

# MEMORIES OF BARRY JOHNSON

By Brian Talbot

Speakers at the funeral of the late Barry Johnson reminded me of his keen eye for detail and his well-known sense of humorous verbal expression.

I remembered my personal experience with these attributes when Gecko had only recently acquired the present Gecko House, and after initial repairs due to termite infestation had been carried out so that we could occupy the building.

Mal Walker, a construction engineer on the Snowy River Scheme and myself, as Architect for the building, were standing outside admiring our new home when Barry turned up.

By way of expressing our pleasure with our new home I said to Barry, "What do you think of our new home?". Barry, always brutally frank, replied "Bloody awful!!".

Somewhat stunned by this reply we asked why. "The building's falling over" replied Barry.

Now I had noticed that the front staircase had broken away from the main structure but considered this could be easily fixed, but Barry's assertions had to be taken seriously. Mal said he had a theodolite and would take some readings.

Next day Mal confirmed the building was leaning toward Duringan Street and further readings confirmed Barry's contention that the building was 'Bloody awful'.

And the rest is history - we will miss you Barry.