

WELCOME TO YOUR OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER. AFTER OUR AUGUST GENERAL MEETING AT EMU PLAINS, WE WERE BACK AT THE FSU MEETING ROOM IN SYDNEY. WE HAD A GOOD ROLL-UP OF 36 MEMBERS ATTEND THE SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING.

Special Guest Speaker

Professor Ed Davis gave a talk on a wide range of subjects including the ABC, the decline in the freedom of the press, wage stagnation and Trade Union Membership. This was Ed's second occasion as a guest speaker at our general meeting. He last addressed us at the November 2018 general meeting.

Ed Davis is President, ABC Friends (NSW and ACT) and is now the organisation's National Vice President. As well as President of ABC Friends Ed Davis is Emeritus Professor in the Faculty of Business and Economics at Macquarie University. He is an economist who specialised in industrial relations. In 2006 he was appointed a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

Ed stressed how the decrease in



Ed Davis at the September General Meeting

ABC funding over the years had made it much more difficult for the Commission to fulfil its charter. like investigative reporting essential to the nation's democracy.

Ed decried the federal government's further cut of \$84 million to the ABC's funding since its re-election in May of this year. **Over the past thirty years, the**

ABC's annual budget has fallen by 30 per cent.

ABC's current annual budget is \$1 billion. Compared with the BBC's (three times the Australian population) has a yearly budget of around \$11 billion.

The funding cuts have seen the ABC cancel several news programs (Lateline and Stateline) and the increased burrowing of news programmes from overseas sources. Despite these reductions, Ed praised ABC's staff productivity.

The Commission had increased the number of radio and television services and its investigative reporting that

led to the Banking Royal Commission as just one example.

Ed then went onto speak about digital media and internet expressing the same concern as a British parliamentary found. Namely, that society is facing a crisis in our democracy; based on the systematic manipulation of data to support the relentless targeting of citizens without their consent, by campaigns of misinformation and messges of hate.

Vince Haywood

Retired Members Association

November 2019 General Meeting

Thursday, 28th November 2019
Commences at 10.15 am.

Venue

Financial Sector Union (FSU)
Level 2, 321 Pitt Street,
Sydney

**The Retired Members Association
Christmas Lunch is on
Thursday, 21st November**

(See details inside this month's newsletter)



Retired Members Association October 2019 General Meeting

Thursday, 24th October 2019
Meeting Commences at 10.15 am.

Venue
Financial Sector Union (FSU)
Level 2, 321 Pitt Street,
Sydney

Retired Members Association Office Bearers

PRESIDENT	<i>Vince Haywood</i> ☎ 02 9457 9828 @ vinceglen@gmail.com	SECRETARY	<i>Bruce Muirhead</i> ☎ 02 9639 0990 @ muirhead@bigpond.com ✉ 22 Cameron Avenue Baulkham Hills, 2153	TREASURER	<i>Bob Hamblion</i> ☎ 02 9502 2525	SECRETARY	<i>Bruce Noake</i> ASSISTANT SECRETARY ☎ 0409 332 464 @ bnoake@bigpond.net.au
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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.



PRESIDENT MESSAGE (CONT'D)

Ed was positive about the recent appointment of Ita Buttrose as Chairperson even though it was a "captains pick" and ignored the laid-out protocols on the independent filling of this position. Ed was fully supportive of Ita's quick and supportive response to the Federal raid on the Sydney ABC headquarters over a story aired back in 2017.

Ed then spoke on industrial relations. Ed tied the long period of wage stagnation to lack of Union power and its dwindling membership since the Howard government era.

Ed then spoke on industrial relations. Ed tied the long period of wage stagnation to lack of Union power and dwindling members since the Howard government era. He thought it ironic that the Governor of the Reserve Bank was asking companies to give their employees a wage rise to help the economy. Federal Government policy was moving wages in the opposite direction.

Our Association is grateful to Professor Ed Davis for taking the time to once again speak to the members of our Association.

Newstart

Just before I move off industrial relations, I read that Anne Ruston said: *an increase to the unemployment benefit Newstart would end up in the hands of drug dealers and pub owners.* She made this claim at a single mother's forum in South Australia.

There has been pressure in the community to increase Newstart allowance from the current rate of \$40 per day. *I remind members that people over the age of fifty make up 40 per cent of those on Newstart.* This age group are finding it increasingly difficult to find new employment. As reported in a previous newsletter, increasing the retirement age and community obligations are making life extremely difficult for aged people. Now they have a minister stigmatising them.

Wage theft remains in the news; the latest is Bunnings underpaying their employees' superannuation entitlements. Sections of the business are now calling on the federal government not to prosecute employers for wage theft.

Aged Care Homes

While preparing this article, I read an article in the *"Saturday Paper"* suggesting the aged care sector is at risk of collapse. The report goes back to the final months of 2018 after briefing note to the Health Minister Hunt and Aged care minister Wyatt warning of *"increasing pressure" on aged-care operators. The brief raised the prospect that some operators could fall-over.*

The cause for the plight of the aged-care homes goes back to a \$2 billion cut made by the Prime Minister Morrison when treasurer. A reclassification of services brought about this budget cut. Since then the federal government has had to make emergency grants of \$320 million to the aged care sector. The sector is still calling for more financial relief. The government has a situation where large providers like BUPA are too big to fail. The government faces growing criticism over its failure to penalise the larger providers; some have been found to provide squalid living conditions for their residents.

I have mentioned in previous articles the failure of 45 of BUPA's nursing homes to meet health and safety standards. The stories of neglect and abuse coming from the current Royal Commission indicate improper standards is even more widespread.

Aged Care Home Assessments

Nursing homes in Australia that receive government funding are assessed at least every three years by the Australian Aged CARE Quality and Safety Commission.

They interview residents, families and staff and observe care and the facilities' documentation to see if it meets eight minimum standards.

A nursing home can receive a bad report that falls into one of three categories:

1. **Not meeting standards.** Nursing homes classified as not meeting one or more of the eight minimum aged care standards. Each standard has three to seven individual requirements. Nursing homes do not have to meet all the individual requirements to meet the overall standard. The more standards or requirements a nursing home fails to meet, the poorer the care.

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PRESIDENT MESSAGE (CONT'D)

- 2. Serious risk.** If a nursing home is given a “serious risk” judgement is because the quality of care has placed or may place the safety, health or well-being of a resident at serious risk. An example might be a home not having enough skilled staff, leading to clinical mistakes, such as the wrong medication often being administered.
- 3. Sanctions.** Sanctions are imposed on homes when care places an immediate and severe risk to residents’ health, safety or well-being.

When looking to choose a nursing home, it is well worthwhile to check the history of those facilities not meeting standards or sanctions by accessing “myagedcare’s non-compliance checker”.

“*Serious risk*” reports can only be accessed through the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission’s website, www.agedcarequality.gov.au

You can also ask about your home’s management plans:

- About its plan to improve care, about staff changes and staff ratios.
- For regular written updates and meetings’ minutes, including actions taken and the outcomes.

The choice of nursing homes is a big step; research carefully and seek qualified advice sought before making this decision.

Just before I close, I would like to let you know that **John Hickey** had a fall a few days ago. He is on the mend and at home. Also, John celebrated his 91st birthday on Monday, 7TH November. **John Louden** has had an operation on his leg and is now home recovering.

I look forward to seeing you at our October General Meeting on Thursday, 24TH October 2019, commencing 10.30am. Details are in this month’s newsletter.

Bye for now,
Vince

Letter from Peter Lygoe

Dear Vince,

We had a most successful get-together at the West Port Macquarie Bowling Club on Wednesday 28th August 2019. Altogether we had a gathering of forty people which included staff, ex-staff, and partners.

We were all subdued at first as we remembered two of our colleagues who have passed away, namely Bob Stewart and Bill Edwards. They were strong supporters of our get-togethers and will be very much missed.

Some of our colleagues travel great distances to attend. We had Cec Wilkes down from the Gold Coast. Cec can’t always make it due to distances involved but it is always great to catch up with him and we make the most of it. Another gentleman, by the name of Bob Speer, always attends every year. Bob has a very long journey from down the South Coast. We had attendees from Sydney, Newcastle area, and of course from around our local area. Kevin Parish, better known to some as “Lofty”, also makes the splendid effort to attend each year.

I personally had a very wonderful surprise when an old workmate of mine, a fellow that I had not seen for thirty four years and with whom I had worked outwest in the Warren and Bourke areas, Col Bulloch, attended. Great to catch up with you Col, I hope we have many more get-togethers. A big “thank you” to all who attended, you make my day. Hope to see you all next year.

Thanks Vince,
Regards to you and yours,
Peter Lygoe.



Retired Members Association Christmas Lunch

12 pm, Thursday, 21ST November 2019

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

The cost is \$50 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



NDC

Christmas Party

Everyone is
welcome

PMG/TELECOM/TELSTRA

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

Friday, 22ND November,
from 11am



CITY NORTH ANNUAL REUNION

**The City North Reunion is
on Tuesday,
19th November 2019**

**Commences at 11am for lunch
at the Petersham RSL Club
(7 Regent Street, Petersham -
near the railway station)
Meet in the bar area**

**Peter Hack
0408 969 530
hackysnr@bigpond.net.au**

*Organising a Former Workplace
Reunion or Christmas Party
for the end Year or New Year?*

There is only one issue of
newsletter remaining for 2019.

**Please send your Christmas or
Reunion Details to the Editor**

(pdrewhorn@me.com)

**by the first Wednesday
of November**

1958

TECHNICIAN IN TRAINING

62ND Annual Reunion

Friday, 10th January 2020

**The Reunion is an informal get-together
to be held at Petersham RSL,
7 Regent Street,
Petersham (Close to Railway Station)**

*1958 TIT's are cordially invited to attend our next
reunion to celebrate 62 years since the 1958 Technician
In Training intake commenced their training at the
Alexandria and Strathfield training colleges.*

*We will gather from around 11am. If there are further
inquires, please contact John Loudon on 0409 030 911
or e-mail johnl42@iprimus.com.au.*

**Wives, partners and friends of the 1958 trainees are most
welcome to attend the function.**



Country Installation Office Party

The Silly Season has rolled around again, and it is time to have a couple of drinks with some old workmates. This year the Country Installation Office Party will be conducted as follows:-



Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year

Thursday, 19TH December 2019

When:- 1200 for 1230 hrs

Crystal Palace Hotel

Peter Clarke 0419 394 349

Email:- hipshot@bigpond.com



Welfare News

Peter Hack

I will start this month's welfare report letting you know that **Jim Spencer** is having some time to himself while Anne is on respite leave. I enjoyed lunch with **Alex Jensen** while I was in Sydney. I wished Alex a happy anniversary as he has just completed his first year of retirement.

Ron Milosh continues to recover from a car accident. The bruising and pain are subsiding. Already, Ron has attended the Association's committee and general meetings.

As Vince reported, **John Loudon** is home recovering after surgery to his leg. He is looking forward to the 1958 trainee reunion early next year. **John Hickey** recently had a fall at home and is now recovering. I am not saying that John did anything wrong, however a reminder to members to be aware of fall risks. Check your home for potential fall traps, loose carpets, stairs etc. Install railings where needed. Remember, if you need to move around at night, turn on the lights.

Dennis Richardson agreed it was many moons ago that he was up in a tree watching golf. Dennis sends his regards.

Eddie Parrott is out of hospital after a bout of breathing difficulties. **Dick Javes** is home from hospital following heart problems. **Julia Morgan** tripped over a small child at the local Post Office and fractured a bone in her leg. She is in Lady Davidson and will probably have to go into rehabilitation. **Ross Keys** doing well and attended the September General Meeting.



Trunk Service

Christmas Party & Annual Reunion

Thursday, 12th December 2018, Midday

Combined Services Club,
Barrack Street, Sydney

For further details contact

Tod Mirgis - 02 99391935

Warwick Brodsky 02 98103455

0412729051

BURWOOD DISTRICT STAFF CHRISTMAS NOSH UP

**Saturday,
7TH December 2019**

Commences at 12:30 pm for
1pm lunch at

"KAFE on the Avenue"

11A JANNALI AVENUE,
JANNALI

Parteners welcome, if you are interested
in coming please contact:



Stephen Flynn

041737427

sflynn45@bigpond.com