

Intro for Dick –Post Prandial Presentation at 2007 Dinner

Our speaker tonight is Dick Sanders. Dick is well known to you because of the pivotal role that he has played in setting up and running this Association.

Dick has asked me to divulge his entire life history, but I think that time will only allow the highlights to be revealed.

Dick grew up in Waratah, and attended Waratah Primary School. The move to Boys High only involved moving to the end of High Street. In first year, most of us were given nicknames, whether we wanted them or not, and Dick's nickname was Yogi, because of his demonstrated ability to insert needles into various parts of his anatomy. This was well in advance of today's anatomy piercing craze.

He was a keen member of the School Cadet Corps, and in 4th Year was the headmaster, Dr Pond, in the play, "The Happiest Days of Your Life". It is therefore ironic that, the night the play finished, Dick left school to join the world of commerce as a junior clerk at the Queensland Insurance Company.

In the following year, he decided to continue his education, and came back to Boys High. But he didn't matriculate. He joined John Lysaght and gained his Metallurgy Certificate, subsequently sold encyclopaedias, and Royal typewriters, and continued his education at Evening College where he achieved 5 A's in the Leaving Certificate. In addition to having Geoff Kerr for English through his time at Boys' High, he also had Geoff at the Evening College.

In 1964 he started work at BHP's Central Research Laboratories, and then obtained a degree in geology. In 1970 he went to work as a geologist at the Mawson Coal Project at Caves Beach, and subsequently joined ACIRL, the Australian coal industry research laboratory, becoming the Manager at Maitland, and then responsible for all ACIRL laboratory activities.

In 1987 he started his own company, Quality Coal Consulting, and after some changes in ownership, the activity continues as QCC Resources, where Dick still spends several days per week.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that Dick is one of Australia's foremost coal quality experts. It was therefore with some effort that I managed to persuade him to change his presentation tonight – he was originally going to talk about **coal bore cores and their relationship to coal seam quality.**

He also has some claims to fame as a sportsman. In the Australian Masters Games in 2001, he won a gold medal in the Men's Novice Single Sculls, and silver and bronze medals in some indoor rowing events.

His ability did surface briefly at a younger age. In the late 60s, he held the Newcastle record for a standing long jump of 10' 4" (apparently 1" more than Father John Cootes).

He has an adventurous streak, as shown by his 60th birthday present – a sky dive from 14000ft.

He is also keen on Kerouac and the beat generation, and poetry in the pub.

Without further ado, I would now like to call on Dick Sanders, our Vice President, and the Class of 57's competitor in the Rolf Harris look-alike competition, to deliver his post prandial presentation entitled

“(Sigh) I wish I’d have said that!”

Over to you Dick.

2 August 2007