



e-Newsletter - February 2021 Summer edition



NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, 10th MARCH, 2021
Drummoyne Sailing Club, 2 St Georges Crescent, Drummoyne
10.30 am Club opens. Drinks. 10.45 am Zoom participants join.
11.00 am Program. 1.15 pm Lunch if you wish.

*** A Special Note to previous meeting attenders! You may have become familiar with Zoom recently. If you can't attend meetings physically, we would love you to join us on Zoom. John Colville will assist. Zoom contact: <https://zoom.uts.edu.au/j/86906088540>

PROGRAM

- * Cruising the Murray/Darling Rivers: So much to discover.
- * Canal Souvenir Revelations. Come and collect one yourself!
- * Photo Tribute to Steve Brompton.
- * Canal Disasters..... surely not! Laugh or cry!

COMING EVENTS - *Note Now*

**Day Out: Cockatoo Island
Wednesday 1st September 2021**



**Spring Meeting
Wednesday 20th October 2021
Drummoyne Sailing Club
and on Zoom**

TRIBUTE TO STEVE BROMPTON

You received the sad news of Steve's death in December, by email, and read of his enormous contribution to the life of the ACS. We send our love and sympathy to Lynne and his loving family. He was a great friend.

Contacts: Your Executive Committee

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| President: | Jan Roden p: 9874 7584 | e: janroden@rodenprint.com.au |
| Vice President: | Lynne Brompton p: 0432 355 423 | e: brompton@bigpond.net.au |
| Membership Secretary: | John Colville p: 9799 2686 | e: john.colville@uts.edu.au |
| Treasurer: | Peter Lucas p: 0411 265 430 | e: pandelucas@bigpond.com |
| Meeting Publicity: | Peter Lucas p: 0411 265 430 | e: pandelucas@bigpond.com |
| Tech Presentation: | Christopher Cooper: 9804 7473 | e: christopherdonaldcooper@gmail.com |
| Social Secretary: | Yvonne Clarke p: 0414 761 172 | e: yclarke@aapt.net.au |
| Facebook Admin: | Elaine Lucas p: 0411 265 440 | e: pandelucas@bigpond.com |
| Programming: | Helen Storey p: 0411 186 702 | e: helenstorey@bigpond.com |
| Website: | www.auscanal.org.au e-mail: acsweb@gmail.com Facebook: Australian Canal Society | |

RECENT COVID ERA SUCCESSFUL EVENTS

- * **Old Quarantine Station Picnic at Abbotsford**, on 11th November 2020. (*See Photo over*)
This scenic and historically interesting riverside park is a great picnic location. We commemorated Remembrance Day beneath a large jacaranda tree in full bloom. Memorable.
- * **Canaltime Coffee Lunch Sydney Rowers**, 13th January, 2021.
A lovely view, good lunch choices, lots of conversation. We had looked forward to this annual event. Two of our most recent members found they had a lot of similar boating experiences in the UK, in common.
The ACS is a great place to meet others with similar interests - not just canals!

REFLECTIONS ON LAST ACS MEETING - ZOOM - OCTOBER 2020

COVID TIME! The March 2020 Meeting had been cancelled and we were eager for the ACS to meet in October - in some form. Everyone seemed to be Zooming so we decided to give it a go.

I was pretty anxious about the meeting, having had a few unsatisfactory Zoom experiences in other contexts.

We had a couple of trial and organisational Zooms. With John Colville as host and main tech enabler, and Peter Lucas as program organiser and chairperson an enjoyable meeting was promised.

The meeting literally zoomed along amazingly well. In fact, I think it was one of our best meetings ever.

It went something like this:

10.45 John had sent the ACS zoom link to our members and 14 people logged in satisfactorily, with just a little assistance

11.00 Peter welcomed everyone, especially those from country NSW, the ACT, Victoria and **wait for it** the UK, at 1.00 am ! An unexpected delight.

A few reports and announcements

11.10 YouTube Presentation: '*Restoration in England - a 21st Century Vision for the Lichfield Canal*'. An excellent choice and very successful. It inspired some interesting comments from our far flung enthusiasts. (The ACS had contributed to the Lichfield restoration several years ago).

11.30 *Childhood Memories of English Canals*. Helen Storey recalled her early days walking beside the Sankey/St Helens Canal near Manchester, supported by maps and images. Her Exeter Canal in Devon reminisces followed. What a bonus having John Fletcher's input from afar. He had grown up and lives in the area , and now walks beside the same canals.

12.00 *Personal Experiences on British Canals* . Zoomed from Victoria John Gerrand's powerpoint talk took us to several waterways cruised over 20 years. He focused on Parbold, a small village on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. Amazingly Martin in Canberra chimed in " We were in Parbold last year. It rained !" Then in came John F's voice in England exclaiming " We were in Parbold last Friday for a market !" What incredible coincidences ! It shows the possibilities of Zoom.

12.20 John F added to his comments (now 1.30 am in the UK) on his and wife Kate's long term involvement in the canal scene, personally and as a IWA Chairman. We were keen to hear his comments about the unwelcome effects of Covid 19 on the UK waterway network.

12.30 "*War on the Waterways*" a short Canal & River Trust DVD

12.45 I commented on our upcoming ACS picnic, and concluded by declaring the meeting a great success, well beyond my expectations. The contributions by the presenters and participants were outstanding.

Don't miss the next one!

Jan Roden

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The Executive Committee has agreed to waive membership fees for the calendar year 2021. This is in response to the interruption of our proposed activities in 2020 and 2021. It is anticipated that the ACS should still have approximately \$2000 in funds at the end of this membership year. We can still hold two formal Covid safe physical meetings, maintain our web presence and our connections to those local and overseas organisations that are meaningful to our membership. Possibilities of Zooming some extra activities will be explored. Thanks to all who have maintained their continued financial support.

