

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Vince Haywood

WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER, OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER FOR 2019. I TRUST EVERYONE HAD A PEACEFUL AND ENJOYABLE TIME OVER THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SEASON. IT IS A PARTICULAR GOOD TIME OF THE YEAR TO RELAX WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

The *Retired Members Association* committee and executive held a planning meeting on the 31st January 2019. The objective of this meeting is to map our direction for the forthcoming year. The planning meeting discussed the *2018 Financial Report*. Treasurer, Bob Hamblion will present the financial report at our annual meeting.

One concern with finances is the increasing cost of mailing a printed newsletter to members. The executive and committee will have to find a solution to this matter over the coming months. Meanwhile, I would ask members who receive their newsletter in the mail and also have an email account, please let us know. You will receive your newsletter via email each month. The newsletter comes to you in living colour. I assure you that the Association does not divulge your email address to other persons or organisations. My final sales pitch, it is good for the environment. *Please contact our Secretary (contact details inside the newsletter).*

The planning meeting also reviewed social events calendar for 2019. Social Secretary, John Lane gave a detailed presentation of plans for social events, guest speakers and our annual trip away. We should be in a position to publish a calendar of social events planned for 2019 in the March Newsletter.

Our first social function is lunch at the Sydney Rowers Club on Thursday, 21st March 2019.

The lunch should give us an opportunity to enjoy some of the last of the warm weather and Sydney Harbour views. You will find full details (including the ferry timetable) on *page 5* in this month's newsletter.

AGM

Annual General Meeting

Thursday,
28th February 2019
10.15 am

(full details on the next page)

Annual Meeting: 28th February 2019

Our annual and general meeting will be on **Thursday, 28th February 2019**. A reminder perhaps for our new members or members who may not have already attended our meeting, the venue for the annual meeting is the **Financial Sector Union (FSU), Level 2, 321 Pitt Street, Sydney**. The meeting commences at 10.15 am.

As I have mentioned earlier, Treasurer Bob Hamblion will present our *2018 Financial Report*. A copy of the report is in this month's newsletter. Under the Association's rules, all executive and committee positions are declared vacant and elections take place for all vacant positions. Nominations remain open until just before the meeting; if you would like to stand for a position, please feel free to do so. Please contact our Secretary, Bruce Muirhead for a nomination form. Nomination forms will be available at the annual meeting. Formal notices for the annual meeting and the election are on *page 2* of the newsletter.

While on the subject of meetings, we hold our monthly general meetings on the **fourth Thursday of each month (except in December and January)**. **The meetings commence at 10.15 am.** The meetings are held at the *Financial Sector Union (FSU)*, the same location as for the Annual Meeting. There are two notable exceptions, these are in May and July when the general meeting relocates to *Woy Woy* and *Emu Plains* respectively. The newsletter will publish an advance notice for all general meetings. All members are most welcomed to come along, and I would like to extend a special invitation for a new or any member who may not have previously attended our meetings to come along. After each meeting, we get together in an informal setting for lunch.

Continued on Page 4



Important Notice

Retired Members Association's Annual Elections

At the Annual Meeting that will held on **Thursday, 28th February 2019 at 10.15 am.**

all executive and committee positions will be declared vacant and elections will then take place to fill all vacated positions for 2019.

Nominations remain open until just before the meeting; if you would like to stand for a position, please feel free to do so. Please contact our Secretary, Bruce Muirhead for a nomination form. Nomination forms will be available at the meeting

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

Retired Members Association ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual and General Meetings will be on:

Thursday, 28th February 2019 at 10.15 am.

At the AGM, Treasurer Bob Hamblion will present the 2018 Financial Report. A copy of the report is in this newsletter.

Venue for the annual meeting is **Financial Sector Union (FSU), Level 2, 321 Pitt Street, Sydney**

Retired Members Association Office Bearers

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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.



Retired Members Association Financial Balance Statement - 2018

Balance Sheet As At 31.12.18 for C.W.U. RMA (NSW)

	2018	2017
Accumulated Funds	\$25,137.66	\$25,553.93
Represented by:		
Current Assets		
C.U.Au Current Primary SaverA/C	\$83.51	\$59.54
E Saver A/C	\$3,382.04	\$4,190.24
Cash to be deposited		
Cash at Call	\$3,465.55	\$4,249.78
Investment A/C 1	\$11,129.47	\$10,646.89
Investment A/C 2	\$10,780.18	\$10,299.64
Term Deposits	21,909.65	20,946.53
Accrued Interest	\$37.46	\$432.62
Total Current Assets	\$25,412.66	\$25,628.93
Unpresented cheques	\$275.00	\$75.00
Less Liabilities	\$275.00	\$75.00
Total Funds	\$25,137.66	\$25,553.93

Income & Expenditure Statement, For Year Ending 31st. Dec.

Income		
News letter mailout	\$740.00	\$860.00
Badges	\$85.00	\$35.00
Donations	\$175.00	\$235.00
Dues	\$300.00	\$260.00
Investment Income	\$645.58	\$673.22
Social Outings	\$10,380.00	\$4,965.00
Total Income	\$12,325.58	\$7,028.22
Expenditure		
Reyipo Hlds. Moree Deposits + Clarke & Lane	\$6,070.00	
Lithgow Buslines		\$2,150.00
Stationery	\$188.41	\$198.03
Postage	\$16.20	
CRUMA Affiliation Fees	\$100.00	\$100.00
CPSA Membership	\$50.00	\$50.00
SCOA Membership		\$42.00
ABC Friends	120.00	
Badges	\$54.54	\$32.67
Alzheimers Aust.		\$250.00
Prostate		\$250.00
Melanoma		\$250.00
Accountant Gift		\$109.00
Gift Ifka Antoni / Floral Tribute	\$157.00	\$82.00
Donation / Gift Amelia Clancy.		\$55.95
CWU for Postage	\$866.09	\$912.70
Repayments / Refunds	\$1,055.00	\$395.00
Secretary Allowance	\$50.00	\$50.00
Socials	\$3,518.40	\$2,641.50
www.Domaine Hosting, Bulkmailer	\$120.00	\$180.00
Welfare Expenses	\$75.00	\$75.00
Social Reseach + Davistown EFT	\$300.00	\$150.00
Total Expenditure	\$12,740.64	\$7,973.85
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$415.06)	(\$945.63)

R.W Hamblion Treasurer

This is to certify that I have checked the books of the CWU, RMA and found them in order. A.R.Fairbairn.

Equity		
Opening balance (1 January)	\$25,553.93	\$26,502.88
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$415.06)	(\$945.63)
Closing balance (31 December)	\$25,137.66	\$25,553.93



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Joyce Overton

In my opinion, the *2018 Christmas Lunch* was our best ever. We had seventy-two members attend the lunch at the Petersham RSL. It was not just the large number of members who attended; looking around the room you could see the members' enjoyment of an opportunity to catching up with their workmates and friends. Our members' partners are making new friends, this is great to see. It is what the *Retired Members Association* is all about.

A special moment for me was the honour of presenting Joyce Overton with the Association's OBN (*Over Bloody Ninety*) Award. Joyce and a number of other members received OBE and OBN Awards in recent weeks. Special mention of these individual awards will be in the March 2019 newsletter.

Paul has put together a montage of photos of members who came to the Christmas Lunch. The photos were taken by the Association's official photographer, Ron Milosh. Well done Ron. You will find the montage in this month's newsletter and all images will soon be on our website.

ABC Friends

Committee member Warren Morley arranged for Professor Ed Davis, President of the *ABC Friends*, New South Wales to address the November General Meeting.

Professor Davis spoke about the real threat the ABC is under, on three fronts;

- Continued funding cuts,
- Attacks by the commercial media who see the ABC as a competitor and therefore a danger to their market share.
- Finally, the overt and private political interference to the ABC's news coverage of political affairs.

The sacking of the corporation's CEO and the subsequent resignation of the Chairman may have made for good drama on our TV screens. This episode in the ABC's history highlights the pressures being experienced by the ABC when it comes to their dealings from the federal government. The ABC board and management are well aware of the government's ability to do them harm through further budget cuts or withhold funds for much-needed capital work improvements within the ABC.

The Federal Government is using a recruitment agency to sift through the list of potential appointees to take on the responsibility as Chair.

ABC Friends in its submission to the Government has put forward the straight forward proposition:

- The person appointed to Chair must be a passionate and committed supporter of public broadcasting.
- A person whose appointment will assist in rebuilding public confidence in the corporation's independent leadership.
- The eventual appointee must have the confidence and support of both the government and opposition leaders.

We certainly do not want to see a "*Captains Pick*" which the current prime minister is apt to do. At the October General Meeting, it was agreed that the *Retired Members Association* should join the *ABC Friends* as an organisation, and we presented the application to Ed who was more than happy to accept it on behalf of *ABC Friends*.

It is imperative that we maintain the ABC as a source of information and entertainment that is free from external influence and manipulation.

Bye for now, hope to see many of you at the Annual General Meeting.

Vince



HAVE A BRIEF SOCIAL REPORT THIS MONTH. I AM NOW IN THE PROCESS OF FINALISING OUR SOCIAL FUNCTION CALENDAR FOR 2019. I HOPE TO HAVE THE SOCIAL FUNCTION ITINERARY FOR THE YEAR READY FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER. I ANNOUNCED THE TRIP AWAY IN 2019 WILL BE A SNOWY MOUNTAINS TOUR.

What a great Christmas Lunch we had last November. We had a record turnout of 72 members. I have received complimentary feedback. Our thanks must go to Petersham RSL for their great food and function room. I notice an increasing number of PMG/Telecom/Telstra reunion committees are using Petersham RSL for their functions. Paul has put together a collage of members' photos from the event in this month's newsletter.

In recent weeks, when I had discussions with the Lake Jindabyne Hotel to determine details such as deposits and itinerary etc. I became concerned that there may not be sufficient rooms available if the tour was to go ahead on the 27th October 2019. I have been able to secure more rooms if our trip-away starts on Sunday, 10th November 2019.

I consider it prudent to make this change at this early stage first not to inconvenience members by creating a later move to the tour date and also ensure we don't disappoint anyone because there is no accommodation available. During March and April, I will publish further information about the trip-away.

We were to have our first social function year at the *Mosman Rowers Club*, however, when I tried to make a booking with the club, I discovered the club is undergoing renovations and will be probably closed during March. Therefore, it is necessary to change the venue, we will now go ahead with lunch at the **Sydney Rowers Club** at Abbotsfort (*see notice below*). Unfortunately, the newsletter posted earlier to some members shows the Mosman Rowers. This will be corrected in the March Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our popular harbourside lunch.

Upcoming Social Events



John Lane

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

Sydney Rowers Club: Lunch

Thursday, 21st March 2019

Lunch commences about 12 pm

The Sydney Rowers Club is on the Parramatta River. There is a Sydney Ferry service from Circular Quay to the club. When you arrive at the Abbotsfort Wharf, The Sydney Rowers Club is just 150 metres from the wharf (613 Great North Road, Abbotsfort Point).



The ferry service uses the Opal Card and the concession fare for seniors and pensioners applies. The club is a very popular weekday lunch venue. We have reserved a table, therefore please e-mail or phone John Lane (0417 238 687) if you like to join us for lunch.

Ferries from Circular Quay
Dep 11.07 am Arr 11.44am
11.37 am Arr 12.14 pm

Return from Abbotsfort
1.57 pm, 2.27 pm & 2.57 pm
(37 min trip)





PHOTOGRAPHS FROM A CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

MORE PHOTOS ON
THE NEXT PAGE





1957 TECHNICIAN IN TRAINING 62 Year Reunion



Photo from 2012 Reunion

Wednesday 13th March 2019

10 am for 11 am Start

**West Port Bowling Club
Buller Street, Port Macquarie**

**Further Information Bob Speer
email speer.r.65@gmail.com
or mobile 0408863900**



KEMPSEY (1962 & 1963)

Bob Hyde

Two of our members have been busy over the past year or more writing books about their experiences working in the PMG, Telecom and Telstra. They have given their kind permission to have excerpts from their books printed in our newsletter.

We start this month with an excerpt from Bob Hyde's book. Bob was an engineer who started back in the days of the PMG. This month, Bob recalls his experience at Kempsey during 1962 and 1963. Bob recalls the Cuban Missile Crisis during his time at Kempsey. The world stood on the brink of a nuclear war. Fortunately, the US then had a President who was able to show and deliver leadership during this dangerous time. If we had the "Donald" as President then, we would not be reading about it sixty-seven years later.

After the crisis, the cold war continued, the gulf between East and West grew ever wider. Likewise, in 1963, a gulf emerged between West Kempsey and the rest of Kempsey, the cause was not political; it was water. Bob describes how the Kempsey community dealt with a major flood, relying mostly on their own resources with good humour.

Next month, we will feature excerpts from book written by a well-known member, subject to the book being cleared by the newsletter's legal department.

THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS, AS SEEN FROM THE KEMPSEY DIVISION

In October 1962, I was working as a Junior Engineer in the Kempsey Division, under Divisional Engineer Norm Cornally. The Cold War had been going for a long while; we were used to seeing newspaper and television coverage of A-bomb and H-bomb tests by the Russians and the Americans. There were confrontations between the two superpowers all over the world. In October 1962, the Russians started installing ballistic missiles in Cuba, very close to the USA. It was clear that the USA would not tolerate this. Tension rose to incredible levels.



The White House made an announcement that President Kennedy would make a very important speech on the 22nd October. The whole world stopped to listen because we all knew that the world was on the verge of a nuclear war.

The speech was telecast and broadcast worldwide. We did not have television reception in Kempsey at the time, so we could only listen on the radio. The funny thing was that there was no radio in the PMG Engineering office at Kempsey, nor any feed from the ABC national radio network.

I owned a little *Morris Minor* convertible at the time, and I had fitted a valve radio to the car sometime before. I folded the roof down, drove the car up onto the wide footpath outside the PMG office, and played the car radio at full volume. The staff all gathered around the car, and hung out of the office windows, to listen to the broadcast.

President Kennedy outlined the missile situation and announced a blockade of Cuba. Soviet ships heading towards Cuba were to be stopped and searched by the US Navy. Any containing weapons would be turned back. He gave an ultimatum that the missiles already installed were to be removed or the US armed forces would attack and destroy them. *(The speech is available on U-Tube, and is well worth watching, even today)*

The next few days were full of high drama. The Soviet ships were turned back and ultimately, the missiles were removed from Cuba. We all knew, even those of us in sleepy and remote Kempsey, that it had been a very close call.

KEMPSEY FLOODS

After several weeks of heavy rain in May of 1963, the Macleay River at Kempsey broke its banks and cut through the town. The flood water initially flowed across a flood plain between Kempsey and West Kempsey.

Continued on Page 9

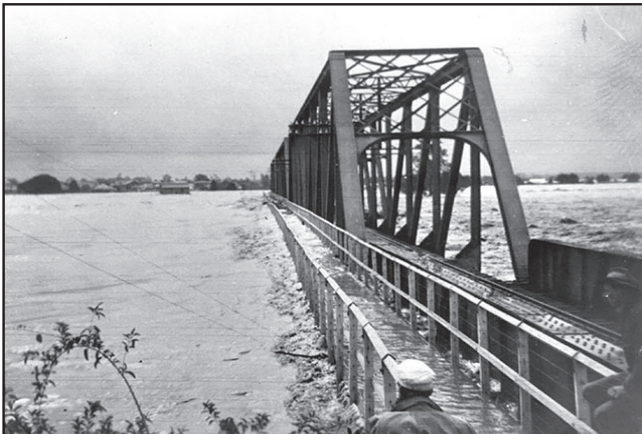


KEMPSEY (1962 & 1963) CONT'D

The water then backed up into the main street of Kempsey, flooding many of the shops. Towns down-river from Kempsey such as Smithtown and Kinchela, and a vast amount of farmland were also flooded. It was the first flood I had been in.

As a city-raised and very junior engineer, I was very interested to see how the PMG Engineering organisation would respond, and I was keen to do my bit. It was only a few years before that there was the disastrous 1955 floods in Maitland, which had resulted in many deaths and had received world-wide publicity.

However, it was very much business as usual. Norm Cornally, the Divisional Engineer, received many calls from the State Engineering organisation offering assistance, but Norm insisted that we had the situation under control. There was nothing for



me to do PMG-wise. Hence, when I found that the *Kempsey-Crescent Head Surf Club*, of which I was a member, had brought one of its surf boats to town, I joined the boat crew. We spent one evening rowing people from *Kempsey* to *West Kempsey*, then making the return trip. After a while, we noticed that many of the faces looked familiar. We worked out that our passengers were having drinks in a pub at *Kempsey*, then going by surf boat to *West Kempsey* to have a few more drinks and then return. At that point, we cancelled the surf boat service.

On the radio news, there was much talk that *West Kempsey* was "cut off". A big crew of *State Emergency Service* people, plus army people, arrived in *Kempsey*, after a long and difficult journey from *Sydney*.

They had big rescue boats with powerful outboard engines. They were determined to "make it" through the floodwaters to *West Kempsey*. No matter, that if someone really needed to get from *Kempsey* to *West Kempsey*, they could walk across the railway bridge, just south of the town.



The rescue boats warmed up their engines, and roared down the main street, across the flood plain, and over to *West Kempsey*. Up to that point, there had been very little damage to the shopping centre. However, the big waves left by the rescue boats smashed the plate glass windows of the shops one by one. The boats got to the other side and found that no-one was in need of rescue and came back.

As the floodwater started to recede, the job of cleaning up started. I found one of the PMG linemen, Peter Cheers, was hosing and sweeping the mud out of his house as the water level went down. Initially, the water in the house was about three-feet deep and getting to the house required wading through chest-deep water with the occasional snake swimming by. I spent the day helping Peter. In mid-afternoon we heard someone calling "Oi Oi" and looked out to find *Salvation Army* man wading through the water, bringing us sandwiches and tea. We were very grateful, and I remembered my uncle Fred, who had been an infantryman in New Guinea, telling me of the fantastic job the *Sallies* did up there. If there was a rustle in the bushes, it might be the enemy, or it might be a *Salvation Army* person bringing comforts from home.

In the end, there was very little damage to PMG plant, and things settled down very quickly. The rescue boats which had done so much damage to the main street's windows did a good job in helping farmers up and down the river.



Welfare News

Peter Hack

I will start with some good news; **Ross Keys** is responding well to treatment. I understand from talking to Vince, Ross has some new jokes for us for when he next attends a general meeting.

Terry Buckley reports that **Tony Monk** is in very poor health and that his wife is stressed out answering the phone.

Cath Hickey had a fall that required hospital treatment and rehabilitation. Sadly, **John** lost his sister on Australia Day.

Jim Spencer had a few visits to Darwin hospital over Christmas period. This was due to the local heat and humidity that got to him. Jim was again in hospital for a heart procedure on returning to Sydney. **Ann** had a few weeks in respite while this took place.

The hot and humid weather also affected **John Loudon's wife Mary** who had a hospital visit. The weather caused breathing difficulties for her. Mary's condition is being helped with medication.

Dennis Richardson is not travelling well. Shirley is in respite while Dennis is now home alone. **Shirley** suffered a fall and is now in hospital

Dave Martin dodged a bullet after experiencing stomach pain. Dave was diagnosed with a one in a thousand rare cancer of the appendices. The appendices was removed intact with a good result.

I enjoyed a good summer at Temora, wish you were here to share it 45-degree temperatures together with hot and dry winds blowing plenty of dust. I don't believe in hogging this good stuff. I sent a bit of the dust down to the city as well as a couple of degrees of increased temperature.