A very warm welcome to our spring/summer edition, which we hope contains just a little something to tickle everyone’s fancy to bring back great memories and re-kindle some splendid recollections.

First up, good news on the *Where are they now?* front. Even before we went to press last time, we had already received our first contact confirmation, that gave us details on one-time Adelaide resident Trevor Batten.

Also in our *Feedback* section, we carry an archive shot of the opening of the opening of North Sydney’s Computer Point that was referred to by Peter Springett in Issue 64.

Geoff Ridings adds another quote to the list of remarks from the Duke of Wellington, while Pam Garnsey notes a range of travel arrangements as well as making great reference to Jim Tully, among others.

It’s then a reminder of the year in which Tassy opened the sales innings due, in part, to the excellent work of Darryl Herchenbach and Marcia McCausland. And moving along, we refer back to a great Dataset exhibition initiative that involved the stellar Keith Hunter. From supplies to the skies and a report on the then South Australia based Malcolm Shaw and his passion for astronomy as well as more terra firma pursuits of a mineral exploration nature.

Over then to the eloquent Megan Nixon (above right) who tells us of her life and times in Victoria and thence New South Wales, working with the likes (below) of David Stafford, Anthea Gedge, Brian Gristwood and Dennis Rex. There is also a great item from Martin Wright (not pictured) in the UK, reflecting on times in Oz with the likes of Anthea Vitarelli.

This conveniently takes us to notes on the pioneering work ICL in Australia undertook for the rest of our corporate world in the major development of internal systems, such as those for our price book and spares. This involved many staff, but among that fantastic line-up were a few guys who really spearheaded things – Roy Townrow, Alan Butt and Les Vincent (all below left). Also seriously mentioned in internal systems despatches was Biff Grindley.
Always ready to rise to the occasion, ICL in Brisbane was more than happy to financially help our Queensland athletes travel to the 1984 Olympic Games. We did this through a massive bake-off, with Lamingtons being one of the principal orders of the day.

We were beautifully acknowledged in the Brisbane Mall with a major presentation from champion swimmer Tracey Wickham (above right), an event which certainly received a king-sized dose of media coverage. Tracey, rather naturally, becomes our special introduction-section guest photo-personality for this issue. The Duke of Wellington was suggested, by Geoff Ridings (see above), but the popular choice was far too obvious to debate.

And we then have a delightful selection of reminiscences from Warren Grace. His input giving us a great chance to recall some past company legends such as Chris Wilson and Arthur Humphreys. It’s also been a period for some stellar birthdays.

Raf Dua (above) turned 80, and duly celebrated at a series of great parties, while Roy Potter (below left and seen with Norm Blakesley) attained 90. And so to our end of edition single column round up. Here, luminaries include MaryAnne Leighton, Don McGillicuddy, Bruce Lakin, John Watson, John Mitchell, Gideon Kakabin and Raf Stary (all below).

Also featured (below) are the likes of (or close proximities to) David Graetz, Pat Callaghan, David Eastwood, Bob Kalkman, Ian Parker, John Wilde, Alan Cox, Bill Frewen, Brian Michael and Tony Weber.
For our current *Where are they now?* column we include such personalities as Doug Mason, Garth ApThomas, Phil Radnidge, Ian Lisle, Dorothy Luther, Colin Harker, Col Choat, Nigel Worden, Howard Cork. And then there is Cathy Lachman (bottom right below), on matters to do with bridge.

All of which leads us (below) to Rick Bouwnans, Ron Streeter, Joe Jamison and, in Adelaide, Robin Goodchild and John Holden.

Well that's it for now folks. Special and sincere thanks to all of our contributors.

..ooOoo…
Feedback

- Even before our last edition (and its Where are they ow? column), we had tracked down one AllStar for whom we had a name but absolutely no contact details.

A contact was made due to the astute ‘detective’ work of Kent Brooks. Our database custodian, Raf Dua, followed things up, and an enthusiastic Trevor responded: Hi Raphael -

Certainly would like to receive the ICL news!! The ICL years were the most exciting "work" times I have had.

Cheers Trevor Batten.

Not a Tardis in sight: Our own time machine showing Trevor Batten now and in his earlier ICL Adelaide days.

For the record, Trevor joined the ICL team in Adelaide, although he is now Sydney-based.

- In his profile, presented in our last issue, we noted the work of Peter Springett as part of the crack team that set up ICL Computer Point in North Sydney.

An assiduous search of our photographic archives turned up the following picture that marks the official May 1982 opening of the notable initiative.

To the point: Peter Springett, Ian Parker, Denise Painter (Beilby), Graham Jones, Mike O’Donnell and Brian O’Neill, with Sue Thomas and Liz Taylor seated.

A signal from Martin Wright

Thanks for the latest AllStars.

The notes about David Dearman reminded me that he and I were together at Westminster School in London, where we were both members of the RAF section of the Combined Cadet Force. My next meeting with him was at Moor Hall, where he attended a course that I was giving, just before he left for Australia.

I was also reminded of my link with Australia, which was when I came out to work on support for the Royal Commission investigating the Victorian Tricontinental Group, using INDERPOL.

For ever running into the legend: School, the RAF, ICL training and Australia … the esteemed David Dearman and the more recent magic of Anthea Vitarelli.

This was where I met up with Anthea Vitarelli (then Saint James), who was also part of that project.

Regards – Martin Wright.

On commission: Martin Wright.

In sending us a recent photo, Martin added: “Do you think you could get Anthea to do an article on the Royal Commission project? It was a pretty unusual...
A signal from Martin Wright cont ...

situation, where someone nearly bankrupted the state of Victoria, and it was a bit of a one-off project for ICL to support the Commission.

“It was certainly an amazing time for me. It was the first time I had been to Australia, and the visit completely changed my plans for our silver wedding.

“So instead of celebrating by a Swiss lake, Sue joined me in Oz and we celebrated at the top of the Sydney tower in thick fog!

“Another unusual visit that came about from the project was that I was able to see an uncle of mine, who was a monk at a monastery in Camperdown. I never thought that I would see him again after he left England.

“A final thought. I have had a lifelong interest in Aussie Rules since my time in Melbourne.”

Regards to all – Martin.

- Geoff Ridings, refers to the Duke of Wellington quote in our email covering the distribution of our last issue.

He says: “It was also the Iron Duke who said of his troops: “They may not frighten the enemy but they certainly frighten me”.

Is an ancient army of AllStars as frightening I wonder?

Cheers – Geoff.

Be discreet in all things, and so render it unnecessary to be mysterious about any: Yet another of Wellington’s oft-acerbic quotes and a photo of Geoff Ridings (left) with John Holden and Margaret Northcote at an Adelaide dinner.

A Rotary matter
From Bruce Lakin

In our last publication, we had great pleasure in noting that Irene ‘Jock’ Childerley (nee Dawson) had been appointed to the role of President in her local UK Rotary Club.

We asked Bruce Lakin, as a one-time District Governor of this noble organisation, for a comment or two.

Hail to the chief: Irene Childerley (Dawson) and a brace of Rotary colleagues.

Bruce responded: Rotary International was founded in 1905 with the objective of doing good in the world.

Let’s do some blooming good! Bruce Lakin (right) with Tony Weber.

It is a global, not-for-profit service movement consisting of more than 1.2 million Rotarians, operating in 220 countries and organised into 545 Districts containing more than 35,000 Clubs.

The president of a Rotary Club is a significant leadership position within Rotary International.

Normally, this honour is only awarded for a one-year period, and the President usually serves for only one term.

It is a demanding role, to say the least, being responsible for leadership and governance of the club and for very actively representing Rotary in the community that it serves.
Rotary matters cont …

For Irene to receive this honour, she would have demonstrated outstanding commitment to doing great things in her community and to serving her club and its members in other roles.

Well done Irene, from all the AllStars, and best wishes for a successful year.

With my best regards – Bruce Lakin.

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It’s getting to look just a little like Christmas: Bruce Lakin on Rotary duty as a Santa elf helper at Carols in the Park at Mona Vale. Although our picture editors thought he was anything but elfin, save for his mischievous charm.

Megan Nixon writes

Back in 1982 I was a very young administrator keeping logs and running batch jobs in the customer data centre in Melbourne.

One of my memories was working with Brian Thomas and Brian Gristwood in the ME29 customer data centre. We always had a great chat, and I learnt a lot from them, even if I didn’t understand it all.

In those days, you were still allowed to smoke in the office, although I didn’t partake. But I would come in each morning, after the night shift had gone, and a mystery cigarette-lover obviously puffed away all night long, so the ashtray on my desk would be piled high.

Since one of my tasks was to keep the room clean for the equipment and sales demos, it did seem like a bit of a poorly thought-out smoking policy!

I subsequently worked for David Stafford and Anthea Gedge, and used to set up the backups and customer demo data packs.

The last straw: Dave Stafford and Anthea Gedge.

At about the same time, the DRS word-processing models arrived, and I wrote a training course for secretaries on how to best use this new equipment. I then taught the courses to the early adopters of this strange new thing called WP.

Indeed, it was Anthea who encouraged me to do some pre-sales work. From there I was mentored in this pre-sales and BA role.

I moved to Sydney in 1989, and not long later started working in the ICL Frenchs Forest office with Dennis Rex, as a pre-sales rep.

The ever-classic Rex grin: Megan Nixon and Dennis Rex at a Sydney Christmas luncheon.
Megan Nixon on-line cont …

I had two young children at this stage, so full-time work wasn’t easy. It was in the days when working mothers didn’t have much flexibility. I did some work on the retail accounts like Williams the Shoeman and Katies, and helped set stores up on the cash register systems. It was a great time, but short.

Cheers – Megan.

Wanderlust
From the peripatetic Pam Garnsey

Pam Garnsey dropped us an email to say: Thanks for including the piece about David Evans in our last edition.

I am now in Paris waiting to get a charter flight to Kangerlussuaq in Greenland (still Danish when last I heard).

There I will join an Expedition Cruise through the North West Passage to northern Alaska.

Exciting stuff.

It has been warm enough that I am confident the ice will have melted for us to get through. Last year the equivalent expedition did not make it, having to turn back.

I shall then spend a couple of weeks in the Pacific North West, catching up with friends and the family of Jerry Montgomery.

The last few days of my holiday I shall staying with my dear friend Jennifer Beynon in Vancouver.

You may remember you published some pics of Phil and Jenny's wedding in Balmoral, reception chez us and with best man Jerry, matron of honour yours truly, and Jim Tully giving the bride away.

Let’s have one while we wait: Phil Beynon (right) and Jerry Montgomery, waiting for the bride and enjoying genteel ale.

Phil was on the NZSS project at West Gorton with Jerry, Jim, Ken McLachlan and David Evans. He sadly died of motor neurone disease a few years ago.

As an aside, Jerry did two tours of duty in Greenland with the US Army in the 'City Under the Ice' doing, what he said, was Polar Research!

He may have transited through Kangerlussuaq, or no doubt they had their own airfields. Wish I could ask more questions. He was up there at the time of President Kennedy's death.

Cheers and love – Pam.

Editor’s note: A now rather dated media report tells us: "On the top of the world, below the surface of the giant ice cap, a city is buried. Today on the island of Greenland, as part of man’s continuing efforts to master the secrets of survival in the Arctic, the United States Army has established an unprecedented nuclear-powered research centre. Camp Century is buried below the surface of this ice cap. Beneath it, the ice descends for 6,000 feet. In this remote setting, less than 800 miles from the North Pole, Camp Century is a symbol of man’s unceasing goal to conquer his environment, to increase his ability to live and fight, if necessary, under polar conditions. This is the story of Camp Century: the city under ice."

In reality, we understand the City Under the Ice had far more military and sinister missions.

Tassy opened the batting

In his great contribution to our last issue, the comments and photos from David Dearman included reference to Marcia McCausland.

This reminded us of a 1974 report on that year’s first sale, which was notched up in Tasmania with an order from the State’s Hydro-Electric Commission.
Tassy doing a Smith cont …

The deal called for the installation of a five key-station Key Edit System which replaced a miscellany of data-prep devices.

Contract negotiations were driven by the legendary Chris Joint.

But he also noted the superior work of Marcia and Darryl Herchenbach in Melbourne who orchestrated a fantastic presentation and demonstration for visiting Hydro executives.

![Image](image1.png)

A peaceful demonstration: Marcia and Darryl.

**Dataset the exhibitionist**

“Scotch and chips, decollators and tapes, peanuts and beer, binders and splicers, modulated cabinets and punch cards …

“Vivacious girls in ankle-length gowns, hors d’oeuvres and port, label dispensers and bursters, oyster and coke”.

That, in part, was how The Financial Review’s Ken McGregor saw the highly-successful Dataset exhibition held sometime in the early 70s (we rather forget exactly when).

So successful was this event that a similar gig was quickly planned for Sydney to coincide with our Users Council 2nd National Conference.

![Image](image2.png)

Making an exhibition of itself: At the Sydney Dataset exhibition are Kerry O’Halloran (northern region controller), Dataset GM Owen McKenzie, and Keith Hunter from Dataset Brisbane.

**Get me out of my shorts**

David Dearman writes: I might have replied a few days ago, but we were in a hotel in Port Douglas and had to use webmail (to send or reply to email) which is a bit tricky in some locations like France and beside the pool in PD!! Anyway here goes again.

Great effort in our latest Spring Edition.

It felt very spring like in Port Douglas with average temperature 26 degrees as we lazed besides the pool and I worried about getting Dengue fever, which I had just heard Graham Sensicle (ex ICL) was recovering from in Kuala Lumpur where he now lives. Returned last night about midnight in shorts and noticed spring had not quite arrived. However this morning the wattles are in bloom so the vernal season is well and truly in the air.

Best wishes AllStars magazine team. Cheers – David.

**Made in Australia**

During the late ‘70s, ICL Australia appeared to take on the role of the research and development body for our International Division’s internal systems.

Having previously driven the pioneering work for a computerised price manual, that was taken up by a number of countries, we then worked on a new ground-breaking application that addressed the many issues of managing spare parts.
The project was headed by Roy Townrow, with Alan Butt taking on the role of Australian spares service manager.

Parts of the story: Roy Townrow and Alan Butt.

Spare a thought: Part of the spares (pun intended) development team members meeting at Mascot: Les Vincent, Nigel Worden, Dorothy Luther, Judy Lee, Paul Murrell and Arthur Saunders.

The Lamington Olympics

An old joke has a visitor to New York asking a policeman how to get to the Carnegie Hall. The response being: “Keep rehearsing”.

For no apparent reason, this old gag came to mind when we came across a 1984 report of the amazing Brisbane office campaign to help get our Queensland athletes to the Olympic Games.

The strategy adopted here, was to make lamingtons … lots of them.

But these treats were only part of the campaign, along with fruit cakes and all manner of other serious, were accompanied by often extreme and not too subtle, money raising initiatives.

The campaign was initially prompted by an idea from Des Hennesey (CS) and concluded with a special presentation to ICL in the Brisbane Mall.

Delightfully, the gold plaque we received was handed across by champion middle-distance swimmer Tracey Wickham.

Thank you Ma’am: A beaming Tracey at the Commonwealth Games in which she won gold in both the 400m and 800m freestyle as well as at subsequent games. We note Her Majesty is also beaming.

Also involved, were long evenings in the company of CS carefully purveying cash-raising beer at prices that would even make a sheikh cry …

It was also noted that waistlines began bulging on the proffered diet of superb financial services fruitcake and thousands upon thousands (or so it seemed) of Lamingtons made by ever so many.

Our substantial cheque was handed across to Tracey by John Haug.

As a ‘thank you’, ICL received an Olympic flag for its Brisbane building, lots of media promotion, two added miniatures of the plaque and, just for John, a big Tracey kiss.

Gold! Gold! Gold!: ICL’s Jenny Duffy (left) and Elaine Eccles (right) at a special Olympics presentation with Tracey Wickham.
Career & corporate memories
From Warren Grace

The article on the ICT 1500 in the Spring edition of the AllStars magazine rekindled some memories of my early foray into computing.

In fact, my first experience with computers was in the final year of my science degree, when I did some Fortran programming on the IBM 7030 in Big Blue’s computer centre in Fitzroy Street, St Kilda.

It was that experience that certainly decided me on a career in computing.

So immediately after leaving the Air Force in 1964, I began work as a commercial programmer with the Olympic Tyre and Rubber Company, which had ordered a then state-of-the-art ICL 1902.

For reasons that I now can’t recall, we developed our early systems on an ICT 1500 (RCA 301), programming in an assembly language called FAS (no idea now what the acronym meant), and debugging in machine code.

The law detects, grace alone conquers sin: So said Saint Augustine of Hippo who gives us an apposite caption for this photo of Warren (left) in London with International Division marketing manager Tony Chandor.

It was at that time that we started learning the 1900 PLAN language at ICL on St Kilda Road, where I recall our lecturer and system support person was Rae Smith.

A few years and a couple of companies later, I was recruited for ICL by Tony Weber to be Internal Systems Manager still, of course, developing software on 1900s, and starting an 18-year career with the company.

This brings me to the question raised in the spring edition: “What makes ICL so special?” As well as agreeing with the comments offered there, I’d like to suggest a couple of others.

Firstly ICL was the only mainframe company that was not American-owned: our competitors were IBM, CDC, Honeywell, Univac, NCR, Burroughs, and so on.

I’m not suggesting this gave us a siege mentality against the Americans, but somehow I think it made us more determined to stand up and win against them, so creating a strong internal bond amongst staff, all sharing in our various corporate achievements.

Secondly, because we were a relatively small organisation, many of us got to know and work alongside colleagues in the states other than where we were based, making our friendships wide-ranging as well as long-lasting.

You step up to the mike, I'm not going to: Warren and one-time ICL Australian DS head Simon Fowler.

Added to that, many of us had the opportunity to develop firm friendships internationally, working in the company overseas on visits and longer-term assignments.

This was, of course, largely in UK, but at times, also in South-East Asia and South Africa. And our quite remarkable company-wide Atlas Club events further enhanced this collegial culture.

And a final and perhaps tangential point I would make, at the risk of showing my bias towards the numbers, was the tremendous business management development that ICL offered.

Under the financial leadership of Tony Weber we operated a profit centre reporting system, from the
Career & corporate memories cont …

lowest discrete business units progressively rolling up through the hierarchy to the corporate level.

I worked with IBM people many years later, who did not have same degree of business management expertise that we in ICL took for granted. I’m confident this placed many ICL’ers in good stead for success in their later careers.

My own view is that it was in no small part due to management.

In Australia, in particular, but not forgetting some great sponsors of many Aussies, by the like of Chris Wilson and Arthur Humphreys, we had guys that had a particular penchant for team building and a keen focus on the all-important esprit de corps. They were team builders in the true sense, as opposed to some text book taught concept of that ideal.

Career crafter: Tony Weber (left), with the inimitable Tom Cooper and the stellar Gwyn Harper celebrating something or the other at Arthur Street … most likely another significant order.

And totally unrelated to the above … I’ll take this opportunity to respond to the point raised in the spring edition regarding “admitting one-time users to our convocation”.

I have mixed feelings. Personally, I believe that one of the reasons that our network is so successful is because so many of us know so many others right throughout the organisation – we were a relatively small and close-knit group – and hence the current enjoyment in reading AllStars. Should we start including customers, even if very selectively, we’d be introducing people known in each case to limited numbers of ex-ICLers, with the consequent reduction in the breadth of interest to others.

Editor’s note: We responded privately to Warren’s note to us, including comments on his reflections on AllStars membership and camaraderie.

He urged us to carry part of that reply in our humble journal. So hey Warren, here goes …

Regarding the ethos that is ICL, I am often asked, by people who have never had anything to do with ICL, to try to explain just how and why we have such a close bonding in the AllStars.

Frequently, folk ask me what an old bloke like me does with his time. I rattle off a number of great things, but do always include my AllStars newsletter editing.

The same dear bods seriously question how the members of an organisation that disappeared decades ago, still keep in such active and marvellous touch with each other. They are genuinely intrigued and, to say the least, puzzled (or is it bemused?).

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A super but understated life
From Jon Duggan

We really put the pressure on Jon Duggan to give us a snapshot of his life and times.

The ever-modest JD potently noted: “Mine has been a simple life”.

But looking at his CV, nothing could be further from the truth.

He adds: “Several memorable years were spent at ICL North Sydney, and so I’m not sure how much could be of interest to readers of the magazine.

Anyway here’s my story.

For the record, Jon tells us: For what it’s worth, I was born to Australian parents in Victoria BC, Canada. It would have been nice to have been a Mountie!

At that time my father worked for the British company Cable & Wireless, who were responsible for the undersea cable that linked the Empire.

At the outbreak of WWII he was stationed in Bamfield, a very remote fishing village on the rugged west-coast of Vancouver Island where he had a cottage in the married-quarters.

I need to add that my mother was not at all keen on Bamfield given there was only a rather modest trading post and a cannery, as well as the cable-station located there.

Being from North Sydney she was afraid of both the wild animals, which roamed the area, along with the local native people that came calling from time to time… too many John Wayne movies I guess.

This was not helped when the Japanese came calling, in the form of a submarine, that attempted, unsuccessfully I should add, to shell the cable station from out in nearby Barkley Sound, or when she was bathing me in the kitchen and spotted what turned out to be a Fu-Go incendiary balloon floating high over the village.

At the conclusion of hostilities, my father attempted to seek passage on a ship returning to Australia.

However this was easier said than done, as most of the world’s available vessels were being used to repatriate troops to their home countries and transport displaced people to what were to be their new homes.

And so we departed on the first available commercial voyage made by the Matson liner mv Monterey from San Francisco for Sydney: via Suva, Fiji and Auckland in 1948.

Our family, (I had an elder brother) lived in Bayview and Palm Beach on Sydney’s northern beaches, prior to moving to my father’s old family home in St Leonards on Sydney’s north shore.

If the cap fits: Jon and Di Duggan unsuccessfully trying to pass themselves off as Ukrainians in Odessa. Never knew the folk in that part of the world wore such ridiculous hats.

For some reason best known to herself, my mother kept me at home until I was old enough to attend St Aloysius College at Kirribilli on Sydney Harbour. Prior to this, I undertook studies via correspondence courses supplied by the NSW government and under the supervision of my mum.

I was not a particularly good student, excelling only in ancient and modern histories, geography and English. As a result, my parents allowed me to leave school after completing 4th Year.

During my days at school I spent some superb holidays staying on sheep stations owned by fellow students’ parents and, as a result of this, I secured a position with a wool processing company (1959–60) while studying to be a wool classer at Sydney Technical College.

We are puzzled … One is in delicious Rome and all that’s selected to drink is an Irish Guinness: As Pauline Hanson would say: “Please explain”.
A super life cont …

It’s great to recall that this gig included stints at woolsheds in rural areas from southern Queensland down to northern Victoria. Splendid times.

During a slump in the price of the mighty fleece, I was laid-off when the wool buyer company (1960~62) I was then working for closed.

After that, my dear mother got totally sick and tired of me doing little other than surfing, so she arranged for me to get a job with the electrical-retail chain-store Eric Andersons (1962~5) where, for no explicable reason, I rose to become the youngest branch manager.

Realising that there might be better opportunities elsewhere, and disliking working on Saturday mornings when all my friends were surfing, I joined Remington (1965~69), a subsidiary of the then Sperry Corp.

Following some hard-worked-for-success as a salesman, I was transferred to their New Zealand operation during that country’s switch to decimal currency.

A great time, but I left Remington when I was seriously approached by an outfit known as Edwards Business Machines. For this dear firm, I became a field sales manager.

During the time at Edwards, I was able to pivotally juggle business responsibilities with some serious study, and so completed a management course at what is now known as the University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

Moving right along, I left Edwards to join Rank Industries (1971~6) where I became its national sales manager after making their 100 percent Club.

I left Rank in 1978, or somewhere thereabouts, and it was so to ICL.

In the new company, I was product executive for the 1500 range of minicomputers in the marketing department managed by the magic Warren Hodges.

I worked for both Robert Timms and Pat Callaghan having responsibility for the product in Australia and Papua New Guinea, and I can honestly say these were amongst the most pleasant days of my career, including the Atlas Club and all.

I left ICL after the position that I held sadly became redundant.

Having been approached by Honeywell Information Systems (1978~82), I did indeed join them, where I became the National Manager – Distribution Sales, then under the baton of ex-ICLer, John Silk, New South Wales branch manager for the manufacturing sector.

Change partners: The evolving (rotating) management changes of JD: Pat Callaghan (left) and John Silk.

Good to note that with HIS, I made that organisation’s Pacesetters (100 percent club) on several occasions.

I then left Honeywell to join John Silk at Wang Computers (1982~85).

While there, I became national manager responsible for sales made by agents/distributors in Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Again I made their 100 percent club on several occasions.

When my time at Wang concluded, I joined Datec (1985~05) where, through much luck and a tad of talent, I rose to become general manager - freight & customs systems division.

This highly successful Datec division developed, marketed, sold and supported very specific strategic systems.

These were used by clients such as airlines, customs brokers, freight forwarders, port authorities and shipping companies. The division was taken over on several occasions: by entities such as Stowe Computing Australia, NYNEX World Trade USA, CSSL Hong Kong, and so on.

Before (and indeed during) such a mixed up bowl of corporate cornflakes, my position meant liaising with the senior management of users all over the place.
A super life cont …

Muscle man: Jon feverishly devouring a serious pot of moules in Copenhagen.

This customer liaison certainly took in Australia, but it equally spanned such diverse locales as Austria, Belgium, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, the UK, the USA and Vietnam.

On my initial retirement from totally full-time employment, I continued to work, on a part-time basis, as a consultant for the business for several years until the company was eventually acquired by an Indian-based company.

It was then on to a graceful settlement into full-time retirement which deliciously centred around my family. At least with the exception of a couple of annual gigs as a marker for the New South Wales Education Department as a part of students undertaking their HSC exams.

As with many others, my focus turned to golf as well as writing an historic reference book for the Navy Leagues of Australia and New Zealand.

As my delicious wife Di and I have three children, much of our time is most enjoyably spent with them.

That’s Rachel, our eldest daughter and her husband living in Vaucluse with our three grandchildren.

Add to that Gabriella living in Melbourne with her husband and a further two grandchildren.

Plus Nick residing in Surry Hills with his wife and another three grandchildren.

It’s delightful to report that we are also privileged to have an extensive group of friends and relatives, both in Australia and overseas.

This has seen us travelling throughout this fantastic country and to Africa, Asia, Europe and North America, as well as on splendid vacations to New Zealand and other countries in Oceania.

For the record, we returned a few weeks back from a bit over six weeks in Denmark, Italy and the Ukraine… all good. Kind regards – Jon.

Raf Dua OBE

It was the inimitable John Haug who first introduced us to the noted OBE-label, which stands, of course, for Over Bloody Eighty.

That said, it is with considerable pleasure that we record the admission to those noted ranks of the always-pert Raf Dua.

We pressed the lad for a comment or several.

He obliged.

Right up front, he noted: It’s been an interesting time turning 80: I have so many good friends as well as family who have given me three birthdays this year.

Firstly, as my younger daughter Louisa turned 41 on 10th August and as my own birthday was on the 17th it was decided by the family that we could share our birthdays on the first of those dates and have a ‘Skype on-line video get together’, which was great fun, especially as my almost four-year-old grandson took to using the Mac laptop like a pro.

Secondly, on my actual birthday, my train group of friends (I have been travelling up and down from Traralgon to Melbourne with the same bunch for a good number of years) and they operate a bit like the ICL AllStars group synod – we do group lunches on a regular basis and seriously care for each other.

Anyway, the railway mob decided that my coming of age was far too good an opportunity to miss a rather fine and somewhat extended lunch.

As such, the grand commuter’s anniversary lunch was superbly staged, choreographed and organised.
Raf OBE cont ...

at, what was and is a very nice, splendid and grand vineyard. For reference the gig was at Lucinda Estate Wines in Leongatha.

Raf notes: I must say that the Lucinda establishment puts on a very (darn) good lunch, which kept 18 of us extremely well fed, and most adequately provided with apposite libations.

And of course, as the birthday boy stresses: We did rather go through several bottles of Pinot Grigio and Sauvignon Blanc, as well as Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon.

I was staggered to received a number of presents, in spite of strongly requesting a “no to gifts”, as I thought that donating to the Ovarian Cancer fund was far more appropriate. Nonetheless, we did raise $434 for the the ever-so-important fund, and that made things even more worth while.

Being a bow-tie person these days (OK affectation is alive and well), among my gifts was a really brilliant example, as shown.

The ties that bind: A delicious gift for a bowman.

As the third chapter in the superb birthday trilogy, Raf flew up to Orange in NSW for another celebration for his birthday.

This was organised by the people he worked with when building the Orange Hospital.

We had the delightful party in the Parkview Hotel, which I can recommend: good food, an owner who is exceptionally friendly and who looked after us reprobates very well

PGCS Organisation

But life for Raf, in recent times, was not just about jolly birthday parties and delicious luncheons.

He has also has a pile of serious work commitments, including being one of four organisers of the Project Governance and Controls Symposium (PGCS), very recently staged in Canberra.

Navel or is it Valencia gazing: Raf on his assignment (of a few years ago now) for the very major Orange District Hospital development project.

Raf notes: “The connection to Orange is very important to me, so it was superb to be able to get, as a special PGCS guest, Andrew Gee, the Federal Member for Orange and the Minister assisting the Deputy PM.

“The PGCS is a small, not-for-profit organisation working to develop a world-class symposium focused on the two interlinked themes of project, program and portfolio governance and ‘project controls’.

Now I know that sounds like an absolute mouth full, but our aim is to facilitate the improvement in project delivery outcomes by advancing project controls, project, program and portfolio management and PPP governance in Australasia. Which, I guess, is still an equally techno-talk mouthful.

In all of this, we are supported by our platinum sponsor, the University of New South Wales, Canberra, plus a wide range of professional associations and other organisations.

PGCS 2019 saw 200+ people enjoy: 2 international keynote plenary presentations, 5 Australian keynote plenary presentations, 27 stream presentations spread across 5 streams, and 2 panel sessions; making PGCS 2019 one of the busiest and best symposiums ever!

One highlight for the event, was the opening address, and presentation of the Walt Lipke award, by the Hon. Andrew Gee MP, who as we have already noted is Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister.
Raf & the PGCS cont …

In conference: Peter Colquhoun – PGCS Committee member, the Hon Andrew Gee and Raf.

Many happy returns

Speaking of birthdays, we have great pleasure in noting that the trim, taut and terrific Roy Potter has just chalked up his 90th.

Congratulations mate. Looking young and ever so chipper.

Elegance personified: Roy dressed for action.

His daughter Sue graciously sent us this piece compiled by the man himself.

He records: After leaving school at 16, I was signed on as an apprentice electrician – so far so good. But National Service interfered with this, and I then had two years in the army working on predictors which were used to control the anti-aircraft guns.

When I left the forces, I commenced work with BTM (Hollerith) in London in March 1950. BTM, of course, later became ICL.

I did basic training on punch card equipment – the E6/6 junior and senior tabulators. Notably, BTM had contracts with places like Harrods, Esso and Unilever, so I worked at these places in the West End of London for seven or eight years. The 542s and 550s then came into the picture.

During this time, I became a field manager in the West End. But later, deciding I needed a change, I joined Group 5 and Group 6 as a support engineer.

I was trained on the 1901 computer and, in 1969, the opportunity arose to go to Australia so I became a “£10 Pom” along with my wife and three daughters.

In Melbourne I was involved in installing the first 1901s in the technical colleges following the sales work of Chris Joint. Later I was involved in the 2903s which kept me occupied for a few years.

I became a field manager in Melbourne and stayed in that position until 1985 when it all ended!

I have very fond memories of people like Charles Hoggarth, Ron Fitzpatrick, Joe Jameson, Ric Bouwmans, Keith Fisher, Ron Streeter and many other colleagues who became friends.

We were a tight knit and social group.

A real couple of swells: Joe Jameson (left) and Ric Bouwmans.

Fond memories: Ron Streeter and Chris Joint.

Upon early retirement, Joyce and I travelled all over Australia in our off-road caravan and we had a great life together until the dear lady sadly passed away last year at 86.
Many happy returns cont …

In April this year, as part of celebrating turning 90, I went to France with my youngest daughter and her family, spending time in Paris and also having a wonderful time on a river cruise from Paris to Nice.

In my retirement I am still playing competition Bridge. I started to learn this while at ICL with people like Anthea Gedge and Cathy Lachman (who I still see now as she is a bridge director at Gardenvale Bridge club where I play with my daughter).

Coming up trumps: Cathy Lachman and Anthea Gedge.

I wish all my friends and colleagues from ICL a life as long and happy as I have had. Age is just a number.

A quiet drink would go down blooming well: Engineering colleagues meet in Sydney – Jim Paice (WA), Dennis Hughes (NZ), Keith Fisher (Vic), Gordon Beveridge (SA), Tony Joyce (CGA), Barry Bowden (Qld) and Geoff Batty (NSW).

Where are they now?

We continue with our quest to track down contact details for AllStars who have become lost to us.

In some cases, all we ever had was a name and nothing more, so that has always been a real challenge. In other instances, we were tracking well, but we do all tend to change addresses or simply email contact details from time-to-time, and so it’s quite easy for our database to become dated.

So we are trying, and I do mean trying, to establish or re-establish effective contact.

Here we really do need everyone’s support. So if you have any inklings, suspicions, rumours or just plain, hard facts, do let us know.

In any event, this time around, we start with a long-missing contact for Doug Mason, who joined the company in Adelaide, worked for us in Sydney and then in various spots in the UK.

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Where are they now? cont …

Les Vincent from Sydney (left) and Adelaide’s Garth ApThomas

Scott Hill    Tam McQuinlan
Chris Hart    Peter Brown

Leanne Dudeck    Rob Thomas
Ian Hough    Bruce Hunt

Peter Novak    Dave Price
Mike Frost    Bill Yates

Nigel Worden (obviously left) and Dorothy Luther

Phil Radnidge (left)    Colin Harker (right, by the process of elimination)

Bruce Brown (left) and Howard Cork

Let’s do lunch

It’s Christmas time again, and so to a round of ICL AllStars functions to celebrate the festive season.

• In Sydney, the stellar convolution has elected to change its Noel venue – something many thought they would never see.

So this year, on Thursday November 28th to be precise, the gang are meeting at Club York which is located at 95-99 York Street in the Sydney city centre, which is great for public transport.

• And certainly don’t forget the end-of-year lunch in Brisbane.

The gathering has been booked for high-noon on Tuesday 12th November.

To remind us all, the selected venue is The Norman Hotel, Woolloongabba which has a 130 year heritage with plenty of car parking, good public transport links, is just a skip across the river from the CBD and, most importantly, boasts great food at reasonable prices.

Very fondly known as ‘Brisbane’s worst vegetarian restaurant’, the Norman is an iconic Australian steakhouse and garden bar. Although we stress there is plenty else on the menu other than red meat.

Don’t miss what is an always a very great Sunshine State get together.
Let’s do lunch cont …

A Norman conquest: The Norman Hotel, the venue for Brisbane’s 2019 end-of-year convocation.

- **David Dearman** reports on the very recent committee meeting to talk about the 2019 year’s-end event in Melbourne.

I thought the attached photo might be a small story for *The Reporter*, celebrating as it does the hard work of the events committee together with very special guest Jo Lloyd.

The committee (left to right in the following photo) is made up of **David Stafford**, **Bill Chalkley**, your truly, **Geoffrey Howell** (organiser and chairperson), **Anthea Gedge** (ill on the day) and **Rob Smith** (absent on leave in Europe).

Jo was a very special and honoured guest, as she had volunteered to host the next event on 31st October at her and Ross’s home (pictured).

The super house, at 15 Normandy Road is just a convenient 10 minutes from St Kilda Junction, so as convenient as anything.

As for the committee gathering and photo, we were once again at the Yabby Lake Vineyard down on the Mornington Peninsula.

This not too rare AllStars venue, saw us discussing the upcoming ICL event, the complexities of old vintages like ourselves, and the nature of twits like Trump and Boris Dancing! Oh and Global Warming!

A very enjoyable gathering. Cheers - **David**

Incidentally, that $30 covers a welcoming drink (the French forbid us to call it champagne, but we will), morish finger food, a fine barbecue and soft drinks.

It will be a great evening when the stories from the past are certain to get a full and good airing.

The Victorian Council of Regents: Planning yet another hugely superior gathering of the convocation.

Chateau Lloyd. The function starts at 4.30pm.

**A flying visit**

Most recently, the ever-on-the-move **Raf Dua** made a really flying visit to Adelaide.

In at midday on a Monday’ and out again at noon 24 hours later.

He was in the so called ‘city of churches’ to attend, and address a 15-year old concept known as *Project Chat* - all about project management.

It was into town, catch up with a colleague, enjoy some post-prandial drinks (and a bite to eat) with a couple of South Aussie AllStars, dive off to a conference cocktail party, dine with another business associate, to bed and then to the conference.

Just writing about this timetable brings on a solid degree of exhaustion, and it was certainly a schedule that would have exhausted a younger man or even a mere mortal.
A flying visit cont ...

Flat out like a lizard drinking: Enjoying some post-prandial libations with a few AllStars

The chosen venue for the AllStars part of the visitation was The Griffins, a superb old pub on Hindmarsh Square.

As a few folk noted, the inn provides a splendid value meal that presents far too much for a normal person to eat.

But if you are ever in this fine southern city, do indeed sample the pub’s tucker and revel in its genteel ambience.

The burgers are to die for, and if bangers and mash are to your liking, The Griff presents something of a gourmet version of this all-time classic. Certainly John Holden relished in his serving of the quintessential sausage dish.

As ever, it was great to catch up with John, a really decent and caring fellow of the first order.

He’s recently returned from a visit to Azerbaijan and Georgia (as you do). And while he’s been a real IT-buff for an eternity, he notes he never travels with any sort of technology and so avoids the necessity of looking at and replying to such things as emails.

Equally to the point, when at home, the lad notes he only looks at e-mails about twice a week: if that.

With such technical luminaries present, it was not unexpected that conversations soon turned to an historical review of IT and ICL history - ancient and modern.

So while your humble editor was fast getting a stinking headache with all the techno-blab, the lasting reminiscences-based conversation centred on such products as the 1500, Sirius, the 1200, an item called the 1401, and so on to our old 1900 range.

The far-more-recent ME29 even rated a mention … if only for PERT compatibility (or an initial lack thereof) reasons.

When I do this, it looks like a dead spider: John Holden scaring the children.

Technical memories equally extended to software and advanced programming, not unpredicatable given The Griffins’ AllStars cast list that included the ever notable Robin Goodchild.

By GEORGE we’ve got it: A true genius at work: Robin Goodchild.

And so were many memories ruminated over. Like RG’s ever remarkable skills emulating a pre-GEORGE Executive so that it could deliver what our TAA client really needed. In all the company, one sole man in the Antipodes achieved what was needed. The logic was to have - at most - three to four people in a project team and it will all come about.

But the more people you add to that mix, the more does the productivity decline. Down to shocking depths. History supports this logic, and sadly so does ICL experience.
Doubling Up …

So to our traditional end-of-issue single column presentation of photos, not ideally suited to our main two-column section.

- Earlier in this edition, we made mention of the work that was done by our Australian internal systems group in pioneering applications for International Division and beyond. The spare parts app was the main focus of the piece, although reference was also made to the systems group’s earlier work on a price manual system.

So it seemed appropriate to include an archive shot of the team who worked on that latter piece of IT wizardry.

Dave Allen, Biff Creech (Grindley), Vicki Sendt, Dennis Day, Chris Sherrah, Kevin Lennon and Peter Marshall.

- To 1979, and a photo taken at the start of that year’s 18-footer sailing season.

We can’t pick them all: But clearly standing out are … Tony Weber, ‘Wrecker’ Johnson (skipper), Owen McKenzie and MaryAnne Leighton.
Returning to 1978, one gathering of note was that to mark the induction of ICL Mascot’s Steve Halloran to the exclusive ranks of the Majority Club. A celebration, presided over by CES controller Phil Radnidge.

Doug Chapman, Albert Cook, Arthur Combier, Don McGillicuddy, George Drover, Sid Daniels, June Bassette, Arthur Saunders, David Kneeshaw, Mike Dugal, Vernon O’Brian-Pounde, Jan Mikolajczyk, Ron Gasnier and Charles Tamplin. And we do acknowledge there are two names missing. Please help

- Another shot from our pictorial archive and one we particularly like as it features such a large number of AllStars. It was taken at a 1979 two-week DS sales training course in Sydney and drew a gathering from all parts of Australia. As well as the salesforce itself, state, regional and business centre managers were also part of the action.

A conference call: In the back row are Ken Upton (Vic), Mac Holt (WA), Bob Shaw (Qld), Peter Humphris (WA), Keith Fellowes (Tas), Mike Pajo (NSW), Brian Snowden (Vic). Centrally located are Andy Robertson (SA), John Erskine (Vic), Bruce Lakin (Qld), Peter Burroughs (NSW), John Shuter (Qld), Alan Greig (SA), Len McDonald (Tas), Graham Jolliffe (NSW), Roy Stephan (Vic), John Brussell (WA), Ian Lisle (Townsville), Norrie Copeland (WA), Ian Gaunt (Vic), Brian Magill (Vic) Chris Boys (Tas), Graham Mail (Qld), Neville Featherstone (SA), Tony Davidzek (Vic), John Foxe and Eddie Chivers (NSW). And in the front we have Kevin Little and Merv Langby.
In 1979 there are well deserved smiles all round from the Tooheys and CMA project team.

The guys managed to very successfully install two 2950s in parallel and on schedule. Quite a feat in itself, but all the more notable as ICL manufacturing in the UK was involved in industrial action. Amazing what 16-hour working days can achieve.

Peter Seymour, Jeff Okely, Phil Page, John Watson, Ian Parker, Graham Marsh, Raf Stary, Rob Gillon, Tim Kitto, Alan Kessler and Gideon Kakabin.

- Back in 1972, a New South Wales 2-day effective speaking course for sales and systems was held at Sydney's Wahroonga Staff College. The agenda included impromptu debates together with prepared presentations on ICL products and the company in general.

Included in the programme, was a scenario in which Cassius Clay (played by Alan Cox), Jane Fonda (Terry Fogarty) and Fidel Castro (Adrian Nelmes) are together in a hot air balloon steadily losing height over shark-infested waters. The participants’ was to persuade the other course-attendees who should jump out.

Minding their speak: Dorothy Luther, John Wilde, David Eastwood, Ken McNaughton, Alan Cox (standing), Terry Fogarty, Bill Frewen (standing) and Brian Michael.

...ooOoo...