

e-Newsletter - October 2020 Spring edition

*Springtime Jacarandas
at the Old Quarantine
Station, Abbotsford*



FIRST GENERAL ACS ZOOM MEETING IN HISTORY!

**WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER @ 11.00 am
"CANAL ENCOUNTERS"**

**A virtual meeting via Zoom. Please join us.
Full details to come, including log-in process.**

ACS PICNIC..... yes, a real picnic

**WEDNESDAY, 11th NOVEMBER 10.30 am
(with formal 1 minute silent remembrance at 11.00 am)**

**OLD QUARANTINE STATION
50 SPRING ST, ABBOTSFORD**

This is an attractive outside waterside location, with plenty of room for social distancing. Hand sanitisers available. Come for Peter's hot sausages on bread rolls. Members to bring other food & drinks. It is hoped that a local history society talk about the site and its work can be arranged.

Shuttle service from Abbotsford wharf to meet up river and down river ferries around 10.30 am Further details soon.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

These months of Covid 19 restrictions have challenged us all. We have been brought out of our own familiar worlds into a newer evolving world of uncertainty. We talk of 'a new normal', but what is that when there are constant changes?

To realise that family and friends across the world are experiencing similar situations is hardly reassuring. It may comfort us to know that we are 'all in this together', but it is also scary and confronting. It has become a time for reflection and evaluation.

Here in Australia we are grateful that the virus has been contained in most States and with largely good medical and testing facilities, and reasonable compliance from the community, we can have a certain pride that our nation has been doing so well.

During the long weeks, when we have found ourselves spending more time at home, we wonder how long it will be for international travel to become available again.

I have found myself resorting to my overseas travel diaries from 1971! Some were never finished when 'normal life' caught up with me the moment I arrived home. Now I am reading back over the overseas trips I've been privileged to take over the years, and even adding a few poignant details.

Of course CANALS have played a wonderful part in my memories. Inspired by earlier reading, I became acquainted with canals in Britain and Europe from towpaths. What fun to discover the Anderton Lift, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Foxton & Bingley locks and Neptune's Staircase!

My first cruise with cousins along the Shroppie & Llangollen in 1982 made me a 'canalcoholic' forever. Reading about so many inland waterways experiences which followed, has made me so grateful that canals have become an important part of my life.

We are all affected by this period of coronavirus, but I do hope overseas travel will be possible before too long, and we can head across the world again.

My very best wishes to you all.

**WHY IS 11th AUGUST 1945, AROUND 2.30 pm,
IMPORTANT FOR CANAL LOVERS?**

On this day , 75 years ago Tom Rolt and Robert Aickman first met on the Worcester & Birmingham Canal. This led to the inspiring restoration movement which we are all familiar with, through the formation of the UK's Inland Waterway Association.

Covid -19 put paid to anticipated celebrations to mark the 75th Anniversary in August. It will now be celebrated at the Festival of Water at Worcester in 2021.

"FRANCE'S NEW 107 km CANAL GIVEN GO AHEAD"

Construction of the long-planned Seine-Nord Europe Canal is to go ahead after contractors were appointed last November for the project. The canal will stretch for 107 kms crossing Picardy and Nord-Pas-de-Calais. Its key role will be to connect the Seine and Scheldt (Belgium) rivers in a massive new shortcut, increasing maximum barge capacity to 4,400 tons. The chosen route will provide a welcome direct link between the major ports of France and Belgium, an inviting prospect. It will include 6 locks, 4 aqueducts, and 61 bridges, and is budgeted at 5.1 m. euros. It is expected to open by 2030. Not only will the cross country route be significantly shorter for barge traffic, new industries will be attracted along its banks.

Waterways World , February 2020.

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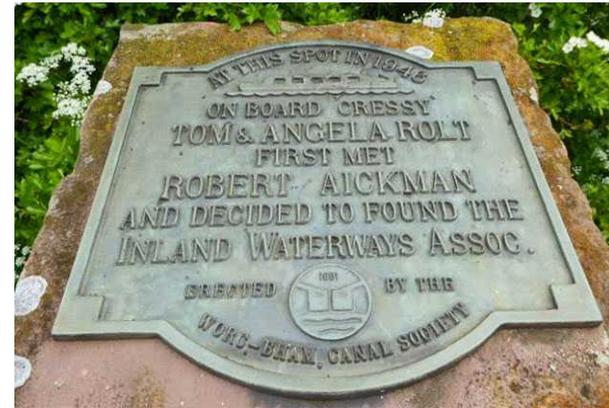
A Challenge:

Are you hoping to visit any inland waterways in Australia in the next 12 months?

How many have you visited in the past 6 months?

Email me your answers with any details. I would love to hear from you.

(Overseas readers replace Australia with your local area.)



Note the erroneous year date, corrected by a second plaque, unveiled by Sonia Rolt in 2005



CARRY ON CANALLING !

It is pleasing to note that through the pandemic there are many positive reports on restoration and maintenance projects around the British canal networks. Communities are "discovering" their towpaths ! However, the severe financial loss of boat companies and waterside services is very concerning.