NEWSLETTER – Special Edition – a tribute to Phil Dulhunty

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Never a Dull Party – a tribute to Philip Dulhunty OAM

The sale of Dulhunty Power Ltd’s main subsidiary Dulhunty Power International Pty Ltd to McLean Power Inc of USA brings to a crossroads the career of Philip Dulhunty and his cohorts who started in this industry some 65 years ago. During this time as Philip has recorded in his autobiography there has never been a dull moment.

Personally involved in the Electricity Supply Industry, the aviation and marine industries it has presented many opportunities for Philip’s energetic personality to play a small part in their development (not without their comedies).

To make the start of some new endeavours (Dulhunty Poles Pty Ltd, Cogenic), a Cocktail Party was held on 15 December 2011 at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron to launch the new name of Dulhunty Power Ltd as Energy Technologies Ltd (on the Stock Exchange as “EGY’) and to give Philip a bit of a push in his marine and aviation enterprises.

Philip and the Premier of Victoria Ted Baillieu at the opening at the Geelong Pole Factory

Approximately 100 guests turned out to pay tribute to Philip, with a fine introduction from MC Martin Thomas AM, Chairman of Energy Technologies Limited & Dulhunty Poles Limited. This was followed by a very clever speech by CFML Flight Operations Manager Graham White, representing Philip’s aviation friends. Philip was then presented with mahogany scale models of three aircraft with which he had a
personal connection: - his faithful Cessna 180 float plane, VH-BNJ; Trans Oceanic Airways Short Sunderland VH-BKQ and, of course VH-CAT.

Phil’s response can only described as "Vintage Dulhunty". This was followed by a sample of Phil’s poetic skills, both which brought the house down. But don’t worry folks, you don’t miss out entirely. Phil’s speech and poem appear at the end of this article.

I’ll conclude by remarking that it was a fabulous, enjoyable and hilarious night. A fitting tribute to a great man for whom we can thank for having two airworthy Catalinas in Australia.

Colin Cool
Editor

1:50 scale model of Trans Oceanic Short Sunderland VH-BKQ presented to Philip Dulhunty
Anyone wishing to purchase these models or to have models of other aircraft custom-built (perhaps your own if you own one!) may wish to contact Dean Vince, who is the Managing Director of Airjet Advance Models. The above models cost $350 plus $25 pp each. In my opinion, as far as accuracy and detail are concerned, Airjet produce the best quality mahogany models I’ve seen.

If you wish to have a model custom made, Airjet will work with you to ensure your model is as accurate as possible, using any information you can provide such as drawings, photos etc. The contact details for Dean are as follows:

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The King’s, errr… Phil’s Speech…..

The fifteenth of December is a special, VERY special date for me. No it’s not my birthday nor my dog’s birthday- But it was Phyl Dulhunty’s (my mother!) She was Phyl Dulhunty (Phyllis) and after her last 2 babies Bob and John she was hoping for a girl – but alas I was a Phyllis with a phallus. Because she was Phyl Dulhunty I was never called Phil at home or school – I became Fip, Pip Flip or Flop. It wasn’t till I joined the Army in 1942 that I became Phil. So the 15th of December has always been a special day for me! Mum was a special person.

When I started the Dulmison business in 1947 with 2 army mates in the Occupation Force, Arch Michie and Bob Pearson I became involved in the Electricity Supply Industry – importing insulators from Kyoto in Japan. The only city never bombed and the centre of the ceramic industry.

If I’ve ever been successful it’s been entirely because of my friends – all of you here and may others, who are no longer with us – those who just couldn’t stand me any longer – I am indebted to them and all of you still hanging in.

Though not an engineer I’ve learned a lot about Electricity, probably much more than most Electrical Engineers

1. For those of you not in the industry I can tell you that most electricity is made in power stations where it is fed into wires which are then wound around large drums for easy transport

2. Electricity can travel along a wire in both directions. When you want to know which way it’s going, grab hold of one end and if you don’t feel anything you know it is going the other way

3. Some electricity, however, does not need to go along wires. That use in lightning, for example, and in portable radios. This kind of electricity is not generated, but is just flying about in the air, loose.

4. Electricity makes a low humming noise. This noise may be pitched at different levels for use in doorbells, telephones, electric organs and foghorns.

5. Electricity has to be grounded. That is to say, it has to be connected to the ground before it can function, except in the case of aeroplanes, which have separate arrangements.

6. Although electricity does not leak out of an empty light socket, that light socket is nevertheless live if you happen to shove your finger in it when the switch is on. So if it is not leaking, what else is it doing?

7. Electricity is made up of two ingredients, negative and positive. One ingredient travels along a wire covered with white plastic, and the other long a wire covered in black plastic. Positive electricity makes things hot such as in
ovens, heaters, toasters etc. Which one of us here has not heard the age old expression “OMN ON THE RANGE” and “WATTS COOKIN” or ERGS FOR BREAKFAST. How do you want your ERGS – FRIED OR SCRAMBLED?

8. Negative electricity on the other hand is COLD and used in refrigerators and air conditioners and for making snow and ice cream.

9. Like most things in nature, electricity comes in different sexes;

   a) The female variety or AC (for Always Changing – manly useful around the home)
   b) Male variety or DC (Dependable/constant – more suited to trucks, tractors, boats and aeroplanes
   c) There is a third variety, just called AC/DC which uses Rectifiers and Intraverters. This type does not mix because it goes “POOF” in a queer explosion.

As always the female variety is the most dangerous and can be a downright killer – for this reason AC electricity is expressed in number of killer volts or giggle watts. The docile chaps in DC on the other hand are hardly lethal. Whoever heard of anyone dying from an electric flashlight or Walkman radio for instance? I’ve had a similar learning experience with the marine and aviation business, stupidly mixing them up sometimes by inventing a “flying” anchor a swimming “Wing” and importing “Sail”planes. My own airplane is a boat and uses a GME depth sounder as well as an altimeter.

So what’s to come? Martin Thomas mentioned in the invitation that having sold our main subsidiary we will be starting some new adventures. We’re off to a great start in the power pole business as Tony will hopefully tell us. Marine piles are also on the cards and other products using our new glass reinforced cement material. Building construction members? How about Boats? Electric Boats? Electric aeroplanes! Probably the most important product will be the false teeth for sheep as mentioned in my book – or shooks, chatons on which I am an expert, equal to my knowledge of electricity.

We’re got our eyes on other prospects and possibilities and we’re open to suggestions and proposals from all of you – lavatory seats to NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS, FOGHORNS, KITES, DOORBELLS, SUBMARINES – YOU NAME IT!

Now as for personal things I’m still adding bits to the autobiography Never a Dull MOMENT and including things I left out – like the Slimey Mongrel, Tony Wingrove. Perfect description of competitors or people we did not like (e.g. John Fielding) Diving on the Japanese Midge Sub out to sea off Bungan Head a few weeks ago so there’ll be more to tell about the sinking of the Kuttabul. I’m also compiling a little book of poems, both Roger and I wrote over the years and a collection of jokes. Next
will come a contribution to the history of the Australian Electricity Supply Industry and one day I suppose I will have to retire.

Lenore says “Heaven Forbid”!

Now I’ve said enough but here’s a poem I wrote for my OBE (Over Bloody Eighty) which I think is still appropriate.

(I have Martin to thank (or blame) for organising this party and all of you for coming here. I appreciate some you have come a long way just for a cocktail – so you’d better drink up and be merry).

Philip Dulhunty.

“My OBE” by Philip W. Dulhunty

If for 87 years alive you’ve been
there’s hardly anything you haven’t seen
nor any place you haven’t been
What you haven’t done just lies ahead
just twenty years before you’re dead

So now it’s time to make a list
of all the things you feel you’ve missed
To get more juice you squeeze the lemon
not with men but more with wemen

Although my life’s been full of Derringdo
Enough to write a book or two
I’m only up to Chapter forty one
There’s many things I’ve never done

I’ve never been to Timbuctoo – have you?
Or paddled round the Arctic in an Eskimo Canoe
I’ve never fought a grizzly bear
Jumped out of an aeroplane in mid air
So far I haven’t sailed around the Horn
The Barrier Reef’s as far as I have gone

Before I reach the Pearly Gate
there’s one thing for which I can hardly wait
- To be arrested on a charge of rape!

Just because I’m nearly 90,
you may think there’s little chance
of finding anything erotic in my underpants
but don’t you be at all surprised
when you see my hopes becoming realised

The fact that I have reached this Golden Age
and able now to write this page
When many friends have left the stage
Is due entirely to Lenore
My wife – one couldn’t wish for more
She cooks up veggies and makes me eat my fruit
Keeps me on the rails and is good in bed to boot.

She’s the perfect wife for a man
Does every noble thing a woman can
If I tell a dirty story, she laughs as if it’s new
And helps me with the punch line, cos I forget a few.
So fill up your glasses
Get off your asses
And help us down this brew

PS from the Editor

That’s all folks!

I’ll be back with the first of the usual Newsletters for 2012 in March.

Happy New Year.

Colin Cool
Editor