Committee from L: John Murray, Ian McKee, Verna Barry, Kerry Daniell, Geoff Boyd, Peter Colville, Colin Kline, Frank Martin, Graham Hawley

The December 2010 AGM of UBESA was held in the Caro Convention Centre at the University of Ballarat. Eighteen members were welcomed by the President and six apologies were received.

Minutes of the AGM held on 21st December 2009 were discussed and it was agreed that such minutes, where possible, should be sent via email to members. It was noted that the President’s and Treasurer’s reports were contained in the November newsletter.

In business arising, the issue of notifying newly retired staff of the existence of UBESA was discussed and referred to the incoming committee for action. Office bearers listed elsewhere in this newsletter were elected and contributions from both ongoing and outgoing members were acknowledged. Special mention was made of the substantial input Graham Hawley makes as newsletter editor.

In general business, it was agreed that the incoming committee consider the establishment of understudy positions for certain committee roles.

After the meeting, members toured the refurbished sections of the E J Barker Library and the Historical Records Collection prior to attending the Vice-Chancellor’s Christmas Luncheon.

We thank the University for the use of the meeting room in the Caro Convention Centre, the provision of refreshments during the meeting and the inclusion in the Christmas Luncheon.
Welcome to our new column.

**Travellers’ Diary** will give members an opportunity to tell us about their past, present or future travels. If you have any travel experiences that you would like to share, please forward (approx. October and April) to the undersigned. If I get no volunteers then I will approach members for a contribution. I will start this column with some of our recent travel experiences.

**Geoff Boyd** (geoff@boydie.com)

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Bonjour. On 29th June, 2010 the Boyds (Geoff and Heather) rendezvoused with the Kellys (Paul and Cath) at Charles De Gaulle airport, Paris. We collected our Peugeot 308 station wagon lease car (one of those French Government supported lease deals available with Renault, Peugeot and Citroen) and headed off with Geoff as the designated driver, Paul as the designated navigator (or, we hoped, the TomTom GPS master) and the good ladies in the back seats (with Cath, an ex-French teacher with about 30 years of teaching experience, a critical team member because of her language skills which, as anyone who has travelled in France before, would appreciate). Before departing we logged our car pick-up location with the TomTom so that we could at the very least find our drop-off point for the car about 4 weeks later.

Very approximately the planned itinerary was to take about 7 days to travel to south west France, close to the Spanish border, stay in a small village for 2 weeks as our base camp, and take about 5 days to return to Paris.

The generally south west drive included stopovers at Orleans (1 night), Tours (2 nights) in the Loire Valley and the home of many chateaux including the 440 room Chambord chateau, Saintes (2 nights) to visit La Rochelle and Bordeaux (1 night) for, of course, its wines. This left us with, next day, a short drive to our little village of Salies de Bearn in the Aquitane region. Salies is a village of approximately 5000 residents in the foot hills of the French Pyrenees and a great location for a base camp to explore the region. Our cottage (via the internet) proved to be outstanding and ideal for 4 people, within walking distance of the supermarket and the village centre. Salies, our home for 2 weeks, earlier in the year had been the start of the 3rd last stage of the 2010 Tour de France.

Trips to Biarritz (Wikipedia states “It is a luxurious seaside town, and is popular with tourists and surfers” – we were tourists not surfers!), San Sebastian (Spain), Lourdes (famous for its water!) and Pau were made to explore the region. The highlight trip however was to the infamous (if you are a Tour de France bike rider) Col du Tourmalet, the highest through-road summit in the French Pyrenees at 2,114 m. Again, according to Wikipedia “The Col du Tourmalet is one of the most famous climbs on the Tour de France. It has been included more than any other pass, starting in 1910 when the Pyrenees were introduced. Since 1947, the Tour has crossed the summit 47 times, plus a stage finish at the summit in 1974. As of the 2010 edition of the tour, the summit has been crossed 75 times in the tour’s history. The 2010 edition of the Tour included the pass on two consecutive stages, crossing westward on the 16th stage to Pau and eastward on the 17th stage with a finish at the summit”.

We drove the Col because the team for some reason wasn’t too keen to ride it!

After two weeks in Salies we headed back to Paris with overnight stops in Toulouse (1 night), Millau (3 nights) and Magny-Cours (1 night – the home of the French Formula 1 Grand Prix for many years). Millau is now famous for the Millau viaduct one of the modern engineering feats of the world. To find out more go to the link below the photo.

COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH 31 2011

Appreciation
It was agreed that the President should write to the undermentioned former executive committee members expressing appreciation for the time they served on the committee: Alan Ballard, Dulcie Brooke and Roy Schrieke.

UB Alumni Officer 2011
Linda Petrie’s replacement is Pam Sutcliffe. It was agreed that, when arrangements for the mid-year function are finalised, an invitation would be forwarded to Pam; and also be invited to the AGM.

Kerry Daniell reported on his formal request to UB Human Resources to assist with posting UBESA November newsletter and invitation to lunch with Vice-Chancellor to all recently retired staff. All that was needed from Human Resources was a set of labels with respective addresses; a breach of confidentiality prevented Kerry attaching labels to envelopes. Human Resources indicated they have included a sentence referring to the association (with link to UBESA) in confirmation of resignation/retirement letters. The Committee will look at posting notices in various staffrooms. If you know of any potential new members send their details to Verna Barry.

A THANK-YOU IN THE COURIER ON MARCH 5

STABB, David J. - I broke my back in 2010, was hospitalised but now I’m home.
I thank BHS Staff for their help and humour. Fellow residents for their friendliness, friends and relatives who visited me from as far away as Hobart Others who passed on their best wishes for my recovery or greeted me on my return. Most of all my dear wife. She was my girlfriend when I was a gawky 14 year old schoolboy and remained my girlfriend though decades of pleasure and pain. She is now the girlfriend of a sick 66 year old man. My body ages but our love goes on. Thank you for everything.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION NEEDED FOR NEW COLUMNS IN THE NEXT ISSUE

We really need contributions from members ...... especially those who live away from Ballarat. A few lines or a page are welcome. Send to Graham ghawley@ncable.net.au

TREASURER’S REPORT

We have a balance of $2,230.66
There has been a proposal that the subscription from 2012 should be:
One Year $5
Five Years $20
Life Subscription $50

Secretary’s note: UBESA constitution states:
“7. Subscription
A membership subscription may be set from time to time by the Annual General Meeting of the Association on the recommendation of the Committee of Management.”

The executive committee will recommend to next AGM that the category ‘Life Subscription $50’ be included from 2012.
SHELL OIL REPORT .. WHY PEOPLE DIE WHEN FILLING PETROL
FROM COLIN KLINE

Shell Oil Comments - DEADLY CELL PHONES!

Safety Alert!
Here’s some reasons why we don’t allow cell phones in operating areas, propylene oxide handling and storage area, propane, gas and diesel refueling areas.
In the first case, the phone was placed on the car’s trunk lid during fueling; it rang and the ensuing fire destroyed the car and the gasoline pump.
In the second, an individual suffered severe burns to their face when fumes ignited as they answered a call while refueling their car.

And in the third, an individual suffered burns to the thigh and groin as fumes ignited when the phone, which was in their pocket, rang while they were fueling their car.

You should know that: Mobile Phones can ignite fuel or fumes ...

This cell-phone scare-mongering has been comprehensively debunked, many times before. So, why does this kind of alarmism continue? Some people just "get off" from scaring others (called 'schadenfreude').

DEBUNK LAYOUT:

1. Firstly, note the title, date, author, references of the "Shell Report" are completely omitted by this net-nutter.
4. MYTHBUSTERS: http://mythbustersresults.com/episode2
5. STRAIGHTDOPE: http://www.straightdope.com/columns/search?query=cell+phones+gas+stations&page=1
6. Here is WIKI, but page down to "Accidental Ignition": http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filling_station
So folks, go looking for more rational-skeptic sites, and report back to us, huh?

Above from left: Former and present heads of the School of Nursing, Eileen Sellers, Lynette Stockhausen, Margaret Stevens, and Sally Wellard

UNIVERSITY OF BALLARAT TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER FOR THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

The dinner was held at the Albert Coates Complex on 5th February 2011. It was 25 years since the first intake of Nursing students in 1986. The event was attended by past Heads of School, past staff members, current staff, students from the first intake and recent graduates and current students.

The School was open for tours with a display of nursing uniforms and memorabilia. Items included a timeline of significant events, original curriculum documents, photos and gifts received from students.
Current reforms in the tertiary education sector have resulted in the proposal that the University of Ballarat restructure so as to be in a better position to meet new challenges. The planning and consultation processes have been underway for a number of months and much of the restructure will be operational by mid 2011.

The key elements proposed in the restructure are:
1. The establishment of seven new schools (two predominantly higher education, three TAFE and two dual sector schools).
2. The realignment of the University’s research strategy.
3. The establishment of a Centre for Learning Innovation and Professional Practice, (CLIPP).
4. The establishment of a Centre for University Partnerships, (CUP).
5. The relocation of the University’s Finance section.
6. The integration of service delivery in administrative and student support activity.

The operation of the University will be conducted through six portfolios responsible to the Vice-Chancellor.

**Schools and Programs Portfolio** - comprising
- The Business School (predominantly HE)
- School of Education and Arts (dual sector)
- School of Food, Land and Service Industries (TAFE)
- School of Health Sciences (dual sector)
- School of Human Services (TAFE)
- School of Manufacturing and Construction (TAFE)
- School of Science, Information Technology and Engineering (predominantly HE)

**Learning and Quality Portfolio** – comprising
- Academic Services
- Planning, Quality and Review
- Library Services
- Centre for Innovation and Professional Practice (CLIPP)

**Research Portfolio** – comprising
- Research Services
- University Research Centres and Themes

**Corporate Services Portfolio** – comprising
- Human Resources
- Finance
- Legal, Council and Compliance
- Technology Park
- Public Relations and Alumni
- Centre for University Partnerships (CUP)
- Commercial Services

**Student Support and Services Portfolio** – comprising:
- Student Connect
- Campus Life
- Facilities Services
- ICT Services
- Equity and Equal Opportunity

**Portfolio? (unnamed at this stage)** – comprising
- Aboriginal Education Centre
- Western Campuses
- UB Tec
- Regional Engagement and Outreach
- Indo Ballarat Institute (Campus in India)