

NOVEMBER 2019

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

Retired Members Association
Christmas Lunch

12 pm, Thursday, 21st November 2019

A reminder that the Retired Members Association's Christmas Lunch is just a few weeks away. **The Christmas Lunch is on Thursday, 21st November 2019.**

We gather for lunch around noon at the Petersham RSL.

It's a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends over a three-course lunch. **Petersham RSL (7 Regent Street) is just 200m from Petersham Railway Station.** As you reach the top of the stairs at Petersham Station, looking towards the City, turn right and walk to the pedestrian crossing, cross and take a few more steps and you will see Petersham RSL on your left.

Please note, there is no lift at Petersham Station. If this is a problem, a bus may be the option, please see page 2 for bus travel information.

The cost of the lunch is \$50 per head and includes lucky door prizes. An electronic payment can be made (see adjacent details). Please

Payment can be made by posting a cheque to the Secretary, (see page 2 of the newsletter) or use electronic payment.

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

also remember to email, text or call John Lane to advise you are coming to the lunch (contact information is on page 2 of the newsletter). If you have a special dietary requirement, please let me know.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Christmas Lunch,

John Lane



Last Newsletter
for 2019



Back in
February
2020



Retired Members Association November 2019 General Meeting

Thursday, 28th November 2019 Meeting Commences at 10.15 am.

**A guest speaker from
Dementia Australia
will address our
meeting**

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

Buses from City to Petersham

Route: 412

11.30am
11.45am

11.38am
11.51am

11.57am
12.12pm

Museum Stn
(Castlereagh Street)

Central
(George Street,
Railway Square)

Petersham
(Trafalgar Street)

The Trafalgar Street Bus stop is located close to both Petersham RSL and Station

Retired Members Association Office Bearers

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Shirley Richardson



The *Retired Members Association* is sad to report that Shirley Richardson passed away on Tuesday, 22nd October 2019. A funeral service was held for Shirley at All Saints Anglican Church, Balgowlah on Thursday, 31st October 2019. Many members from the *Retired Members Association* attended the service.

Shirley was the wife of a member, Dennis Richardson. Both Dennis and Shirley were active and longstanding members of the *Retired Members Association*.

Shirley was aged 84 years.

Many members would remember Shirley and Dennis attending our social functions and trip aways over the years.

Shirley grew up at Coogee. Shirley was a gifted student who attended Woollahra Public School in what we would today call a "gifted and talented" program. Shirley went onto to impress by gaining academic selection to Sydney Girls High.

After completing her studies, Shirley worked with the Rural Bank's Lands Titles and Conveyancing Department. She studied the "Torrens Title" system, a skill that was to become her occupation for the next 30 years.

Shirley married Dennis on the 2nd February 1957. In the late 1950s, Shirley and Dennis built their new home at a newly cleared sub-division at Allambie Heights. There, Shirley, Dennis and children enjoyed the beach and mid-week tennis.

The *Retired Members Association* extends its sincere sympathy and condolences to Dennis, his children and grandchildren.



Herbert Edmund (Ted) Gillis



The *Retired Members Association* is sad to report the passing of member Herbert Edmund (Ted) Gillis on Monday, 14th October 2019. A funeral service for Ted was held at Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Bowral on Friday 1st November.

Ted was a resident of Harbison Care Homes in Moss Vale at the time of his passing. He was 96 years of age. His wife Moya predeceased him in 2012.

Ted was a member of the *Retired Members Association* for close on sixteen years.

He was a 1948 Technician-in-Training after his service in the Air Force and Army where he trained as a Radar Technician. He served as a corporal in Papua New Guinea at a major radar installation.

Ted was appointed Supervising Technician Grade 1, Moss Vale in 1962. He spent the following years as a Supervising Technician in the Southern Highlands, retiring from the Bowral Telephone Exchange in 1984.

Ted was born in Dubbo. After his marriage to Moya and completing his training he returned to Dubbo. He purchased a block of ground built a shed in which they lived until he built a house.

He was very active in the local branch of the Postal Institute where he held the position of Treasurer for many years. He was also very busy within his Church serving on many committees and often being called upon by the Parish Priest to carry out repairs and maintenance.

After his retirement, he continued his hobbies of repairing, maintaining and refurbishing anything which came to his attention. Golf became his favourite pass time playing up to three times a week up until his 84th year.

The *Retired Members Association* extends its sincere sympathy to Ted's children Brian, Paul, Terry, Peter and Christine, other family members and his former workmates in the Southern Highlands.

The Association thanks Bob Speer for his assistance preparing this tribute



Dad





WELCOME TO YOUR NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER; OUR LAST NEWSLETTER FOR THE YEAR. WE HAD AN EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE AT THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING. THE MEMBERS WERE IN GOOD FORM AND DISCUSSED A RANGE OF ISSUES.

John Louden made a welcomed return to our general meetings. John had an operation to his leg early in October. John, welcome back, I wish you better health in 2020. **John Collins** has been away for a couple of months after his recovery from surgery, good to see you, John. **Ross Keys** is becoming a regular attendee at our meetings once again. I recall it was at this time last year, I advised members that Ross was to undertake a course of treatment. Well, a year later, Ross is becoming a picture of health. So much so, Christine and Ross are joining us on our trip away to Jindabyne.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank members for their attendance at our general meetings throughout the past year

Attacks on the Union Movement

The *Retired Members Association* is a proud affiliate of the trade union movement. I am sure members would share my concern as the federal government commence a new round of acts on the Union movement. Their latest, the introduction of new legislation "**Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment (Ensuring Integrity) Bill 2019**".

The government claims that the "**Ensuring Integrity**" legislation will combat just their perception of a 'culture of lawlessness' of some organisations. The bill will enable the government to remove Union office bearers or even shut down a Union.

I agree with the ACTU's response in their submission to the federal government that the bill is politically motivated. There are no evidence-based policy objectives supported by a proper policy development process, no stakeholder consultation or independent research or inquiry. Australian Unions are already subjected to a much higher degree of state regulation of their affairs than their counterparts in comparable overseas countries. I have mentioned before in newsletter articles how enterprise bargaining is weighed heavily in favour of employers. Witnessed by the slow wage growth over the past eight years. Sally McManus, ACTU Secretary, in a recent article published in *The Guardian*, contrasted the treatment of Union officials against that of the Banking Industry.

Sally mentioned the Prime Minister who opposed the establishment of a Banking Royal Commission on twenty-six occasions.

WELCOME TO YOUR NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Vince Haywood

The Banking Royal Commission uncovered countless occurrences of crime and unethical behaviour. Sally, quite rightly asked why then was Scott Morrison having his photo taken with a bank CEO instead of denouncing their conduct? The banks' lust for profit has resulted in farmers being forced off their properties, the laundering money for drug dealers, charging fees to dead people and forging signatures causing Australians to lose their life savings and even their homes". If the government is so keen on ensuring integrity, their efforts would be better directed to the banks. While I do not pretend all Union leaders are squeaky clean. **There is no excuse for seeking sweeping powers across the board to "knock off member-elected Union leaders and shut down Unions"**.

Sally finished her article saying "**all the Union movement is guilty of is standing up for safe workplaces, more secure jobs and fair pay**".

Aged Care Findings

The Royal Commission into aged care released their interim report into aged care on the 31st October 2019. The report called for urgent funding for home care packages, action on chemical restraints used in nursing homes and the removal of disabled young people from aged care.

The federal government established the Royal Commission after their re-election. Many like myself saw this as an attempt to head off a public backlash. Once people knew the full extent of the neglect in aged care.

Continued on Page 5

**PRESIDENT MESSAGE** (CONT'D)

While Prime Minister Morrison denies this; when he was treasurer, he removed \$1.2 billion from the Department of Health. This came about through changes to the scoring matrix of the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) commencing in 2015-16. The ACFI determines the level of funding paid to aged care providers. A neat accounting trick with consequences.

Mr Hunt, Health Minister, is promising to respond to the Commission's findings but will not commit to funding the commission's estimated \$2.5 billion to address the problem. The minister needs to act fast, there is a home care waiting list of 120,000. **The inquiry pointed to 16,000 people who died last year waiting for a home care package. Those who need the highest-level care wait on average 22 months.** Then there is the issue of the standard of care within nursing homes. I have written on this subject in previous newsletters. The government and the private operators of nursing homes have opposed mandatory staff levels with aged care homes. Now, we understand why chemical restraints are often used.

The Economy

While the country's economy continues in the doldrums. The government is focused on only one economic indicator, a budget surplus for the current financial year. The Reserve Bank and leading economists are calling on the government for a budgetary stimulus. **Phillip Lowe, Reserve Bank Governor, has been direct in telling the government that falling interest rates will not be enough to move the economy in an upward direction. He went as far, advising the government to borrow money on the long-term loan market with interest rates between one and two per cent on offer over twenty years. A bargain!**

This money could bring forward many infrastructure projects instead of a delay of five years. Dr Peter Davidson for the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) that the Federal Government should invest \$7 billion over three years to build 20,000 social housing dwellings. This would boost growth and jobs in the building industry and reduce the ever-growing and increasingly evident homelessness problem.

Festive Season

But enough of politics and economics and onto the more important things of life, the upcoming Festive Season.

This is the last newsletter for 2019, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank many people who have contributed to the success of our Association during 2018. I take the opportunity to thank CWU Secretary Dan Dwyer and Lee Walkington for his help with the printing of the newsletter.

The Financial Sector Union (FSU) is another Union that has been kind to us throughout the past year. The FSU provides us with a meeting room for our monthly general meetings. The meeting room is located in the centre of the Sydney CBD, this makes it easy for our members to attend a general meeting.

Finally, and not least, I thank our committee who have given so much of their time to our Association, making it another successful year.

Do not forget our Christmas Lunch at the Petersham RSL on Thursday, 21st November 2019. Details are in the newsletter.

Finally, during the year, some of our members have passed away, Christmas will be a difficult time for their families and friends. Our thoughts and best wishes are with them.

On behalf of our Executive and Committee, I extend to all members and their families, our wishes for a safe and joyful Christmas together with the hope for a healthy and peaceful 2020.

Our November General Meeting is on Thursday, 28th November 2019. Details are inside the newsletter.

Bye for now, Vince

**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**



OBN PRESENTATION TO Alf (Ace) Thompson

Vince Haywood

I had the pleasure along with many other people and their partners from the Lidcombe and Burwood Depot to attend the 90th birthday celebrations for Alf Thompson. The birthday celebration was held at the Granville RSL on Saturday, 26th October 2019.

Alf has been a member of the *Retired Members Association* for over sixteen years.

While at the celebrations, Bob Hamblion and myself took the opportunity to present Alf with the Association's "*Over Bloody Ninety*" (OBN) Award.

Congratulations Alf, and many more years of good health and friendship.



YO-HO-HO!!

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



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

**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
0417374275
sflynn45@bigpond.com**

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.**



Trunk Service

Christmas Party & Annual Reunion

Thursday, 12th December 2019, Midday

Combined Services Club,
Barrack Street, Sydney

For further details contact

Tod Mirgis - 02 99391935

Warwick Brodsky 02 98103455

0412729051