

EXTRACT from THE HIGHWAYMAN from around 1980-81

THE HIGHWAYMAN'S TWENTY-FIRST YEAR

This edition of *The Highwayman* commences the twenty-first year of publication of the magazine. Issue number one appeared in June, 1960 and the long association between the Club and the magazine's publishers, Rand Consolidated Publications, is possibly a record for a magazine of this nature.

The concept for the publication was conceived by Jack Vallentine and the late Roy Quick, to replace an annual 'Bulletin', which was laboriously turned out on a stencil machine.

Over the last twenty years the content of our publication has varied from issue to issue (although there is little doubt we have a better publication than similar Departments) ... but several "classics" are easily recalled by long term members.

Horst Bodisco's biting article on staff members "having" to have their hair parted down the middle caused a furore. It so happened that the then Commissioner used that particular hair style and an anonymous person "slipped" the article into a stack of copy previously checked by Roy Quick.

Richie Dunlop was the author of an equally explosive article on staff transfers. In more recent years, an article we took to be a fictional "send-up" of what could go wrong in one aspect of the Department's training operations was later found to be very close to an actual occurrence.

Each issue, of course, is very dependant on contributions from members ... articles from sections and offices outside Sydney often reconnect friends one may not have worked with for years, while the humour of some contributions has been widely enjoyed. Sporting reports have proved to be very popular.

Please don't think we are pushing a point when we state that the magazine is only as good as its contributors ... and the quantity of material received.

To those who have taken the time to write stories over the past twenty years, we say thank you on behalf of the Club and its members.

It is sad to cheek the number of now-deceased people who were office bearers back in 1960. The Club executive was: Patron - H. M. Sherrard, President - J. A. L. Shaw, Vice Presidents- C. A. Hawkins, F. W. Laws, R. S. Johnston, K. Blacket, W. Weir and J. McCaffery. Chairman - S. C. Robertson, Vice Chairman - R. E. Johnston, Secretary/Editor - R. B. Quick, Treasurer - A. Marshall, Sports Secretary - G. Birmingham, Publicity/Theatre Parties - E. O'Donnell, Auditor - R. Cairns, Reps - Miss N. Jones, Mrs P. Bujayer, Miss N. Doyle, Miss M. Dwyer, Mrs J. Norton, S. Dunlop, G. Williams, R. Fennell, G. Dwight, R. Kennedy, D. Bush, Miss B. Brown, R. Everingham, A. Coleman, J. Thomas, B. Moore, R. Cooper, K. Campbell and G. Woodlands.

The then Commissioner, Mr H. M. Sherrard, wrote: "The publication of a Club magazine will, I am sure, be welcomed by all members, not only as a means of stimulating interest in the Club's activities, but also as a medium for disseminating information not otherwise readily available." "Gossip" pieces in that issue included:

Bill Bourke's engagement (and purchase of a block of land).

Graham Anson's move to Weight of Loads.

Max Lloyd's cry of "heads down" to Financial Control staff.

Al Jennens' trip to Cooma.

Births to the John McMullen's and George Hillyard's.

Kevin Hadley and George Durrington attending the 21st Construction Regiments camp.

Barbara Brown and Jill Dicks' performance in the interstate sports tennis side.

Ron Street's start as a junior in Costs Section.

Harry Coneybeare and John Thomas moving from Metrop Division to H.O. with the notation, "Where do all the good doggies go? Into a Kennel at old H.O."

Ray McFarlane's singing prowess at a Central Workshop party.

Neil Drumgold's topping the Cricket club's averages. Brian Artz had best bowling figures for the season.

Bob Dudley, who had been "off-colour" after a Gold Coast trip, being in charge of Bowenfels' collection of "those" calendars.

Pat Schmidt leaving Goulburn for Wagga. He was replaced as Divisional Engineer a Goulburn by Peter Sheil.

Kevin Wicks being quoted as "having been transferred to hell". The quote was listed in the Holbrook office news. They returned the "compliment" by using a most uncomplimentary nickname for Kevin.

Kevin Kerr being the all-round sportsman at Murrurundi

Parkes' Divisional staff including Ron Playford, Brian Korff, Lindsay Allan, John Neeson, Jim Kelly, Keith Twartz, Jeff Trotman and Ray Thomas.

Len McCabe being Cost Clerk at Prestons with a young horse enthusiast (and rock singer) Johnny Tapp driving a '47 Vauxhall Wyvern to work.

To further celebrate our twenty-first year and encourage all talented authors, *The Highwayman* will be making a number of awards over the next twelve months to contributors.

Prizes will be awarded to selected contributors of articles concerning field offices, head office sections, sports and special events.

In particular we're searching for humour without defamation!

As usual, all contributions should be doublespaced (where typed) and the sender's name and sectionoffice must be attached. Photos - if in focus and not over-exposed - are always welcome.

Here's to *The Highwayman's* next twenty-one years!