

Jack₅₇

Direct to real people

Touring the world

It has been many many weeks since I last put pen to paper for JACK. In that time I have been overseas on holiday. What a time it was. My artist son lives in Berlin and between him and my well travelled bride they put together a plan to let me see some places. WOW. Though I have been to Britain and the US, I had managed to get to the ripe old age of 55 without ever having visited a country that does not have English as its primary language.

We visited Singapore, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Italy and France on a whirlwind trip. I learned so much on the journey my head is still spinning. It is going to take a few weeks to settle back into the routine of work and writing JACK.

For the next few issues I will be sharing with you some of the photos taken on the trip. Not a slide show, so don't worry. But I did see some things that made me laugh, so I thought I would try to share them with you.



Welcome to
edition 57 of Jack

I hope you think it is fun? Please note as the star says, this is 100% unofficial. I write it in my spare time, not in office time. If you are thin skinned or easily offended, perhaps do not read on. If you have recently insulted me or offended me, there is every chance you will see a one sided reprint of the incident here. Read it at your own risk.

beaumont.michael@gmail.com

Michael Beaumont MBA
(MB)Editor



Above: Apparently only large white dogs with muzzles are welcome at this store. Small black dogs are not at all welcome. Editors note. It did take a while to get used to seeing dogs, of all sizes, in restaurants.

Please, if you get
insulted easily, hang
up now.

It's easy to unsubscribe to JACK. All you have to do is send me an email saying UNSUBSCRIBE, and I will take you off the list immediately. People do it all the time. I don't mind, my feelings won't be hurt I promise you. There are more than 2000 regular readers of JACK and it was never designed to please everybody.

If you get insulted, don't sulk about it, don't whinge about it, simply unsubscribe.

michael@rnswwa.org.au

Corporate Governance help

We have been approached by several clubs and districts and zones to help them with some corporate governance training. We love getting those calls.

As a sport, we have been way behind the 8 ball for way too long on our governance standards that we are now playing catch up. That doesn't mean we can't or won't catch up though.

If your organisation needs some help with their corporate governance standards or training or assessment, or if you would just like to have a chat about it, please get in touch. BTW, that doesn't mean calling me to have a whinge about your club, district or zone.

In the Cah Pahk

I was in this bar in Hawaii...

A lot of my best moments start this way.

A Canadian said something like, I love the way you Aussies talk, turning your R's into H's. Then he proceeded to rattle off a very clever sentence that included the words market and car and park, all of which sounded like Mahket, Cah and Pahk.

It was very clever.

I am looking for a good quote.

We are looking for some quotes about the game.

What have you got? In particular we are looking for a few words from bowlers about how the game is more than a game, and how good it is. Has bowls saved or changed your life? Perhaps you know of someone that has met their bride or their girlfriend or had their life significantly altered by the game or the people they have met on the green. I would love to hear from you.

Whatcha got?

Email me.

Interesting places around the world

I have long been one of those people that had little interest in listening to tales of other people's overseas adventures. I truly get that people find Paris romantic, and Egypt dry, and Russia cold. So please ignore the following if that is the case.

Singapore is incredibly humid, and works pretty well as a half-way stop off to Europe. Having said that though, some people prefer to just get on a plane here and get off at the other end without breaking the journey. The food is great in Singapore, the booze is outrageously expensive.

Amsterdam is beautiful. So many bikes, so many scooters and so many people. I didn't venture past the tourist areas. Food was interesting without being amazing and the booze was reasonable.

Copenhagen was such an interesting contrast to Amsterdam. The buildings stand tall and proud and the whole place is that much more formal. The docks were beautiful. The Christmas markets were great and I really enjoyed the many and various hot alcoholic drinks served in mugs.

Berlin was amazing. I need to go back and spend more time there to really understand it. Food was incredible. Booze was great too.

Salzburg was described as the Christmasiest (yes I know it is not a real word) place on the planet and I would have to concur. The town is magnificent, the food stunning and the Christmas markets full of alcoholic drinks that all needed sampling. Hot apple cider with whiskey needing a few samples to really get to grips with it.

(I think by now you are getting an idea of the way I spent most of my holiday.)

Venice was incredible, I urge you to get there before it is under water. Florence was lovely but we were there on two days full of tourists with selfie-sticks. Nice was gorgeous. The highlight for me was the week in Provence. Buzzing around the little towns. I could throw my house on the market and live there in the blink of an eye.

The town markets were superb. So interesting to see food out on tables (no refrigeration required) and interesting clothing, leather goods etc. Provence was such an interesting surprise. The most extraordinarily beautiful gnarly little towns perched on hillsides. Also lovely to hear the strong accents, and almost no English spoken by the locals. My criticism of the place would be, way too many poms living there.

What travelling does

For some of us, it makes us sick. It doesn't matter how many plane trips I do, the slightest bit of turbulence, and I feel distinctly unwell. One of the first things I do when I get into my seat is make sure there is a little brown paper bag in the seat pocket. Though I have never had to use one yet, it is reassuring to know that I could if I had to. It doesn't help that my bride is even worse.

One of the other things that travelling overseas will do for you is broaden your perspective. Just having the opportunity to see how others live, day to day, is wonderful. Going out to restaurants, or to bars, is such fun, or if you are lucky enough to be invited into peoples homes, and see how they live, such a privilege.

Seeing how cultures have adapted to their surroundings, how villages grow clinging on the side of mountains, or how they develop the neighboring farmland to supply their food.

Though I am not smart enough to speak another language, I am always fascinated to watch the body language, facial expression and the nuance.

I am pretty keen on eating and love a drink so it is a pretty straight forward litmus test of any town city of country to stroll into a bar or restaurant and start ordering. That's why I was given fingers I reckon.

If you have never been overseas, do yourself a favour and book a holiday somewhere that doesn't have a travel warning, and walk around with your eyes, nose and ears open.



Above; It was nice to see some countries have really embraced the scooter thing.

'Dirt from the Ditch'

"Dirt from the Ditch" is scuttlebutt, rumour and worst practice to make your hair curl.

Because I have been away for such a long time, I have nothing new for this section, but rather than just do away with the dirt in the ditch, I thought I would share some observations from my overseas travels.

Observation 1. *Regardless of whether you are driving fast or slow, whatever pace you are going is deemed to be the correct one and therefore gives you (the driver) the right to honk and perhaps even gesticulate wildly at anyone going slower, and shake your head in disgust at anyone travelling faster, perhaps combining that with a safety warning. It seems to be a universal truth, I saw it in France, Germany, Singapore and here at home on the way back from the airport.*

Observation 2. *The world is now geared toward phones. I travelled for a month and a half without one, and it meant buying things was sometimes tricky, displaying tickets was sometimes tricky, finding places was sometimes tricky. Maps, buying things and ticketing are now largely done using mobile phones. If you don't have one, or god forbid you have an old one, you are off the pace and in trouble. There were a few times that I felt like something out of the ark, displaying my paper ticket or paying with real money. They looked at me like it was some sort of televised prank.*

Observation 3. *Having the opportunity to see how other cultures do things, gives you the opportunity to challenge why we do things in a certain way. Questioning yourself, your culture, your habits and your thinking behind all of that, can be an uncomfortable process sometimes. That is why some people can go to a place like Italy and come back complaining that they speak bloody Italian (like a criticism). I am not saying that just because it comes from overseas that it is better BTW. It is just the opportunity to see it done a different way, and that it can be done a different way is such a great learning thing.*

Collecting history

As many of you know, in my spare time I collect stories. Histories really. I am always keen to record the life story of people that have done extraordinary things. So if you know of anyone that fits that bill, please let me know.

They get the recording on a CD to share with their family or friends. As for why they would do it? In my experience, most people actually don't mind sharing their story providing it is done in a sensible and sensitive way.

Because I do a fair bit of travelling, in most cases I can work it in with my other duties.

Lucky lucky lucky

We are so fortunate aren't we? We are (most of us anyway) part of what management consultant Peter Drucker called the 'choice generation'. Pretty much the first generation that had complete choice over what we did with our lives.

If we didn't want to join the family business and milk cows for the rest of lives we didn't have to. If we didn't want to follow in Daddy's footsteps by joining the Army, we didn't have to. Sure there may have been a price to pay, but when it is all said and done, we had a choice.

Mr Drucker was really interested in the effects the choice generation would have on the world. He passed away in 2005, but got to see the early effects of the choice generation, as he himself was a part of it. (yes its a pretty broad generation I will concede you that)

He described himself as a social ecologist and did his level best to put our social world under his own microscope.

What do you think are the greatest or most significant effect of the choice generation? I think family dislocation must surely be up there, and I mean not just geographic dislocation, but the breakdown of the family unit, the multi-generational hub.

I'm keen to hear from you. MB

Terry Antram retires

Terry announced his retirement from the State team a few days ago so that he can spend some more time with his lovely wife and daughters. He is only the 37th player to have reached the 100 tests for NSW milestone. He earned the national call up in 2010 and has the 133 cap to prove it.

Steve Glasson played a fair bit of bowls with him at St Johns Park and said "He was regarded as one of the best seconds in the business, Tezza has been an instrumental contributor to much of NSW's success and also Australian Sides Championships for the past few years."

Colourful bowls identity Lee Such said "Terry will go down as one of the all time greats of the game, not just for what he has achieved on the green but for the person he is off it, I think I speak on behalf of everyone that ever met Terry that he is a true gentleman and great ambassador for the game."

From personal experience I would like to add that Terry is the perfect role model for any young players on the cusp of the elite level. No fuss, no chest beating, no bragging, just a great bloke, a true gentleman, a class act.

Record number of subscribers

Thanks for being a subscriber to JACK, we currently have a record number of subscribers which is a delightful position to be in. Please let your friends know that they can subscribe too, its free, its generally not too offensive.

You can also send me stuff. If you have a tournament on or you want something said, or whatever. I'm happy to get involved in the discussion. MB



Above: The trains really get along

Your help needed

We are getting our heads together about a short training course for bowls co-ordinators. What would you put into a course? What do bowls co-ordinators and bowls secretaries really need to know. Drop me an email.

michael@bowlsnsw.com.au

Bowler of the Year

This edition of JACK will be released just before the Bowls NSW Awards night, so I will tell you about the award winners in the next edition. I'm keen, as always to see who wins the Bowler of the Year, who gets inducted into the Hall of Fame and which club wins Club of the Year.

Surely Pixie and Lennon Scott will be fighting it out for Bowler of the Year, any time you win the State Singles, the points you accumulate for that win put you in pretty good position to take the award, but Pixie has had a phenomenal year. I will watch with great interest.

Five sure-fire signs your club could be in trouble

There are 4 nominations for the 7 board vacancies at the AGM.
 You still have a 100% spill of the board each year at the AGM.
 The whingers outnumber the doers more than 3 to 1.
 A notice of motion was taken from the floor at your AGM.
 No-one can really answer a question about your constitution because no-one actually remembers reading it.

Country Grants

A new raft of grants have become available to those in the country. To get more information go to the Federal Government site Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. There are two grant streams. Do it today!

Officials roll out

In company with Chris Green and Leo Finn, we are about to embark on the roll out of the new Officiating stuff. (Yes we now call them officials) The umpires are in a great position because they have used competency principles for years, just calling them something different. So that makes our job pretty easy. (I hope) I look forward to catching up with our umpires (officials) around the state in the next few weeks.



Above: What I got from this sign is, Please be alert for anyone dressed in all yellow (which I think is pretty sound thinking wherever you are.)

Calendar

Feb 12th Awards Night

Feb 16-18th NSW Keno Blues v QLD (played in QLD)

Feb 28 Metro Grade 1 commences

March 4-5 NSW Keno Blues v Victoria (Played at Wagga)

March 7th 15th World Junior Championships (Played at Broadbeach)

Contributors

MB1



Evil and often contemptuous of authority this horrible man contributes all of the nasty stuff. Gold for the skeptics.

MB2



20 years as an auctioneer, loquacious and rowdy and has pretty much an opinion on, well, everything.

MB3



This is the guy with the MBA and he really does know stuff. Infrequent contributor however and is not good with deadlines or direction. Read his stuff with a degree of suspicion.