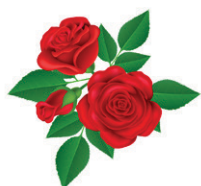


**OCTOBER 2018**



# Vale Neville Frost



**THE ASSOCIATION IS SAD TO REPORT THAT MEMBER NEVILLE FROST PASSED AWAY ON WEDNESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2018.**

Neville was 95 years of age. Neville was born on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1922.

Neville joined the Australian Army in 1941 and fought in New Guinea in World War 2. He left the army in 1946. Neville married his wife Shirley in 1948.

After leaving the army, Neville found work as a motor mechanic. He later worked in the local paper mills and then moved down the South Coast to open a mixed business.

Neville joined the PMG (Postmaster Generals Department) at the Kiama Lines Depot. He transferred to the Sutherland area in 1953 and went onto work at Caringbah and the Engadine Line Yards before he retired as a Line Foreman.

Neville and Shirley enjoyed sea cruises and completed a 104 day around the world trip. Neville continued annual sea cruises until 2012.

Neville had the distinction of having membership number "1" of our Association. He joined the Retired Members Association on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1980. He regularly attended our general meetings until prevented by poor health. The Association presented Neville with an OBN (Over Bloody Ninety) Award in 2015.

A few years back, Neville moved to the Moran Nursing Home at Engadine. Vince Haywood and John Lane recall that Neville was well liked and respected by staff and fellow residents.

The Retired Members Association extends its condolences and deep sympathy to Neville's children Margaret and Michael.



*Vince Haywood and John Lane present Neville with an OBN Award in 2015*

## October General Meeting Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> October at 10.15 am

**The venue for the General Meeting is the Financial Sector Union (FSU),  
Level 2, 321 Pitt Street, Sydney.**

*Members are most welcomed to attend, especially members who may not have attended a general meeting. It is great opportunity to catch-up with former workmates.*



## Retired Members Association

### Office Bearers:

<b>President</b>	<b>Vince Haywood</b> ☎ 02 9457 9828 ✉ vinceglen@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Bruce Muirhead</b> ☎ 02 9639 0990 22 Cameron Avenue, Baulkham Hills, 2153 ✉ muirhead@bigpond.com
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<b>Editor</b>	<b>Paul Rewhorn</b> ☎ 0418 626625 ✉ pdrewhorn@me.com

### COMMITTEE

John McAuliffe, Trevor Anderson,  
John Bryce, Allan Fairbairn, Steve Flynn,  
Terry Livingstone, Col McQueen,  
Paul Rewhorn, Jim Spencer, Ron Milosh,  
Warren Morley, Alan Stevens.



## Christopher John McRae



The Association is sad to report that member John McRae passed away on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018. A funeral service for John was held on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at Palmdale Gardens, Ourimbah.

John was 84 years of age.

John had been a member of the *Retired Members Association* for over fourteen years.

John worked in Country Installation and retired from Haymarket Exchange.

The *Retired Members Association* extends its condolences and deep sympathy to John's family and friends.

**To be held at the  
Burwood RSL, in the  
Sportmans Bar  
(downstairs).  
Drinks and food can be  
purchased at  
club prices**

**Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November,  
from 11am**

**NDC** *Everyone is  
welcome*

*Christmas Party*

**PMG/TELECOM/TELSTRA**



# Retired Members Association

**12 pm, Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Petersham RSL, 7 Regent Street, Petersham**  
(Just a 200m walk from Petersham Station)

The cost is \$45 per person.  
Includes a three-course meal and  
lucky door prizes.

Payment can be made at a General Meeting or you  
can post a cheque to the Secretary,  
(address shown on page 2 of the newsletter)  
or via electronic payment.

**Credit Union Australia (CUA) BSB 814-282,  
eSaver Account No: 10642769**



*All trainees from the  
1959*

*Technician in Training Intake are  
cordially invited to our  
60 Year Reunion.*

**Wives and Partners are most welcomed**

**1959** **TECHNICIAN  
IN  
TRAINING**  
**60 Year Reunion**

**To be held at the Petersham RSL Club  
7 Regent Street, Petersham  
On Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
from 12 to 5pm**

**Contacts:**

Peter Begley	02 66283848
George Pearce	0427 091922
Fred Crowe	02 43095784

(Petersham RSL a 200m walk from Petersham Railway Station)  
Petersham is a short train ride from Central Station (about 10 minutes).  
Walk up the stairs and turn right, cross the road and then walk about 100 metres  
and you will see the Petersham RSL on your left.

**NOTE THERE IS NO LIFT AT PETERSHAM STATION, IF THIS A PROBLEM YOU CAN CATCH A BUS FROM  
THE CITY TO PETERSHAM**



**W**ELCOME TO YOUR OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER. WE HAD A WELL-ATTENDED SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING. WARREN MORLEY GAVE THE MEETING A PRESENTATION ON THE PITFALLS AROUND CAR INSURANCE. WARREN OFFERED SOME GOOD ADVICE ON HOW TO GET THE BEST PRICE WHEN IT CAME TO **insurance renewals. Also, many worthwhile contributions came from the members attending the meeting.**

**WELCOME TO YOUR  
OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER**

Vince Haywood

What it is missing today, is that car and private medical insurers do not value their current customers. Instead, they will chase new customers with offers of discounts and gifts. I will go as far to say, based on the examples quoted at the meeting, insurance companies attempt to recoup the cost of discount offers by increasing renewal premiums for the current customers.

Rod Simms, chairman of the ACCC (The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission) urges people to shop around before they renew their insurances. The best advice is to get quotes from other insurance providers. Make it clear to your current insurance provider that you will change to a company with the better offer. Before you renew, make sure read the insurance disclosure document. Check the sum insured and for any special conditions attached to the policy.

Given what we heard at the meeting, significant savings can be had. Also, you need to inquire about all available discounts such as senior card and where you have multiple policies with the same company

On the subject of CTP (Greenslip Insurance). Before you renew, check the State Insurance Regulatory Authority website (**address <https://www.greenslips.nsw.gov.au>**). The State Insurance Regulatory Authority is a State Government agency. On their website, input the details found on your CTP renewal notice. The website will respond with the renewal prices for all six current CTP insurers.

### **Vale Neville Frost**

I was very sad to hear the news this past week that Neville Frost had passed away on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

A few years back I had a phone call from member who wished to change his address. Not an unusual occurrence, but this one was different. The call was from Neville Frost. While updating Neville's address, I discovered that Neville joined the Retired Members Association back in 1980 and held membership number **"one"**. Neville must have been at the front of the queue or a good mate of Bert Harris.

Neville served Australia in the army during World War 2. Following the war, Neville worked as a motor mechanic and various other jobs before he joined the PMG as a linesman at Kiama. He retired as a Line Foreman at the Engadine Depot.

He married Shirley in 1948.

Back in 2015, John Lane and I visited Neville in the Moran Nursing Home at Engadine. We had the honour of presenting Neville with our Association's OBN Award (Over Bloody Ninety). My memories of Neville were seeing how well-liked and respected there. He was giving the staff plenty of instructions to staff. Our thoughts and condolences are with Neville's children Margaret and Michael.

I mentioned that Neville was a Linesman, today we have many former lines staff along with clerical, ex-managers and former staff of the NSW public service as members of our Association. All have contributed to make our Association a place for enduring friendships.

*Continued on Page 5*



## A Message from the President *(cont'd)*

### Aged Care

Like most of you, I watched the ABC's Four Corners investigations into the failings of our aged care. It was difficult to watch the terrible and at times the cruel treatment to our fellow senior Australians.

The investigation relied on a crowdsourcing investigation, more than 4000 people responded.

Respondents included professionals who had extensive experience in the industry. Then there were the families who spoke of disturbing accounts of overworked staff and neglected residents and the overworked staff; it seems there are no minimal staffing level standards.

We watched the age care industry representatives who represent the owners and operators of age care residents. The representatives gave tacit acknowledgement of a problem. But continued to suggest staffing numbers and standards needed little change.

The federal government intends to establish a Royal Commission into Age Care. I hope that the Royal Commission does lead to real and worthwhile changes to aged care in Australia. This is not the first time we have heard of systemic problems in aged care, remember the "*kerosene bath*" accounts about twelve years ago. There was outrage at the time, yet after all this time, no reform or worthwhile change has taken place.

### Exits From the ABC

Speaking of the ABC, events have come thick and fast within the public broadcaster. First, there was the sacking of the ABC managing director Michelle Guthrie. The ABC chairman announced the ABC board's decision to sack the managing director. He claimed that Michelle Guthrie did not have the leadership style to take the ABC into the future. He would not elaborate on her leadership style deficiencies.

Then we had the revelations of Mr Milne's performance as ABC Board Chairman. The Fairfax published a leaked email sent to Guthrie by Mr Milne demanding the sacking of a senior reporter, Emma Alberici.

There were other reports of Mr Milne's meddling. He had sought the removal of the ABC's political editor Andrew Probyn and had tried to stop a programming

change at Triple J. Mr Milne stated it was the federal government's annoyance that made the sackings and changes necessary.

Mr Milne resigned, now there is going to be both a Senate Inquiry and an internal investigation by the Department of Communications. Michelle Guthrie has indicated that she may take legal action.

In this past year, we have seen ABC reporting on the Financial Services Industry and Age Care. Both have led the establishment of Royal Commissions.

There is no doubt the ABC and its staff are under pressure from government and members of the Senate crossbench. Back in 2014, the federal government froze ABC funding for the next three years. This was followed by a further reduction in this year's federal budget. There have been calls for the publication of senior ABC journalists' salaries and proposed changes to the ABC's charter.

The minister for communications has a panel to assist with the appointments to the ABC board. The panel interviews and assesses applicants. Senator Fifield, Communications Minister has in every case ignored the panel's recommendations. Instead, the Senator has made his own political appointments. The current ABC Board has only two members with any relevant expertise, neither of whom was appointed by Senator Fifield.

I remind members we will have guest speaker from "ABC Friends" at our November General Meeting.

### Gas - Not a Clever Country

During the past week, ABC News reported that the ACCC had start publication of LNG (liquid natural gas) prices.

The publication will show current and predicted gas export prices figures. The quoted export prices show whether or not domestic gas users are paying more or less than the export price. The ACCC's latest figure shows that by early 2019, domestic users will pay \$15 per kilojoule of gas. The current price is about \$12 per kilojoule. So, we can expect about a 25 per cent price increase for gas sometime in 2019. About five years ago, domestic users were paying between \$4 and \$5 per kilojoule.

*Continued on Page 6*



## A Message from the President *(cont'd)*

This changed when the gas industry opened an export refinery on Australia's east coast. There were no regulatory restrictions placed upon the gas industries to put aside reserves for the domestic market. Earlier this year, there were predictions of gas supply shortages for the eastern states.

The former Prime Minister, Mr Turnbull met with gas industries representatives in an atmosphere of a looming crisis. He received verbal assurances from the gas industry there would be ample future gas supply. There was no mention of gas prices. Mr Turnbull had been reluctant like leaders before him to introduce legislation that would guarantee gas supply and at a reasonable price to safeguard our economy.

Some facts for you. Australia is the second largest exporter of gas behind the nation of Qatar. Australia collects about ten per cent of tax revenue that QTAR collects for their gas exports.

Gas price increases are bad news for Australian households. Worse, it may prove disastrous for Australian industries and their employees. Chemical industries that are heavy users of natural gas may decide to move off-shore like the USA. In the USA, the price of natural gas is about \$4 per kilojoule with no upward price pressure expected.

Donald Horne, an Australian journalist and academic wrote a book called *"The Lucky Country"* in 1964. The term *"The Lucky Country"* became a nickname for Australia and used favourably to describe our country. But, Donald Horne used this term in a negative sense to describe Australia's climb to be a prosperous country. He claimed it was because of luck rather than the strength of its political and economic system. ***He described our politicians as second-rate people who so lack curiosity about events that surround them they are often taken by surprise.***

### COTA Legal Service

**COTA (Council of the Aging)** is an organisation whose role is to promote, improve and protect the well-being of older people in Australia as citizens and consumers. COTA seeks to be recognised by the government, the general community and media as

representing, advocating for and serving all older Australians.

COTA has launched a project titled ***"Legal Pathways for Older People"***. The project aims to help older people obtain free or reduced cost legal assistance. The program is government funded for two years.

### **Assistance is available to Aged Pensioners or holders of a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.**

The project offers free consultations with solicitors to draw up documents for a fee of \$50 per document to cover costs. If the solicitor who sees you thinks that your financial circumstances and/or the amount of work involved in helping you mean you fall outside the scope of this service, the solicitor will advise you of this and refer you to a more appropriate legal service.

### **All appointments need to be booked through COTA NSW: Phone: (02) 8268 9616 or 1800 449 102 (for callers outside Sydney)**

Solicitors are located at:

Avoca Beach; Blacktown; Blue Mountains; Byron Bay; Camden; Campbelltown; Casino, Cronulla; East Gosford; Grafton; Hunter Region; Kyogle; Lismore; Liverpool; Newcastle; Newport; Parramatta; Penrith; Picton; Port Macquarie; Rutherford; Sutherland; Taree/Forster/Tuncurry, Tweed Heads and Wollongong.

### Peter Henry

I recently contacted member Peter Henry. Peter is about to undertake a course of radiotherapy treatment for a prostate problem, I am sure members will join me in wishing Peter well.

John Lane is making the final touches to our forthcoming Moree trip away. It looks like an interesting and entertaining time. I am certainly looking forward to it. John has also finalised the arrangements for our Christmas Party this year on Thursday, 29th November 2018 at the Petersham RSL. Details are in this month's newsletter.

**Finally, do not forget our next general meeting is on Thursday, 25th October starting at 10.15 am. It will be great to see you there.**

Bye for now, Vince.



# *Early* **REMINDER**

## **1957** **TECHNICIAN IN TRAINING** **62 Year Reunion**

**To be held at the West Port Bowling Club  
Buller Street, Port Macquarie.  
On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
10 am for 11 am Start**

**Further Information Bob Speer  
email [speer.r.65@gmail.com](mailto:speer.r.65@gmail.com)  
or mobile 0408863900**



Photo from 2012 Reunion

*Sponsored by Telstra Alumni*