

Retired Members Association
Annual General Meeting
Thursday, 27th February 2020
10.15 am
(full details on page 2)

NEWSLETTER

We're BACK!

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

VALE ARCH DOUGLAS

Paul Rewhorn

THIS MONTH, OUR NEWSLETTER RESERVES ITS FRONT PAGE FOR A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ARCHIE DOUGLAS, WHO PASSED AWAY ON THE 7TH DECEMBER 2019. ARCHIE WAS BORN ON THE 8TH OCTOBER 1931. HE WAS THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF OUR UNION (PTTA AND ATEA) FROM 1972 TO 1989.

Archie was born in Glasgow in the early years of the Great Depression. His family was poor and lived in one of the worst slum areas of Glasgow. While his family was poor, everything is relative, they were one of the few families in their tenement block whose father had a full-time job. Archie's father was a telephone linesman, he travelled all over Scotland and occasionally organised a brief holiday for the family in an area where he was working.

When the Second World War broke out; Glasgow came under bombing attacks. A young Archie and his three siblings evacuated to Rosthea on the Island of Bute billeted along with many other school children. His time on the island held many of the best memories for a young Archie.

There on the island, he had a job delivering meat for a butcher. This allowed him to earn some pocket money and enjoy the fresh air of Rosthea, away from the smog and grimy streets of Glasgow. Years later, Archie and wife Geraldine on a trip to Great Britain, a highlight was his revisit to the Island of Bute.

After the Second World War, Archie's mother was determined that Archie and the rest of the family attain a better life. The family made the decision to migrate to Australia. Archie at the age of sixteen was the first to emigrate. He sailed on the SS "Orcades", a luxurious experience in contrast to life in post-war Glasgow. The rest of the family

arrived in Australia by the early 1950s, his sister Madge was first, followed by his mother, father, and younger siblings Betty and John.

On arrival in Australia, Archie received a post as a farm labourer on a farm run by the McDowell's. The family treated Archie well; he dined with the family in the evenings and learned a lot of practical skills. He purchased a small motorbike and went on quite a few adventures with his cousin Jimmy.

Soon after, Archie joined the then PMG as an assistant technician. He travelled all over New South Wales. His job was to install new automated telephones. As luck would have it one of his first jobs was on the Kerry Packer estate. When he arrived and met Kerry, who said "*put the phones in here boys and when you're finished the bars over there, help yourselves*". The installation was short but the job at the bar took much longer.

While posted at Moree, Archie met Geraldine mum and they married in 1955. They built a house, Geraldine helped him study to qualify as a technician. They had four children, Penny, Chris, Tony, and Barry. In May 1969, Archie took up a position at the Redfern Mail Exchange. He and his family moved to the Sutherland Shire.





Important Notice

Retired Members Association

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

Both the Annual and General meetings will be on

THURSDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY 2020 AT 10.15 AM.

At the annual meeting, Treasurer Bob Hamblion will present our 2019 Financial Report. There is a copy of the financial report in this month's newsletter.

Also, at the annual meeting, elections will take place for all executive and committee 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 also be available at the meeting

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

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VALE ARCH DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

The Mail Exchange was a scene of continual confrontation between management and the various Unions. Archie always a Union member took an active role in the mail exchange's industrial scene. He had the respect of his fellow Union members. Archie moved into the State Branch becoming Assistant Secretary. He held this position until 1989 when he retired. The same year, Australian Telecommunications Employees awarded him life membership of the Association.

Following retirement, Archie moved to Brooms Head. His daughter describes his time there as his golden years. He loved fishing with friends and took part in mullet runs at the Sandon and Brooms Head. He took over the management of the Brooms Head Bowling Club for many years. The bowling club had been running at a loss for years. Archie turned this around and the bowling club became profitable. His favourite spot in the club "*the table of knowledge*" was where he and his cronies discussed politics and solved the problems of the world.

In 2006, Archie and Geraldine moved to Maclean, close to medical support. There, he enjoyed his daily trips to the Maclean Bowling Club and made new friends and reconnected with old ones.

Archie's health declined in his mid-eighties. He and Geraldine moved to a retirement village in Brisbane, close to allow their daughter to assist him. Archie always appreciated fine music whether it be classical, jazz or popular music from the 1920s through to the 1960s. He discovered iTunes and played his music from his extensive library loud and often.

Turning back to Archie's time as Assistant Secretary of our Union. He joined the Union at a time when it was undergoing a transformation. The Union was no longer prepared to accept what was handed to them like poor wages and a career structure that did not match their skills. Instead, the Union it was now prepared to take industrial action in pursuit of their ideals.

Archie was determined that assistant technicians and technicians receive better pay and working conditions. He undertook the grafting work of defending members with their worker's compensation, pay issues or their defence over a disciplinary matter.

" Archie will be fondly remembered for the fine work he did for working class people, and that he was tireless in his defence of individual members".

Vince Haywood, President of the Retired Members Association

Archie was a natural leader in times of major industrial disputes, these included the campaign for shorter hours, the technology dispute in 1978 and the wage campaigns in the 1980s.

Many will recall Archie and his mate Jimmy Hall distributing fighting fund money to members who had been stood down without pay during the technology dispute. There with the money was a shot-gun close by.

When members make their own individual tributes to Archie at the February General Meeting. They will have a common theme that Archie's involvement in the Union brought about change they made a real difference to lives of its members. If things had not changed for the better beginning in the 1970s (namely by way industrial campaigns), we would not enjoy standard of living we have today.

The Association extends its sincere condolences to wife Geraldine and children Penny, Chris, Tony and Barry.



Retired Members Association Financial Balance Statement - 2019

Balance Sheet As At 31.12.19 for C.W.U. RMA (NSW)

	2019	2018
Accumulated Funds	\$24,500.90	\$25,137.66
Represented by:		
Current Assets		
C.U.Au Current Primary Saver A/C	\$100.04	\$83.51
E Saver A/C	\$1,854.56	\$3,382.04
Cash to be deposited		
Cash at Call	\$1,954.60	\$3,465.55
Investment A/C 1	\$11,441.45	\$11,129.47
Investment A/C 2	\$11,082.02	\$10,780.18
Term Deposits	22,623.47	21,909.65
Accrued Interest	\$22.83	\$37.46
Total Current Assets	\$24,500.90	\$25,412.66
Unpresented cheques		\$275.00
Less Liabilities		\$275.00
Total Funds	\$24,500.90	\$25,137.66

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

Income		
News letter mailout	\$645.00	\$740.00
Badges	\$135.00	\$85.00
Donations	\$246.00	\$175.00
Dues	\$320.00	\$300.00
Investment Income	\$643.19	\$645.58
Social Outings	\$9,140.00	\$10,380.00
Total Income	\$11,129.19	\$12,325.58
Expenditure		
Revipo Hlds. Moree Deposits + Clarke & Lane		\$6,070.00
Lake Jindabyne Hotel Deposits	\$2,800.00	
Stationery	\$295.48	\$188.41
Postage	\$80.00	\$16.20
CRUMA Affiliation Fees	\$100.00	\$100.00
CPSA Membership	\$50.00	\$50.00
COTA Membership	\$100.00	
ABC Friends		120.00
Badges	\$65.34	\$54.54
Alzheimers Aust.	\$250.00	
Garvin Institute	\$250.00	
Gift Ifka Antoni / Floral Tribute	\$100.00	\$157.00
CWU for Postage	\$610.83	\$866.09
Repayments / Refunds	\$765.00	\$1,055.00
Secretary Allowance	\$50.00	\$50.00
Socials	\$5,904.00	\$3,518.40
www.Domaine Hosting, Bulkmailer	\$120.00	\$120.00
Welfare Expenses	\$75.00	\$75.00
Social Reseach + Davistown EFT	\$150.00	\$300.00
Total Expenditure	\$11,765.65	\$12,740.64
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$636.46)	(\$415.06)

R.W.Hambilton Treasurer

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

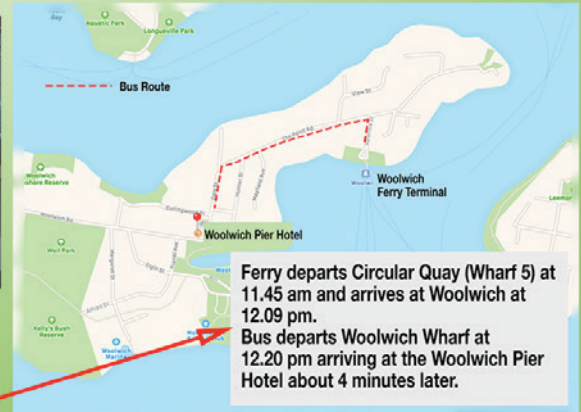
Equity		
Opening balance (1 January)	\$25,137.66	\$25,553.93
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$636.46)	(\$415.06)
Closing balance (31 December)	\$24,500.90	\$25,137.66



Retired Members Association

Woolwich Pier Hotel: Lunch

2 GALE STREET, WOOLWICH



Thursday, 19TH March 2020

Lunch commences about 12.30 pm

Map Insert has Ferry and Bus Times



Welfare News

Peter Hack

I will start with my recent trip Sydney, I was able to visit the following members **Col Cooper, Dennis Richardson, Rod Bartlett, Jim Cheeseman and Peter Henry** while I was in Sydney. I wished them well on behalf of all Retired Members.

John Hickey came home from respite on Saturday, 25th January 2020. John's eye specialist visited him at his home to administer his injections. John is frail these days, he gets around with the aid of a walker. John and wife Cath have in home help and their daughter is staying with them at night for the current time.

Col Wilson just after Christmas developed a serious chest infection. Col will need some rest to fully recover. Col is now on respite at the Shalom Baptist Care, Balaclava Road, Eastwood and likely to remain there until the end of February.

Daughter Anne is keen to bring Col to the February General Meeting. Col misses all his RMA mates.

I had a great time on the Jindabyne trip thanks to John Lane for organising and thanks to Mick Byron for transport back home. It was great to catch-up with everyone.

Hi All,
Hacky



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Vince Haywood

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER OF 2020. WHEN I SIGNED OFF IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR, I HELD OUT A WISH FOR A "SAFE AND JOYFUL CHRISTMAS". SADLY, THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE FOR MANY PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE MASSIVE BUSH FIRE OUTBREAKS. THE FIRES HAVE CAUSED DEATH, INJURY, AND HABITAT DESTRUCTION. THEN THERE IS ALSO THE LOSS OF A BILLION NATIVE ANIMALS.

Our thoughts and best wishes go to the affected people. Our heartfelt thanks to those brave fire fighters who are still battling the fires. Then there are wonderful people who supported the fire fighters and are helping people affected by this devastation. The committee plans to invite a Rural Fire Service spokesman for our August Emu Plains general meeting.

Vale Arch Douglas and Dennis Richardson

Over the Christmas period we lost Arch Douglas, there is a tribute to Arch in this month's newsletter. I can only add that, in my experience serving on the Union's executive, Arch was a fierce and dedicated defender of members and their rights. Our thoughts go out to Arch's wife Gerry and the family on the loss of this fine man.

Archie's family held a wake for him at Maclean on the 16th of January 2020. John Lane and Paul Rewhorn travelled to Maclean to represent our Association.

The Association had a further loss when we learned of the passing of Dennis Richardson. Dennis and wife Shirley were active members of our Association and went with us on our annual trips away.

Socials For 2020

The committee met in late January to plan for this year. John Lane is completing social events and guest speakers for the coming year. You can expect announcements in the March 2020 newsletter. **John is already to announce the first social function lunch at the Woolwich Pier Hotel on the 19th March 2020. Details are in this month's newsletter.**

The Government Struggles to Show Leadership

The start of the year has not been a good one for the Federal Government. The government struggles with governing for the people of Australia. The first sitting day of parliament was to be about remembering people affected by the bushfires and firefighters in particularly those who lost their lives protecting property. Instead, on the first day, the National Party had a leadership contest. There is every sign there will be a further leadership contest later during the year.

The trigger for the leadership contest came about after Bridget McKenzie the former sports minister resigned over her involvement in the sports grants scandal, The former sports minister who had oversight over sports grant also failed disclose her membership of various sports clubs. She handed more than \$1m in sports grants to nine clubs that had senior government MPs as a member or patron. Sporting club volunteers would have spent many hours preparing their submission to receive a grant to their sports organisation. They believed the Sports Grant Commission's recommendation would guide the former sports minister. Now, the volunteers learn that the minister overturned most of the Sports Grant Commission's recommendations. Instead, the minister selected sports organisations in government held or marginal seats. The minister has steadfast denied any wrongdoing, the Prime Minister and Attorney General have defended the former sports minister. Fortunately, public outrage has forced the minister's resignation.

We have also had the questionable sale of irrigation rights and clearing of native vegetation and the inequitable distribution of drought assistance. Prime Minister Morrison does not seem to understand the first principles of leadership. The nation in this challenging time seems to be adrift and deserves better. Perhaps the most disturbing thing in all of this is the complete lack of acknowledgement or even understanding that there

Continued on Page 7



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

is anything wrong in this behaviour.

Mr Morrison, when interviewed and at press conferences, continually avoids answering a direct question and reverts to Trump like responses. This is a denial of open government and not good enough. Unethical and corrupt behaviour breeds and thrives in the dark. The establishment of a Federal ICAC, with teeth, is an absolute necessity to shine some light into this darkness.

Annual Meeting: 27th February 2020

Our annual and general meeting will be on **Thursday, 27th February 2020**. 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 starts at 10.15 am.**

As I have mentioned earlier, Treasurer Bob Hamblion will present our *2019 Financial Report*. A copy of the report is in this month's newsletter. Under the Association's rules, we declare all executive and committee positions 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 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.

The February General Meeting will immediately follow the Annual Meeting.

While on the subject of meetings, we hold our monthly general meetings on the **fourth Thursday of each month (except during December and January)**. **The meetings start at 10.15 am.**

We hold our general meetings at the *Financial Sector Union (FSU)*, the same location as for the Annual Meeting. **There are two notable exceptions, these are in May and August when the general meeting moves 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.

Finally, I would to remind my 1960 fellow trainees, our 60th year reunion is on the 18th March 2020. Look forward to seeing you there. Details just below.

Bye for now
Vince



18th MARCH 2020
at Petersham RSL
7 Regent St, Petersham
Arrival about 11am.

There is no money to collect but we need to know numbers attending to advise the caterers

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Vince Haywood,
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Les Bloxom ("Mr Crossbar")



The Association is sad to report that Les Bloxom passed away after a brief respiratory illness on the 26th December 2019 in hospital at Melbourne.

Members may know Les from his time in the Burwood and Newtown districts.

Roger Bamber has written the following tribute to Les Bloxom.

I got to know Les as a young 30-year-old DTM at Burwood. Les was the Internal plant Manager. He ran a very efficient outfit. Les was a Victorian Trainee originally posted to Mafra. Les used to talk often about doing locations for the Lineys on cable faults.

Les was very proud of his accuracy as he was always spot on and did not suffer the indignity of having to do the digging. This was the penalty that the linemen imposed on the Technician if they got the first location wrong. Les married Betty a NSW girl and moved to NSW. Les was the Officer in Charge at Petersham for the first crossbar installation in NSW. Later, he moved closer to his home at Lakemba.

Les got the nickname Mr Crossbar in that era. Les reckoned he was better at Line Finder than crossbar, serving time prior at Carramar amongst other Line Finder exchanges. His motto was to do things the easy and successful way. He developed tools to quickly test uniselectors so that only the ones out of adjustment were touched. He also led the development of 'No Progress Call Detectors' in crossbar to pick up faults from live traffic.

Les finished his career as DTM of the Newtown District where he took to improving the external plant. He took Newtown from one of the worst performers in Sydney to one of the best, just by going out with the Line Inspectors, looking at the joints and asking why they were not installed as per the Lineman's handbook. Soon everyone was doing the right thing and things turned around without the expenditure of any money. Les retired to Melbourne with Betty to be close to their only daughter.

*Les was 93 when he passed away.
Roger Bamber*

The Retired Members Association on behalf of members extends its condolences and sympathy to Les' wife Betty and daughter.



Jenni Wilkie (nee Groening)



The Retired members Association is sad to report that Jenni Wilkie passed away on Thursday, 12th December 2019. Jenni was the wife of member Chris Wilkie. A private funeral for Jenni took place on the 21st December 2019.

Jenni worked as a clerical assistant at the Haymarket ARM and Carrier Terminal in the late 1970s. This was at a time when managing pay and allowances was a manual process. This could present many pay issues. Jennie was able to resolve pay problems promptly with the pay office or staff clerk. Staff appreciated Jenni for this.

The Retired Members extends its condolences and sympathy to Chris during this difficult time for him and family.



Dennis Richardson



The Retired members Association is sad to report the recent passing of Dennis Richardson. A funeral service for Dennis was held on Monday, 10th February 2020 at All Saints Anglican Church, Balgowlah.

Many members would know and remember Dennis. He had been a member of the Association since November 2001. Over the years, Dennis was a regular attendee at our general meetings until ill health prevented him from attending. Dennis and wife Shirley came to our social functions and annual trips away.

Dennis began with the then PMG in 1951 as a Technician in Training. During his training time, he worked in the city area (GPO) under Leo Carroll. Dennis went onto join the training school in the early 1960s and made it his career until his retirement.

Dennis was a keen golfer. He played golf at the Australian Postal Institute (API) carnivals, where he met up with Denis McCaffrey a lifelong friend and fellow member of the *Retired Members Association*.

Dennis was a member of the Warringah Golf Club and the Club Captain at one stage.

Bob Rose a friend and fellow instructor remembers Dennis.

"Denis worked for many years with Engineering Training and developed many friendships with his cheerful nature and willingness to offer advice to a new staff member. I remember meeting Denis at Strathfield school and we hit it off straight away when we realised our passion for a game of golf. In those days, Avery Gee and John Lynch were always available to make up a foursome with Denis and myself at the many courses available in the Sydney area.

I remember one time when Dennis snuck away to watch a golf tournament at Manly golf course on a Friday (must have been an RDO), when Denis climbed a tree to get a better view only to find his picture in next day's daily telegraph. A fellow staff member left a copy of on Les Kendall's desk which left Denis with some explaining to do.

Everyone who came in contact with Denis would have many memories of a wonderful character who was always available for a chat and a good time".

Our thoughts and sincere condolences go out to his son Glen, daughter Lisa and their families, and his former workmates and many friends.



SERVED IN THE CMF, NATIONAL SERVICE OR RESERVE

You may now be eligible for Veteran Card. I suggest you do your own research by logging onto the Veteran Affairs website (www.dva.gov.au/veteran-card). You never know what is available to suit your own circumstances?

How to Apply.

You will need prior to logging into the Department of Veteran's Affairs website via your own MyGov account website:

1. Your Service Details:
 - a. 'Service' Number,
 - b. Date of Enlistment,
 - c. Date of Discharge,
 - d. Service Rank.
2. Two means of identification such as:
 - a. Medicare Card Number.
 - b. Driver's License Number
 - c. Centrelink CRN Number or other forms of identification as prescribed.
3. Complete the application form (available when logging in on the MyGov website) as required.
4. Link Department of Veteran's Affairs website to your MyGov website.
5. You will receive an email confirming your entitlement. A Veteran's card will be sent by snail mail and at a later date a lapel pin to identify your status to others.
6. You can also use your Veteran Card number to register with Australian Partners of Defence (APOD) (www.apod.com.au) to access offers from over 400 Australian businesses.

If you have any problems applying for the Veterans Card, you can telephone the Department of Veteran Affairs on 1800 555 254.



PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos from the RMA Christmas Lunch 2019

More photos on
the next Page



Ian Cutting and Peter Hack



Bob and Rhonda Cruszcz



Cathy Fogarty and Toni Stevens



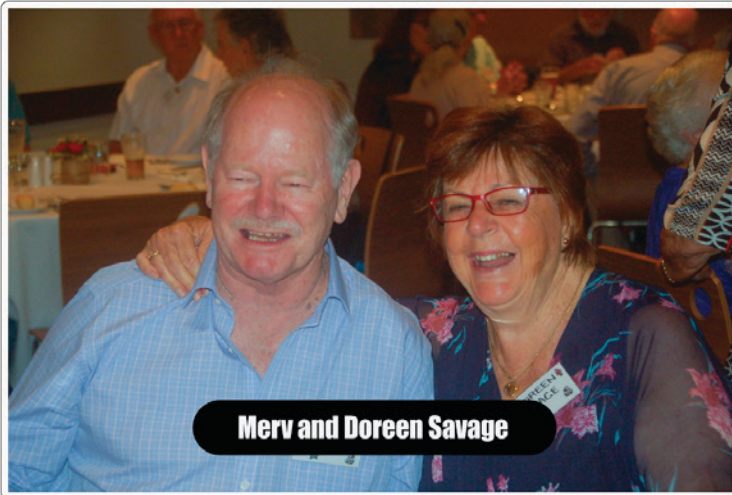
RMA CHRISTMAS PARTY - 2019 (CONT'D)



Col, Ann and Helen Wilson



Barry Robinson, Susan Bertram, Joan and John Lane



Merv and Doreen Savage



Peter Hack and Bill Bertram



Trevor Anderson and Ross Keys



Mary Davidson, John Bryce, John McAuliffe and Agnes Bryce (L-R)