



# AUSTRALIAN CANAL SOCIETY

Devoted to the world's inland waterways

8th May, 2016

Hello Canal Enthusiasts!

**Canals are about People!**

As usual this ACS Newsletter is full of them. We all contribute to the canal scene in varied and numerous ways (even if we can only be armchair enthusiasts). Some figures stand out from past years as their inspiration and endless energy have made great impact on inland waterways today.

I have been reading about a current warrior whose name I have heard so often: Mike Palmer. He is IWA's Waterway Recovery Group's Chairman and in February he was awarded an MBE for voluntary service to the restoration of British waterways. He has been a volunteer for nearly forty years and chairman for the past 19 years. Through dedication and commitment he has championed best practice in volunteer restoration in regards to health and safety restoration skills and techniques and plant operation. He even gets his hands dirty! Our own Martin Smith serves on IWA's Restoration Committee.



Mike Palmer

We were inspired by David Edwards-May's run in the recent London Marathon to raise the profile of inland waterways worldwide. He ran on behalf of the IWA and Inland Waterways International (IWI). The ACS holds membership of both bodies. We decided to join 17 countries on 4 continents in sponsoring David and made a £100 contribution from a couple of recent raffles. David completed the distance in 4 hours 10 minutes 57 seconds, and was 93rd out of 245 in his age category. He thanks us all for raising over £1500 for waterways. Three cheers for David!



David Edwards-May

The coming meeting will be a kaleidoscope of canal insights. Well worth coming out on a June evening.

**JUNE MEETING: MONDAY 6th JUNE 2016, TIME: 7.30 – 9.30 pm + Supper**

**PLACE: Marsden Rd U. C. hall, Marsden Rd, Carlingford.**

**(parking available at rear of church in fine weather) or in Mobbs Lane.**



Llangollen Lift Bridge



Cromford Mills

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- \* The Erie Canal, U.S.A. Bill Bryson's book "Home" provides unusual background - Dot Lucas
- \* What are Lock Miles ? the key to estimate canal distances - Peter Lucas
- \* Movable? Canal Bridges - John Colville
- \* The Cromford Canal : cradle of the Industrial Revolution - an excellent DVD
- \* More as usual!

CANALTIME COFFEE : Thursday, 21st July 2016. \*\*\*\* Save this date!!! \*\*\*\*

Those who came to lunch at the Manly Wharf Hotel Bar last July enjoyed the location so much that we have chosen Manly for another Winter informal lunch. Right on the wharf itself, it is so easy to get there and a trip across the Harbour is invariably an adventure to those who don't cross our beautiful waterway very often.



+ Great seating whatever the weather. Come! Bring a friend!

Look for a follow up email in early July.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: Thanks to Treasurer Peter's encouragement many current members have paid their subscription for 2016. Thank you everyone. New members would be very welcome. The subscription is the low rate of \$30, payable at the June meeting. It may also be sent to Treasurer Peter Lucas, 20 Walsh Close, Illawong 2234, or it may be made by a direct payment into the ACS account: BSB 032 080, a/c: 248271. Notify Peter for cross referencing, if you have made a direct payment. Please email: [pandelucas@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pandelucas@optusnet.com.au) )

..... Your annual subscription for 2016 has been paid. Thank you.

..... Your annual subscription for 2016 is now due. Final notice.

O/S Friends: We greatly appreciate your financial support. As usual the £10 subscription may be sent to Lloyds Bank, Uxbridge. a/c 01620304. SC 30-98-91.

Confirm with John Colville, 28 Barton Ave, Haberfield. NSW. 2045. or by the ACS email address below.

Congratulations to Sarah Henshaw, who wrote the excellent feature about the ACS in Waterways World in the March issue. I have just read that she has now been appointed Editor of the quarterly magazine of the IWA "Waterways". I'm sure that her lively and youthful touch to this already interesting publication will enhance its readability even more.

**WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED - David Cooper. Waterways World. Dec 2015**

*I'd like to share with WW readers the rather novel way I got into narrowboating. In 2002 when I was 38, I went to my doctor with chest pain. We live in the country and our doctor has a number of surgeries in local villages. To cut a long story short I ended up in an ambulance from the surgery to our local district hospital as my blood pressure was through the roof and the pain was somewhat significant.*

*After a few hours I was allowed to return home and within a couple of days I received a call to go and see my doctor. After listening to an explanation of my ailment, which transpired to be more stress related than anything else, he gave me a prescription saying, "You'll be needing this".*

*Imagine my surprise later, when, after handing the script to the pharmacist, he returned it to me saying, "I think you ought to read this". The prescription simply stated: "Try narrowboating!" It was, without doubt, the best advice I have ever received. I'll never forget the pharmacist saying "We don't have any narrowboats on the shelf at the moment!"*

What a story! Thank you for making me laugh, David.

**Other 2016 meetings: 5th Sept, 5th Dec.**

Best wishes,



President



Erie Canal Lift Bridge

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