

## AEMSC 2018 REVIEW:

Another year has passed since we last gathered, bloody hell,  
What's happened in between? Now is the time to tell.  
The highlight or some may say the low point, but here's the drum,  
Fish chowder was served, with Macca again bearing his bum.  
This didn't spoil what was to be the pinnacle of the night,  
Bernie our president made the announcement, much to our delight,  
Our club would honour three new life members, their names were called  
A lady and two males, Felicity McGregor, John Mercer and David Archibald.

A week later the AEMSC was drifting along, all was very fine,  
Till the water temperature dropped on December 5<sup>th</sup> to 15.9.  
This is a temperature usually reserved for October, or maybe June,  
Perhaps the sudden drop may have had something to do with the moon.  
It wasn't long and the temperature climbed this aberration soon forgot,  
We no longer had to worry whether we continued to swim or not.

It is now four years since work started on our southern pool,  
Council had decided to fix it and show they weren't a fool,  
While discussing this work with Mark and Jo, they thought it nasty,  
Then declared this time period shall be known as the "Wall Dynasty."  
It was near April fool's day, there was information we did seek,  
When the email arrived saying the pool will be finished next week.  
Quick as work started, it stopped; it was not to the original plan,  
The height was to be the same as the side walls it did span.

Original drawings were located; a meeting on site did ensue,  
That's when we learned, neither contractor nor council had a clue.  
The plans had been in misinterpreted, or they did misread,  
Agreement was reached finishing work could now proceed.  
Yet one question lingered, its intensity would not diminish,  
And the question? "Will the work on the pool ever finish?"  
Capping blocks were obtained and craned into place  
This done, there was a partial collapse, is there any saving grace.

With the advent of June the water temperature began to drop  
In the mid teens we hit the water with cossies and cap on top.  
Three of our lovely ladies, Cookie, Lilli and Sue,  
Went to Tasmania to swim, another thing to do.  
Some would say why do that? And may be thought rather crude,  
It was the winter solstice and mandatory to do it nude,  
Watched on national TV it was definitely done by the book,  
But they are still to show us, all the selfies that they took.

They returned to water temperatures just like down south,  
After their swim, you could see them still shivering at the mouth.  
Julia in the UK dipped at Whitestable beach, a part of Kent,  
To prove she swam, her camera was used and pictures sent.  
It was also this month, June 18th. The temperature hit 16.1  
This had people wondering if they swam here just for fun.

July soon arrived along with water colder than before,  
Travelling from Antarctica it finally reached our shore.  
Something had happened, not seen for many a year,  
Low temperature of 12.4 gave us reason to cheer.  
This cold water persisted into the start of spring,  
Then it left the thirteen's causing us all to sing.

Daniel Lysaght should be mentioned in our talk,  
For he arrived on Governor's Island in New York  
His arrival ~~was~~ occurred early in the night,  
For the occasion, he was dressed in white.  
Even though the evening was starry and not dim  
He only had time for drinks, but not for a swim.

Those that walk the beach before going for their swim,  
Saw the boatshed had been enclosed, another council whim?  
No! The shed was being modified to accommodate the life guard,  
It was finished in months, not years, seems it wasn't hard.  
This work was done and completed with a reason,  
It just had to be finished before the surfing season.  
If you're a member of the public, wanting something done,  
Then you have to wait for years and enjoy the fun.

Well now that you're here, you all know the score,  
It has finally happened we can complain no more.  
The sign designating "southern pool closed" was removed  
A swim in that pool showed it was only slightly improved.  
The rear wall is higher, the ledge and top wall, very rough,  
But after four years, I'm sure we have all had enough.  
The water comes in when the tide is right,  
But will it wash out the seaweed overnight?

Having written and then read that bold verse,  
The closure sign reappeared, what could be worse.  
Things were out of kilter and not quite right  
Needing essential Maintenance work, done overnight.  
Crane, pumps and generator arrived early the next day,  
To finish all work, they said, if the surf didn't get in the way.  
It seems the problem, as council told all,  
There was still a hole in the eastern wall?

At the time of writing who knows what has transpired,  
Most of the workers involved have now retired.  
Or maybe some have taken long service leave,  
They will say anything that you might believe.  
As years end comes closer what does the future hold?  
I say, don't believe the rumours that you've been told.

A notice appeared on the dressing shed wall  
It was a message to tell us swimmers all,  
That one of our friends who set up this hall tonight  
And has done so for many years, to our delight,  
Has finally relinquished the role, done with much pain,  
Those of us here are very grateful and thank you Elaine.

Well that is another year dusted and done,  
Not much progress but it's been a lot of fun.  
Our gathering has recalled what had happened  
Perhaps our mood was even blackened.  
What lies ahead? Let's see what next year may hold,  
Refurbishment of the dressing sheds, so we're told.  
In the meantime, let me say without fear,  
Merry Christmas and enjoy the New Year.

**Another Roscoe original 29/11/2018**