

AUSTRALIAN CANAL SOCIETY

Devoted to the world's inland waterways

6th August, 2009

Hello Canalcoholic Friends!

On a beautifully sunny English Saturday afternoon in July, I was chatting to some of our overseas Friends of the ACS in the flower decked canal-side garden of the Blue Lias inn. Suddenly there was an interruption. A tousle haired, bearded figure was pounding towards us, wielding a lethal-looking windlass and calling, 'Where do we tie up? Where do we tie up?'

It was John Colville, and already his boat (from Valley Cruises) was in sight, with efficient wife Anne at the tiller, and fellow Aussies, Martin & Sue Smith, on board. There were many hands ready to assist them to tie up and welcome them into our ACS boating community.



Blue Lias 2009

The 8th Gathering the next day was a time of meeting old and new friends, appreciating the location, learning about the history of the Cotswold Canals and its current restoration programme from Liz Payne, Chairman of the Cotswold Canals Trust, enjoying an excellent roast dinner and grateful for the wonderful hospitality of the Blue Lias staff.

As my gaze swept the room I could see the 48 waterways Friends engaged in lively conversation.



Sandy, Nik and Charlotte

Helia & Derek Wolfson were exchanging views with new IWA Chairman Clive Henderson and his wife, Louise.

Past IWA Chairman John Fletcher had more immediate things on his mind. With his wife Kate, they were feeding their 6 month old daughter, Abi, our youngest member, while her gaze was fixed on a new little book about wombats!

At the other end of the scale, our favourite Grand Lady of the Waterways, Sonia Rolt, talked about preparations for the commemoration next year of the birth of her late husband Tom Rolt, 100 years ago.

Then, amongst the eight other Aussies present, our Ambassador for Youth, Charlotte Brompton and her English fiancé, Nik, were renewing their acquaintance with Sandy Paton, Sealock Keeper at Carron, Scotland, who had made the long journey south just for this event.

Energetic Chard Wadley, Organiser in Chief, buzzed about ensuring that everything was running smoothly and liaising with Brian Stafford, our Blue Lias host, who was very happy to welcome us once more.

DONATION: *You will be pleased to know that an ACS cheque for £100, the proceeds of our two recent raffles and auction, was presented to Liz Payne for the restoration work of the Cotswold Canals Trust. It was presented by Sandy Paton, who had donated some of the waterway raffle items. Thank you for your contributions.*

YES, ANOTHER ONE! *I was particularly happy when we were able to announce that our O/S Friends have suggested that we plan for another Gathering in two years time on **SUNDAY, 10th JULY 2011**. Where? At the BlueLias of course. Why change from an ideal venue? We've even booked it! Having the date so far ahead means we can all consider it when making plans for 2011. Jot the date down now!*

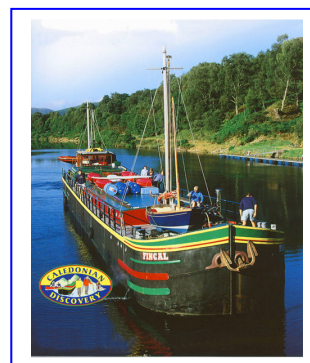
SEPTEMBER MEETING:

*The range of interesting topics for ACS meetings continues to astound me. Jim Pringle has developed a great interest in the derelict **Somerset Coal Canal**, which has an important place in canal history. You shall find more about this intriguing part of Britain.*

PTO

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Hearing **Susan Belshaw** talk about her cruise with husband Roy on Scotland's magnificent **Caledonian Canal** made me want to dash over to Scotland's Great Glen immediately!. This cruise is a real holiday possibility for those who don't wish to handle a boat on their own.

Meeting Date: Monday, 7th September 2009. Time: 7.45 – 9.45pm + Supper
Place: Marsden Rd Uniting Church hall, Marsden Rd, Carlingford



Features: * 'From Loch to Loch': Cruising with 'Capt Bracken' on Scotland's Caledonian Canal – Susan & Roy Belshaw

*** What is Special About the Somerset Coal Canal? – Jim Pringle**

*** A Mystery Canal – as discovered by Stan Brown**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: Thank you to all those local and overseas members who have renewed their membership for the current year. If you have yet to do so, you may pay your \$30 at the September meeting or send it to John Colville (Treasurer Christopher Cooper is away at present) 28 Barton Ave, Haberfield. 2045

..... Your Annual Subscription for June 2009 – June 2010 has been paid. Thank you.

..... Your Annual Subscription for June 2009 – June 2010 is now due.

I am delighted to receive continuing financial support from our overseas members, a number of whom renewed their subscriptions at the Blue Lias. A few new members including the current IWA Chairman, Clive Henderson, were also welcomed. Other Overseas Friends, who wish to become financial members, or are happy to continue as such, please make a direct deposit of £10 to John Colville's account in the UK at Lloyds Bank, Uxbridge, A/c No.16203038 SC 309891, then email John at acsweb@gmail.com so we can cross reference your payment

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The June Meeting elected the following members to the Committee for two years

President: Jan Roden

Vice President: Lynne Brompton

Membership Secretary: John Colville

Minute Secretary: Susan Belshaw

Correspondence Secretary: Yvonne Clarke

Treasurer: Christopher Cooper

Planning Committee: Jim Pringle, Ken James, Yvonne Clarke

Supper Convenors: Terry & Judith Dewhurst

Keith Coble has kindly agreed to continue as Auditor.

Many thanks to all the above people for their enthusiasm and contribution to the Society.
Naturally, all bright ideas and offers of assistance from all members are gratefully received.

CAN YOU HELP? 'Locked Into Movies' will be the special 7th December meeting theme. We are looking for the names of movies and TV series which feature, even briefly, canals. Better still, if you have any DVD or video footage that we could plan to show, eg an episode of 'The Bill', please let Lynne Brompton (02 9719 9747) or me know, as soon as possible.

Meeting Apologies to Susan Belshaw (ph: 9874 2295).

Best wishes to you all,
Sincerely,

President



Blue Lias host, Brian, waving goodbye