interflora is pruning its business
- *Dyno rod is going down the drain

And, the saddest story of all: An ice cream van man was found dead, covered in nuts and raspberry sauce. It seems he couldn't take any more and topped himself.



Did you hear the one about? David Griffiths and David Stafford.

The last laugh take 3 From Anthea Vitarelli

The *Washington Post* has published the winning submissions to its yearly neologism contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternative meanings for common words.

The winners were:

1. Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs
2. Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained
3. Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach
4. Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk
5. Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent

6. Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown
7. Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp
8. Gargoyle (n.) olive-flavoured mouthwash
9. Flatulence (n.), emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller
- 10 Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline
11. Testicle (n.), a humorous question on an exam
12. Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists
13. Pokemon (n.) a Rastafarian proctologist
14. Oyster (n.), a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms
15. Frisbeetarianism (n.), (back by popular demand): The belief that, when you die, your soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there
16. Circumvent (n.), an opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.

The *Washington Post's* "Style Invitational" also asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

The winners were:

Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of reaking down in the near future

Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period

Sarchasm (n): The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it

Inoculatte (v): To take coffee intravenously when you are running late

Osteopornosis (n): A degenerate disease (This one got extra credit.)

Karmageddon (n): It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.

Glibido (v): All talk and no action

Arachnoleptic fit (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider's web

Caterpallor (n.): The colour you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you're eating

Some favourite photos

As this is my final edition, I shall indulge myself and share some very favourite photos. Many have appeared before.

First, a tribute to **Harry Gill**. For some reason, Victoria was selected to launch our entry into the key-to-disc data entry market.

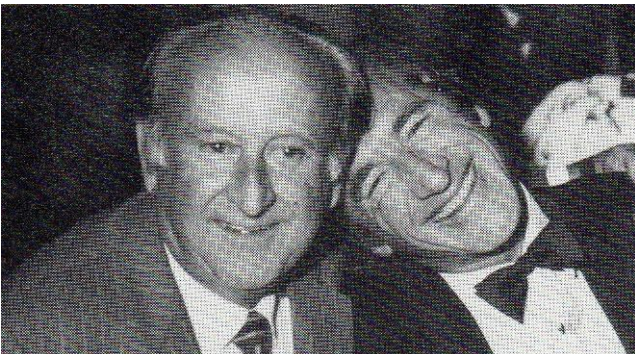
- Down in Melbourne, we had to craft a public launch, and the ever brilliant **Harry** came up with the superb line: "This is the end from the cut-from-solid brigade".



That's the drill: The ever bodacious **Val Piper**.

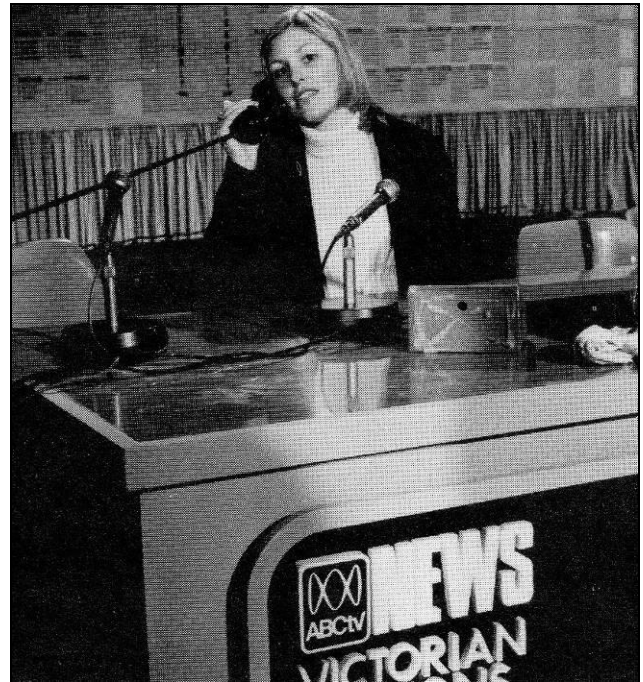
It was then over to creative individuals, including **John Archer**, to come up with the visuals. On our way to a photo shoot, we saw guys drilling up the road and the immediate reaction was that this was a brilliant example of Harry's 'cut from solid' message.

- We have always loved this photo taken at an ICL Bal in Sydney. Just good friends: The brilliant **Owen McKenzie** and the incomparable **Tony Weber**.



- And so to election TV coverage and the huge role played in those undertakings.

In Victoria, the popular prediction (in a specific year long forgotten) was there would be a change in Government. That, despite solid predictions, did not happen. And right in the forefront of ICL's election coverage was the marvellous **Jan Havercroft**.



- Speaking of elections, one fondly recalls the very first polling endeavour that ICL was strongly involved with.

It was the election in which Gough Whitlam replaced William McMahon.

With the talent of such individuals as **Roger Birch**, we crafted a most amazing system that gave our on-air reporters the most accurate picture of what was happening. It was a great joy to see ICL as the driver of this.



Direct from Canberra: With the ABC's James Dibble, Robert Moore, Victor Prescott and Malcolm MacKerras are **Sue Stringer**, **Tony Joyce**, **Jim Drummond**, **Joe Pavlich** and **David Oswald**.

From my photo collection cont ...

- It is a matter of fact that the AllStars in Victoria would never have happened without the sterling efforts of **Anthea Gedge**. A born organiser, **AG** was the consummate function supremo. At a luncheon, she'd even pop into the kitchen to ensure everything was tickety- boo.



- It is impossible not to think of ICL Sydney and ignore the ICL presence on the harbour with the 18-foot sailing boats, **Tony Weber** as a key crew member.



- The *ICL Ratties* have had a long and distinguished career.

And here, **Mike Benton** and **Pam Garnsey** exchange the Ratties equivalent of a Masonic handshake.



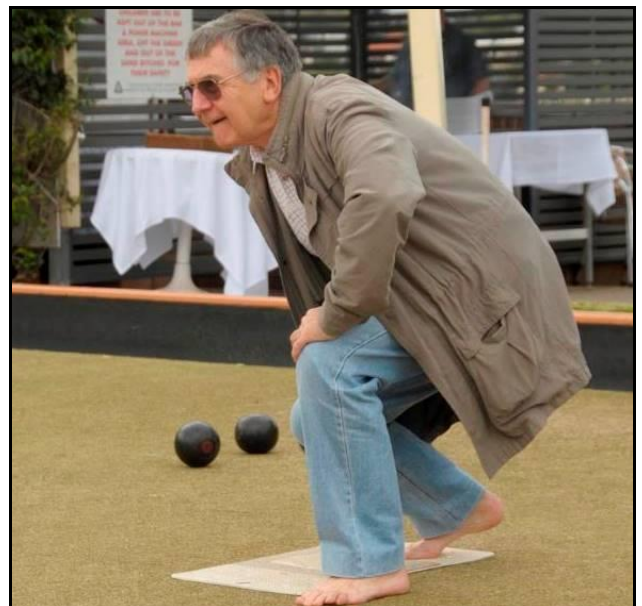
- It was a darn good day for golf, and a USA luminary quickly grabbed a few ICL notables to tee off with him. Seen with President Bill Clinton are **Alan Greig, Bob Shaw** and **Tony Weber**.



- If one happened to visit ICL International Division headquarters in Putney, there was no way you would have escaped a drink at the neighbouring *8-Bells*. The great **Bill Leaky** sent us this pic from a visit to old haunts.



- From Brisbane, a much loved shot of a bare-foot **Bob Brammah** playing bowls. As ever, we seriously acknowledge **Bob's** long-time commitment to the Lifeline organization.



From my photo collection cont ...

- A photo summary would be totally incomplete without this iconic pic from the opening of our Software Development Centre in Adelaide. Clearly, the sign maker had never heard of software, and so his best guess was as you see it. Our man of the moment was the extraordinary **Chris Bushell**.



- It would be hard to forget the launch of the 2900 series of systems.

In London, a team of folk had gathered together to introduce the exciting new product. These personalities including **Dave Oswald** (far right), **Bruce Paul** (centre) and the UK's **Brian Lewis**.



- Its back to SA and yet another order of great significance. The deal was with an aviation company, Hawker Siddeley, and hence the photo's background.

In the shot are **Brian Townsley**, **Bill Meeke**, **Jan Chisholm**, **Ed Reynolds** and **Brian Calvert**.



- For a grand while, **Raf Dua** was a regular business visitor to our humble City of Churches. When in Adelaide, the lad orchestrated many AllStars gatherings, typically at the Stag Hotel on East Terrace.

In this photo, **Raf** and **Dagmar Egan** are ever so ably pulling the beers. Good to see Coopers front and centre.



- There was many a great AllStars gathering down in Adelaide. In this instance, a grand Christmas function at a superb Chinese restaurant, all organised by **Raf Dua**.

In our pic, **Raf** is organising things at the bar, while in the foreground we have the inestimable **John Holdan**, with associate member **Tanya Rigley**.



From my photo collection cont ...

- We all knew **Marita Bushell** as a first class programmer and analyst.

But what many people didn't know was that she was also a first-class artist. Our next photograph is a self-portrait. Brilliant indeed.



- Moving right along, we drop by a Brisbane Christmas function.

Coinciding with our own gathering, there was a major function involving advertising legend John Singleton.

What many may remember was that John's ad-agency was an early 2903 customer after a splendid sales campaign driven by **Alan Cox**.

JS was also most willing, along with his Miss World wife, to be a guest host and keynote speaker at our annual Atlas Club event in Fiji. He charges us nothing by the way.



In Brisbane, Singo was quick to join in the ICL celebrations. He's seen here with **Ian Bone** (left) and **Steve Rudlin**.

- It's been an absolute eternity since our esteemed colleagues in Western Australia staged an AllStars function.

Come on guys, time to pull the finger out. Otherwise I shall descend on you and put things together myself. Of course, that's once interstate travelling is happening again.

But from the last time the Perth team put on a function, here is a great pic of the devastating **Sue Blond** and **Margo Halbert**.



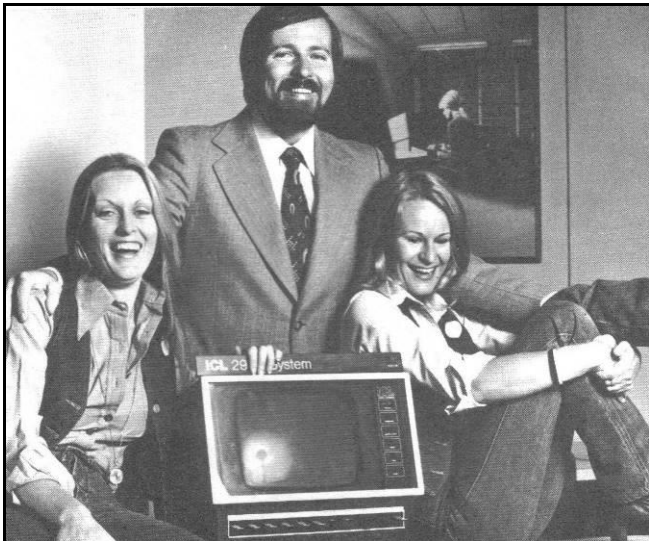
- Back to elections and our major TV presence in Brisbane. Here (below) we see **Bob Shaw**, **Mike Daniels**, and **Sandra Davies** with the ABC's Graham Irvine getting things set up for the Queensland State elections.



No photo compilation would be complete without at least some reference to the stellar **Kent Brooks**. In this instance, we have a great photo celebrating his sales win

From my photo collection cont ...

- with Amco jeans and seen with two of the clients in-house models.



- The late **Warren Hodges** was a sales dynamo who dominated the SA marketplace and then went on to do a similar job in NSW as that territory's state manager.



A true legend: The ever great **Warren Hodges**.

After his passing, ICL elected to initiate an annual Australian presentation award known as the **Warren Hodges'** award.

Over time, there was a number of most worthy recipients, but in our photo (second below) we note the champion of the day, **Phil Page** (fourth from left), seen here with **Val Mickan**, **Harry Gill**, **Dennis Rex**, **Phil Page**, **Neil Lamming**, (award presenter of great note) **Robyn Hodges** and **Robert Timms**.



- Our Queensland engineers were as creative as they were brilliant. And hence the annual end-of-year review they staged, with a pic from one such production of note.



Part of LEO Computers Australian history

By Neil Lamming via the LEO Computer Society's *LEO Matters* magazine

A major shock wave went through the Australian IT industry in Australia in June/July 1963.

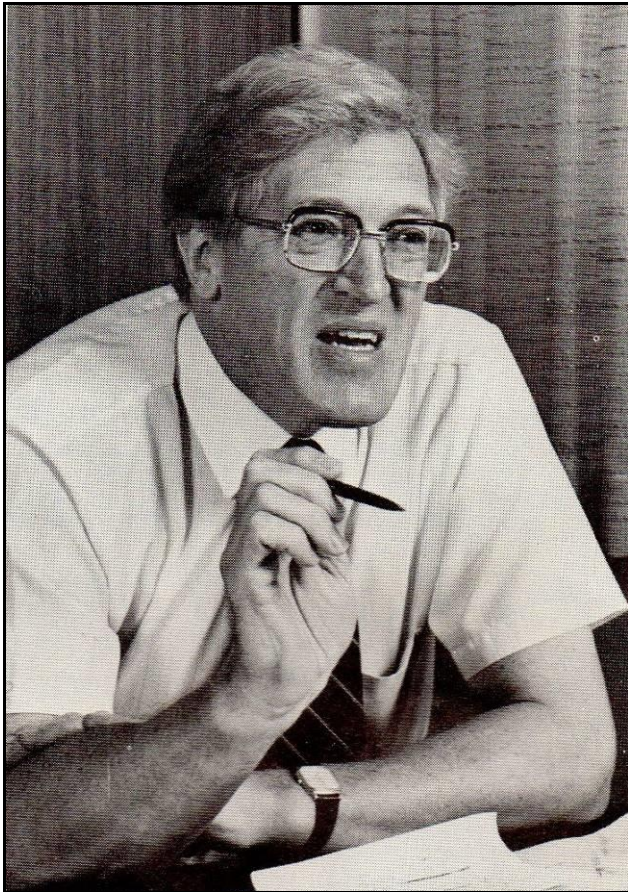
The reason? Well in the space of only a few days, **Peter Gyngell** of "lil ol' LEO" signed contracts in Melbourne, with: • Shell for a LEO III to replace their IBM punched-card system • Colonial Mutual Life (CML) for a LEO III to replace their ICT punched-card system, and • H C Sleigh (AKA Golden Fleece Petroleum) for a system to be developed and run on the LEO III/8 service bureau in Sydney.

This was a wonderful piece of salesmanship by **Peter**, in extremely competitive circumstances.

It prompted a telegram from IBM's Shell rep saying: "I doffs me cap to a better salesman".

The lad left IBM soon afterwards!

LEO history cont ...



The absolute sales maestro: Peter Gyngell.

Peter made all these sales essentially single-handedly, dealing as necessary with all levels within these organisations.

At Shell he worked with the EDP Manager Cec Lockhart, had visited company secretary Bill Curtis, who in turn reported to the General Manager (Mr Greig?). Shell's Peter Murton was supported by Ken Lewis (chief programmer elect) and Con Steendam (head of systems).

At HC Sleigh **PG** liaised with the EDP Manager, Jim Hester, who reported to the general manager, Hamilton Sleigh. Jim was supported only by his deputy Ken Handley.

Notably, LEO was to be responsible for developing the computer programs for these users.

After this momentous sales performance came the huge task of ensuring successful implementation of the customers' systems and also effective hardware installations a long way from the factory, the other side of the world.

To smooth the way, it was at this time that **Wallace Weaving** transferred from LEO's London office in August/September 1963.



No shell shock here: Neil Lamming at Shell.

I well recall meeting **Wallace**, his then-wife **Anne** and their three children **Simon**, **Hugo** and **Anna** at Melbourne Airport, and being paged at the airport to take a surprise phone call from **Peter Gyngell**, who was in New Zealand, telling me that he had booked me on the next flight to that part of the world.



By hook or by cook: Wallace (right) seen here with Albert Cook.

Peter was busily trying to sell a LEO system to the New Zealand Government and needed me to run an impromptu programming course in Wellington.

I had to drive to the **Weaving's** house in Brighton that we had rented for them, and then speedily return directly to the airport to catch the plane to Kiwi.

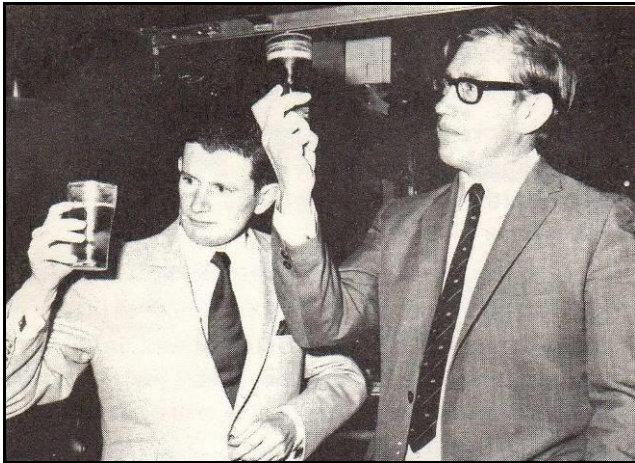
Peter had even phoned a friend at home, as **Pat** was at work, to have them pack a bag for me and put into a taxi to meet me at the airport.

Exciting times indeed, never a dull moment!

Back in Oz, **Alan Sercombe** and I went on site at Shell, me to lead the programming effort and **Alan** primarily to look after everything else, particularly planning for the arrival and installation of LEO111/15.

Wallace Weaving and **Geoff Nicholas**, who had just arrived from LEO UK, went on site at CML with similar responsibilities.

LEO history cont ...



Ale and hearty: Alan Sercombe (right) and the non-LEO Brenton Berthistle. This was taken at the Soccer Club next door to ICL, with both the guys having wine-loving reputations.

Soon after that, **Owen McKenzie** with his terrific wife **Marj** and their children **Mary**, **Craig** and **Cassie**, (**Cameron** was born later), returned from the UK to live in Melbourne.

Owen became heavily and critically involved with both CML and H C Sleigh.

Our first task on-site was recruiting and training all the people needed for the successful development and implementation of the systems.

Not an easy assignment. You couldn't simply advertise for programmers, they just did not exist.

These really were the first business computers in Australia.

We had to work with the customers to identify people within their organisations who we felt had the aptitude to be IT-successful, and train them from scratch.

Here we were most fortunate to be able to recruit Barry Hooper to join Shell from the Bureau of Census and Statistics in Canberra.

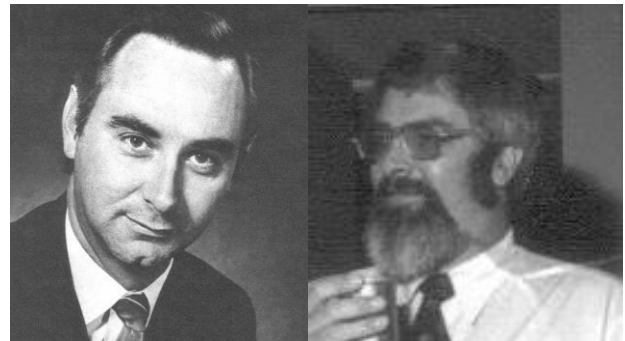
I had known Barry in London where he was a programmer with CAV Ltd, a LEO customer which installed LEO111/5 in 1963, before he was recruited to emigrate to Canberra.

For Shell, the modest team was able to recruit an experienced programmer. In those days, that was an absolute, total and utter rarity.

In addition, to ensure the success of our customers' systems, LEO111/8 at Tubemakers, LEO111/15 at Shell Australia and LEO111/22 at CML, it was vitally important for LEO to provide significant on-site expertise.

LEO 111/8 was delivered to the Tubemakers site in Botany, Sydney, in September 1963.

It was accompanied by **John King**, a Cambridge University graduate who came from LEO UK to head Engineering for LEO in Australia, along with other engineers such as **Tony Joyce**, **Tom Cooper** and **Nigel Morgan**.



On the engineering side of things: Tony Joyce and Tom Cooper.

Similarly **Clive Harrison** came out from LEO UK to head operations along with **Tim O'Flynn** and **Gary Diver**.

A number of talented people joined us from UK over the next few months.

Names which come readily to mind include **Mike Shapcott**, **Robin Happe**, **Robert Timms**, **Richard** and **Helen Clews**, **David Jones**, **Beryl Hulley** (now Jones), **Mike Smith**, **Bob Elmer**, **Floyd Elmes**, **Graeme Naylor**, **Simon** and **Carol Luxemburg**, **Chris Robinson**, **Colin Mitchell**, **Sean Ferguson**, **Diana Southern** (Gillingham), **John Simpson** and **Gary Preston**.



In true leonine fashion: Beryl Jones (nee Hulley) and John Hoey.

LEO history cont ...

In addition we recruited and trained many people locally, initially including such notables as **Ken McLachlan**, **John Hoey**, **Dennis Notes** and **Neville Lyons**. **Neville's** grandfather and Sir Joseph Lyons, were co-founder of the catering empire and cousins.

Others joined the team along the way.

Pat Magee, for example, was one of only two Australians trained to maintain the LEOs before the first shipment began arriving. Others were flown out from the UK



In parenthesis: **Pat Magee** (centre) with **Wayne Norton** and **Dianne Busbridge**.

Pat spent six years on-site at TOA, before coming back inside the new ICL organisation as an area supervisor.

In our picture he is seen at a brain-storming session at ICL to try to solve a massive problem for the ABC's election coverage of the NSW polls. A problem, we stress, that was of the broadcaster's own making.

We also stress that Pat and team solved the problem. The *LEO Matters* newsletter notes that a family relationship inspired **Neville** to research the history of the company and craft the story of LEO, resulting in the talks he has been giving for the past 11 years, mainly to retirement organisations.

He joined the LEO Computers Society in 2014, and is now a trustee.

In terms of history, we recall the day that the LEO system at Tubemakers of Australia was decommissioned.

This was after a notable 14-year history, with the system being the 8th LEO 3 ever made.

It was also suggested that, at the time, it was the last LEO working in the world.



Flower power: Sean Ferguson witnessing some serious pruning by **Pam Garnsey**.



The last roar: Frank Linton-Simpkins, Technology editor of *The Australian*, TOA general manager Keith Cocks, **Neil Lamming** and Tubemakers' DP manager Alex Mackie.

Why would one leave ICL/ICT?) From Ian Richard

Superannuation is getting a lot of media coverage in recent times.

I concede that this got me thinking and, interestingly enough, it contributed significantly to my departure from our great company.

I joined ICT in 1963, as a programmer on the ICT 1500, a job which included systems analysis.

It was then onto being a systems adviser; and subsequently an account manager, which memorably included sales to existing accounts.

For a change in place, I was styled as a chap 'project managing' the installation of a couple of 1900s.

Ian & Super cont ...



Eyes wide shut: Ian Richard with the estimable David Watkins.

My next assignment was to the UK for a stint with the ICT Steel Group in Sheffield, and after that a time with the ICL Eastern European Division based in Putney (but with a hell of a lot of travel around the Continent).

Eventually, I came back to Oz, and spent a couple of years in Melbourne, before I finally returned to Sydney.

All of that experienced, I thought it was about time for me to settle a bit and grab my own piece of real estate.

Looking everywhere for a bit of money for a deposit, I asked the ICT/ICL paymaster: "Can I withdraw my superannuation?"

He said: "On leaving the company it will be available for you".

There were a few moments of sulking then a brain wave.

I put a proposition to the personnel manager, of the day, which was – I resign from the company on Friday and join the following Monday in the same job.

Answer ...No!

A short while later, I was headhunted for a job with an ICL competitor, and the suggested position appeared to be very attractive. I accepted.

Which meant that I was soon able to purchase my first home – a Sydney Harbour waterfront townhouse in which I still live, let it be noted some 45 years later.

I retired from computers, data processing, IT (call it what you will) 18 years ago.



Ian Richard with (on the left) **Dennis Doyle**.

I made this decision mainly because I wanted to spend time seeing more of Australia, and there was not enough time to do that and work.

So the options were to see less of Australia and keep working or.....



Transport of delight: One of the vehicles in which Ian has explored so much of Australia.

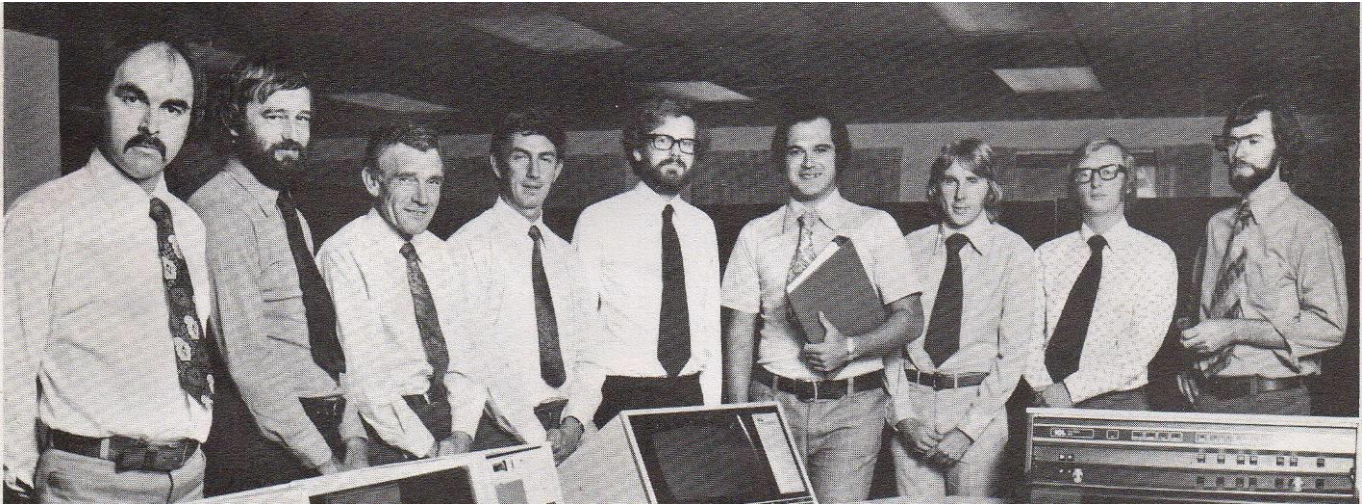


On the buses: Marking a great order from Leyland, who made these great NSW modes of transport. In the pic we have Ian (at left) with **Sandy Hinchelwood** and **Jim Fairweather**.

Doubling Up ...

- Among the most significant orders we ever won was that from Woolworths. Just look at the revenue generated when the customer and we got into POS terminals!!

We won the account from IBM. Woolies had been 'Big Blue's' first (and so longest-lasting) commercial customer in OZ, so the victory was hugely sweet. Read on to the next item, and you'll see why we are featuring this sale here and now. .



That's why we shop here: **Steve Alexander, Richard Warneminde, Norm Bagnall (Woolworths), John Hyde, John Watson, Phil Isaacs (Woolworths), Russell Tunks, Raf Stary and Bruce Hannah.**

- On the massive subject of Woolworths here's another pic reflecting the early days of that first all-important contract with the retail giant. We specifically feature it because there were two key sales gurus on the project, **Gary Ghent** and **Angus Neil-Smith**. Regrettably, **Gary 'The Major'**, has just left this mortal coil for a trip elsewhere. We look forward to news of his IT sales in both heaven and the other locale.



Now that's truly talent: **John Wilde, Angus Neil-Smith, Colin Choat, Gary Ghent (seated), David Reading, Ken Simper and John Watson.**

- .Moving south, we present a rather dated photo taken in our marvellous DS Centre in Hobart.



DS Tasmanian Stars of the Day included: Gloria Fenton, Garry Mass, Helen Foley, Tony Herbert, Valery Connelly, Teresa Stafford and Phil Clarkson.

- Celebrating yet another NSW order in typical Sydney style.



Order in the house: Paul Beckhaus, Derek Graham, Angus Neil-Smith, Chris Howells and Jim Fairweather.

- Back to 1971, when ICL Australia changed its organisational operations style.



In the picture above we see Peter Bradley, Peter Gyngell, Tim Baker, Ken Pope and Derrick Davey.

- A regular traveller to our shorts was the inimitable **Cedric Dickens**, whose job description could best have been described as plenipotentiary at large.

Among his claims to fame were the Thames cultural river tours. But lest you be led astray, we should add these were actually along and around London's river, frequenting pubs that our man's great grandfather Charles had often visited.

The rule was a pint of ale (or the equivalent) in each hostelry. The record intake, as we recall (but not through participation) was 22 drinks per person.



A tale of two cities: Ken Simper, Bob Beavan, Jack D'Arcy, Cedric, Neil Mann and Paul Lewis

- It was 4.50pm on the last day of the ICL company year, when the news arrived that BP (Australia) had placed a substantial order for a 1904A.



Phew that was close: **Hassan Saad, Elfryn Lewis, John Farrell, Bob Stanton and David Stafford**, while seated are **Laura Schranz, David Dearman and Marcia McCausland**.

...ooOoo...