



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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APPLES

There are some 12 million cases of apples produced in Australia each year. Tasmania is the biggest producer with 5 million, followed by Victoria with 3 million. W.A. and N.S.W. put out $1\frac{1}{2}$ million each, then South Australia with 1 million and, lastly, Queensland with $\frac{1}{2}$ million.

Apples are, perhaps, the most universally popular of all fruits. Did you know that Australian apples are eaten by people in United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, Norway, Eire, France, Finland, Holland, Egypt, Persian Gulf, Ceylon, India, Burma, Philippines, Malaya, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Mauritius, East Africa, West Indies and many Pacific Islands?

Out of W.A.'s $1\frac{1}{2}$ million, approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ million are consumed locally. U.K., Sweden and Malaya are our three best customers in that order but our own W.A. apples are shipped in smaller quantities to most of the other destinations shown above.

W.A. varieties are mainly Grannysmiths 500,000, Cleopatras 500,000 Jonathons 125,000, Yates 125,000. The remaining 200,000 are made up by some ten other varieties. Chinese, Malayan and Indonesian peoples like our Grannysmiths; Indian people prefer the red varieties; the Swedish and U.K. markets absorb all varieties and irrespective of colour.

It costs about 12/- (our money) to ship a case of apples to U.K. This is more than our grower members get for the apples on the tree. Send a case to the Persian Gulf and it costs 23/-. Apples are getting harder to sell overseas each year. Our costs of production always increase every season and ocean freights do the same.

Export apples are individually wrapped in substitute or greaseproof paper. This generally comes from Scandinavia—mainly from Sweden as reciprocal trade. The Swedes would like to sell us whitewood cases to put our fruit in but we are managing just—and only just—to produce local hardwood cases more cheaply. All other packing materials are made in Australia.

Apple export is not much publicised, mainly because the volume is so much less than of wheat and wool. It is, however, a vigorous and highly specialised industry, and earns for Australia badly needed foreign exchange. Our apples are well liked overseas and the industry, though small relatively, is treated with respect and particular attention by many countries. Sweden has, of recent years, built three ships specially to cater for the Australian apple trade.

The apple season is almost with us now. Take home a case to the wife and kids—they're cheaper by the dozen than the apples, not the wife and kids!

West Australian Whisperings

ANNUAL RE-UNION

This was a great event and the attendance was quite good although nowhere near our best. Members from far north, deep south and way out east in the Goldfields made a truly representative gathering of our farflung Association. Next year we will appoint one of our more temperate members to act as roving reporter, as it is felt that some official commentary should be made in the 'Courier' on the personalities attending which would be of great interest—particularly to those in the Eastern States.

The food was excellent, thanks to Ron Dook and his henchmen. The beer was very cold, thanks to our President. The entertainment was superb thanks to the Rythm Spinners, and the whole evening—thanks to ourselves—was enjoyed to the full.

Next day was Commemoration Day, and as it was 110.8 deg. it is understood why the attendance was much below normal. A fairly good turnout of the boys was noticed but naturally quite a number of the womenfolk and children did not make it. The President addressed the gathering with solemnity and feeling, the gavel of wardenship was passed from Bill Willis to Blue Prendergast, and Geoff Laidlaw led the march past the trees in Honour Avenue.

Let those who can possibly attend these two functions do so next year. The combination of the Re-union and the Commemoration Service makes that weekend a most memorable one. The hilarity, good fellowship and reminiscing on Saturday night seems to touch off a spark, which, at the Service on Sunday afternoon, lights a flame of realisation within all those who attend. A truer understanding of the happenings a decade ago, a sharpening of our memories of things gone by, and the kindling of a resolve that, within the limits of our individual ability, we shall best honour the memory of our fallen comrades by leading a fuller, more tolerant and compassionate life.

If you cannot attend monthly meetings, do all you can to attend our next Commemoration weekend—you will benefit as will all those who meet you again.

TWO MESSAGES FROM THE EDITOR

Whenever members write personal letters to other members and use our "box number T1646, will they please mark the envelope "CONFIDENTIAL". Once or twice I have opened such letters as they were addressed to Committee members and I thought they would be on Committee business.

The strain of writing an Editorial of popular interest is proving too much each month. After all we read far better Editorials each day in newspapers and periodicals. With this in mind I am going to ask various members to write short newsletters each month which deal with their particular vocation. These, I think, may prove interesting. To start the ball rolling I have written a few notes this month on the only thing I seem to think about these days, and one thing that I can claim to know any darn thing about—Apples! Would the Eastern States boys co-operate too please. There are after all one or two things left upon which we in the West are not full bottles!

Heard This?

It was a great day for Seymour. With three successive balls he had scattered the wickets of the opposing batsmen, and it was the first time he had ever done the "hat trick".

When he met his girl that evening he was bubbling over to tell her the great news.

"Darling," he blurted out. "I did the hat trick today!"

She looked bored.

"Did you?" she said, gaping. "But you didn't really fetch a rabbit out of it, did you?"

* * * *

Dumb Dora is surprised at the way the medical men specialise.

The other night she met a naval surgeon.

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Random Harvest

There were quite a lot of letters this month, mainly in appreciation of the Children's Party.

Don Murray wrote in with thanks on behalf of his children. The Murray family have just enjoyed a holiday at Scarborough. The house was close to both the beach and the dispensary so, with the weather being what it has been lately, nothing more could have been wished for!

Clarrie Turner's good wife, Grace, dropped us a line in appreciation of the party. The Moose was too busy to write himself but not too busy to sign a cheque which included another donation to the King's Park scheme. Thank you, Clarrie.

Out of the great silence came another letter of appreciation from Eric Smythe. All is well with the Smythes and the juniors; all were thrilled with the presents. Write again, Eric—it was nice to hear from you.

Another much appreciated note arrived from Bill Bennett, who lives at 18 South Creek Road, Dee Why, N.S.W. Bill is a traveller for a manufacturing agent and covers N.S.W. and Queensland—not all of them surely, Bill? Thanks for your additions to our mailing list for the 'Courier', this will be fixed. Write us again sometime.

Jim Cullen, who has now got a grazing property at Kyogle, wrote a long letter to Jack Carey, who gave us a few excerpts. Jim is happily married, with a son and a daughter. He likes the life and is doing well breeding and fattening Herefords. He sends news of Horse Wilson, who is sharefarming only a few miles away, and of Blue Taylor, who works in the railways in Brisbane. Also, he sends greetings to all, including Sprocko, Jack Wicks, Tom Crouch and Joe Poynton.

We haven't seen Charlie King for a long time but we received a nice letter from his wife, thanking us for the 'kiddies' Christmas presents. Sorry you couldn't make the party itself but hope to see you next year.

Ron Kirkwood also dropped us a short appreciative letter and followed this up by appearing at the Annual Re-union. Nice to see you,

Kirkie, and there's no need to ask if you enjoyed yourself!

Charlie Sadler, also, wrote in thanks for the children's presents. Charlie also sent us a very nice donation to the K.P. Scheme. Thanks very much, Charlie. It was good to see you and brother Stan at the Re-union.

Another very welcome letter from Ken Mackintosh, and another very welcome K.P. donation. Thanks very much, Ken. Rumour has it that we may be seeing more of you shortly. Hope this is true.

Arthur Marshall, also, wrote us—or, more accurately, his wife Audrey, did. Thanks for your kind remarks on the Association: it is nice to know the committee's work is appreciated.

Jack Penglase and Bert Matthews wrote in similar vein. Thank you both for your letters and nice remarks.

Harry Holder wrote us a very welcome letter enclosing a donation which we will put towards the K.P. Scheme. Thanks a lot, Harry. Sorry to hear of your wife's accident. We all hope the break knits up soon, and that you will be able to make the Christmas Party next year.

Finally, we must report having received a telegram from Geordie Smith and Norman Thornton with reference to the Re-union. It read: "Regret absence. A burning thirst to all present." On behalf of those present, the Editor thanks you boys for your kind thought and advises that your wish was granted; some members were even a little on fire the next morning!

Heard This?

Since the setting up, at the same time, of two newspapers in adjoining counties, there had been between the two a deadly feud. After slating one another for years, they decided to bury the hatchet. Shortly after the truce was declared there occurred in County "A" a ghastly episode—a man shooting his children, drowning his wife and hanging himself. In County "B's" morning news appeared the lines: "Strange behaviour of County 'A' man."

Victorian Vocal Venturings

A very pleasant evening was spent on Thursday, Nov. 10, when a dinner was arranged at the Fawcner Club Hotel to bid farewell to Jack Servante, who was sailing for the West on Monday, Nov. 14. Present were: Gerry O'Toole, Bill Tucker, Gerry Maley, Alan Munro, Pete Krause, Bert Tobin, Harry Botterill and our guest Jack. During the evening I had the pleasure of presenting to Jack two pewter pots to be suitably engraved in appreciation of all the work Jack has unhesitatingly given throughout his association with us.

Unhappily since we have now learned that Jack took sick on the way over to the West on the Dunroon and was taken straight to hospital, where he has been very sick. He wrote Bert Tobin from hospital saying that his eyesight went and the left side of his face was paralysed, and will have to spend some time in hospital until his eyesight is better, and then a six months treatment, said his case was diagnosed as disseminated sclerosis. We are all sorry to hear that Jack is sick and we wish him a speedy and complete recovery and best of luck to Isabel who must be very worried—but they are in very capable hands over there—and I believe that the boys over there are giving them every help and looking after them and making things a lot easier.

The picture night was duly held on Friday, Nov. 16, at the Batman-st. Drill Hall with a very good attendance to enjoy a good night's entertainment of pictures. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but was informed it was a very good night—especially enjoyed by the womenfolk who voted that there should be more nights like them. Supper was enjoyed afterwards with liquid refreshments. Our usual country stalwart Ken Monk and wife came all the way from Poo-wong for the night.

Once again our Xmas Party was a great success, held as usual at the Bonbeach Lifesaving Club rooms. The weather, as usual, was very unkind but as it did not rain we thought we were lucky. We had a good roll up from Traralgon area, Ted Mulcahy and wife Joan, Tommy

Coyle and wife, and once again Ken Monk and wife Margaret with their respective families. They voted it a great day and worth while coming all that way, so that's all the thanks we need.

We had a surprise visit from Father Xmas this time. Alex Boast had the foresight to bring a Santa Claus outfit with him even though he was too lean to fill the bill—so we cast our optics around for a like ly colt and Des Williams filled the bill to perfection and he did a real good job of it too. Thanks Des.

In conjunction with our Xmas Party we organised a special effort Xmas raffle which we drew at the party. Gerry Maley was kept very busy taking in returned butts and all the work so necessary to run a raffle. The response was fair, and the results have been duly sent out per circular from Gerry. Our profits will not be known until all expenses are taken into account.

Gerry had quite a few letters from country members, who were unable to attend the party but sent in their butts, namely Bob Snowden from Talcarno Roadside, via Wodonga; Smash Hodgson, Nyora; Bluey Sargent, Heyfield; Ferry Paul Merimbah; and Lionel Newton, Broken Hill, who hopes to make the Olympic Games for at least a couple of days. Hope you can make it, Lionel, will be good to see you again. Several city members who couldn't make it sent along their butts, Dick Ellam, Geerry O'Toole and Ron Eastick.

And so ended a very successful and enjoyable year, and on behalf of the President and Committee we wish you all the compliments of the season and a very happy and prosperous New Year, and look forward to our best year to come, culminating with the Olympic Reunion, and look forward to your continued support to help us make this the best effort ever.

Heard This?

Husband: "I've got to get rid of that chauffer. He's nearly killed me four times."

Wife: "Oh, give him another chance."