

Retired Members Association

Next General Meeting is on
Thursday, 26th March 2020 at
10.15 am.

(full details on page 2)



RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

Vince Haywood

WELCOME TO YOUR MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER. I WILL START WITH A REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) AND THE GENERAL MEETING HELD IN FEBRUARY. THIRTY-FIVE MEMBERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) HAS TWO ESSENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS. THE TREASURERS REPORT AND THE ANNUAL ELECTIONS FOR THE ASSOCIATION'S NEW EXECUTIVE AND A COMMITTEE FOR 2020.

Treasurer Bob Hamblion presented the Financial Statement for 2019. Our Association remains in sound shape. Like the previous year, we continue to have the challenge of managing our finances in a low-interest environment. The Association relies on interest payments to meet its operating expenses. Recent cuts to interest rates will present an even greater challenge in 2020.

I would like to thank Bob for his dedicated work in the past year. Bob processes the incoming receipts for the annual trip away. Then there are the newsletter subscriptions, postage and print costs for members who receive their newsletter via post. I must not forget to thank our auditor, Alan Fairbairn, for his hard work reviewing the financial statement. A reminder that a copy of the 2019 financial report is in the February 2020 newsletter.

The Annual General Meeting saw the previous Executive and Committee re-elected with two "young sixty-year-olds" joining the Committee. Welcome Alan Bassman and Gary Masman.

John Loudon Receives an Award

John Loudon carried out his job of Returning Officer with his usual thoroughness. Our Association is grateful for John's contribution over the years. The annual meeting recognised John's contribution, awarding him with a well-deserved Certificate of Merit. Thank you, John.

Ian McLean

With the close of the AGM, it was time for our general monthly meeting.

At the commencement of the general meeting, I had much pleasure in welcoming Ian Maclean to our meeting. Ian began his technical career as a 1950 Technician in Training in NSW. I am informed that Ian was one of the youngest and brightest trainees in that year. Later, Ian became a technical instructor.

In the early 1960s, Ian made the move to Queensland. Between 1979 until 2004, Ian held the positions of Queensland Secretary and National Vice-president with the ATEA, the CEPU and Communication Workers Union. Ian joined the ALP in 1965 and held positions of State President and served on the Federal executive from 1984 to 1994. This period seen a victory for the ALP in Queensland in 1989, after 32 years in opposition. Ian, you have a proud record of achievement for the Union movement and the ALP. It was both an honour and pleasure having you at our general meeting.

MARCH 2020 GENERAL MEETING Special Guest Speaker



The March General Meeting (see the March 2020 General Meeting details on page 2) will have a special guest speaker from *Médecins Sans Frontières* (Doctors Without Borders).

Médecins Sans Frontières is an independent international medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, healthcare exclusion and natural or man-made disasters.

Every day 30,000 *Médecins Sans Frontières field* staff provide medical help to people caught in crises around the world. The organisation has offices in nineteen countries supporting these teams, including an office in Sydney.

Médecins Sans Frontières Australia every year supports nearly two hundred Australians and New Zealanders in the field.

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Retired Members Association

March 2020 General Meeting

Thursday, 26th March 2020
Meeting Commences at 10.15 am.

A Reminder
There will be
special guest speaker
from Médecins Sans
Frontières at the
Meeting. The front
page has
more details

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



18th March 2020
At Petersham RSL
7 Regent Street,
Petersham
Arrive around 11 am

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

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Welcome to your March 2020 Newsletter (cont'd)

The Cost of Bushfires

I came across an article in The Lamp (the New South Wales Nurses and Midwives Association magazine). The article provided a timely reminder of the cost of not attending to climate change.

The article states that over 10 million hectares were burnt, 28 people killed, around 2,000 homes destroyed. During the bushfires, hazardous smoke covered Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra.

In early January the Insurance Council of Australia estimated the damage bill at \$700 million, this will go well beyond this figure as it makes further damage assessments.

Wildlife experts estimate over a billion animals lost their lives in New South Wales alone.

The fires have created risks to several factors critical to human survival, wreaking havoc on pollinators and posed risks to water supplies and infrastructure

The Lancet estimated the direct human costs, alone, of major bushfires in the period 1967-2013 was \$4.7 billion due to 433 direct fatalities and over 8000 injuries.

The US Environmental Protection Agency puts the indirect effects of air pollution from bushfires, premature death and morbidity, in the USA during 2008-12, at an estimated cost of \$US 513 billion.

Experts, our Fire Chiefs, agree that hazard reduction can assist in bushfire control in the immediate term, but the major requirement for a safer long-term future for our children and grandchildren needs immediate action on climate change.

Sports Rort Affair

Meanwhile, the so called "sports rorts" affair continues in Canberra. The role and intervention of the Prime Minister is coming under more focus. Various sports committees throughout the country made submissions for their sports projects to the government agency Sports Australia. The agency job was to review the projects and rate their entitlement for a grant. It is now clear, the then Sports Minister ignored the Sports Australia recommendations and instead indulged in pork-barrelling just prior to the federal election. A majority of Sports Australia's recommendations were overturned.

Hence the infamous spreadsheet showing the various project submissions coloured coded based on whether the submission came from marginal or a safe Coalition or Labour held seat.

Latest news is that the project approvals were altered during the election period when the coalition government was in caretaker mode meaning no government business until the election outcome is known. Then Sports Minister Bridget McKenzie denies she made these changes. We know there were over 140 emails exchanged between the Sports Minister and Prime Minister offices. Who then altered the grants outcomes?

Prime Minister Morrison has declined to take questions on the sports grants at a recent press conference.

The Sports Rorts affair has overshadowed other potential grants scandals. Take, for example, the \$500 million Commuter Car Park Fund announced in last year's April federal budget finance suburban commuter road to rail development.

First note, the federal Infrastructure Department confirmed there are no public guidelines or eligibility criteria for selecting the car park projects.

Victoria received the bulk of the funds; thirty projects in Melbourne. The Car Park Fund approved several stations in Treasurer Frydenberg's seat of Kooyong where he faced a strong challenge from the Greens and a high profile independent. Liberal seat of Goldstein had a station approved for Brighton Beach, a high-income area. The Victorian Government claims there was no consultation before the projects' announcements.

Compare these approvals to the Victoria's areas of highest population growth; the low-income western suburbs, serviced by 40 train stations. They received no funding.

Back in March 2019, I wrote about the case for a Federal Anti-Corruption Commission. I mentioned that opinion polls continue to show that the public holds our politicians in very low regard. They serve their own personal interests rather than the electorate at large. One year later, politicians without judicial oversight (Federal ICAC) are becoming more blatant and bold in their quest to retain their seats in parliament.

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Welcome to your March 2020 Newsletter (cont'd)

John Lane our social secretary has published the social calendar for 2020 and there is an announcement about our trip away for the later part of the year. Thanks to John for all his hard work.

A reminder that our **first social function for the year is lunch at the Woolwich Pier Hotel on the 19th March 2020. Details are in this month's newsletter (page 5 for all the details).**

Finally, a reminder 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. We have our general meetings at the Financial Sector Union (FSU). There are two notable exceptions, these are in May and August when the general meeting moves to Woy Woy and Emu Plains. 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 attended our meetings to come along. After each meeting, we get together in an informal setting for lunch.

Bye for now, Vince

\$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card

The regional seniors travel card provides eligible seniors living in regional, rural and remote areas of NSW with a \$250 prepaid card to help ease the cost of travel. You can use the card at certain retailers to pay for:

- pre-booked NSW TrainLink Regional trains and coaches,
- fuel
- and taxis.

The travel card is valid for 14 months from the date the card is issued. The expiry date is available on the front of the card. The regional seniors travel card program is available for a 2-year trial period (2020-2021).

Eligibility for the trial, you must be:

- receiving the Age Pension (you must have received the Age Pension for at least one month); or
- a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holder (you must have held your card for at least one month); and
- living outside of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

The trial will be expanded in the coming months to include more seniors receiving pensions from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. You will be eligible if you are:

- aged over 66 years
- you reside outside of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong
- you receive one of the following pensions:
 - Service Pension
 - Disability Pension under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*
 - War Widow(er) Pension

To apply, first visit for more information and access to the online application form

:<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-regional-seniors-travel-card#how-to-apply>. Click on a "submit" button where you will be guided through the application process.





Tour of Sydney Trades Hall

Wednesday,
15 April 2020
10.30 am

4-10 Goulburn Street,
Sydney

The Sydney Trades Hall is a heritage-listed trade Union Building located in the Sydney CBD. The Trades Hall was conceived in December 1882 and completed in 1895.

The Sydney Trades Hall is linked with the history of the union movement in NSW, one of the first formalised union movements in the world.

Tour commences at 10.30 am. Following the tour, we will have lunch nearby. Note this is a Wednesday function

Retired Members Association Woolwich Pier Hotel Lunch



2 GALE STREET, WOOLWICH
Thursday, 19TH March 2020
Lunch commences about 12.30 pm



Ferry departs Circular Quay (Wharf 5) at 11.45 am and arrives at Woolwich at 12.09 pm.
Bus departs Woolwich Wharf at 12.20 pm arriving at the Woolwich Pier Hotel about 4 minutes later.



Welfare News

Peter Hack

John Hickey has been admitted into care at the Redleaf Manor, 16 Flavelle Street, Concord. John is in Room 11 on the Ground Floor. You can reach John on 02 8762-6000. You can call for enquiries, John does not have a phone at this stage. John has his own room with an ensuite and balcony.

Jim Spencer is batching at the moment while Anne is in respite care.

Dan Wright had a stint in hospital during December. He has now returned home.

Keith Macrae spent a day in Orange hospital for a procedure is back home and feeling well.

Alan Stevens had over a week in hospital during February for a back operation. After a period of rehabilitation in hospital he has returned home. He will need rest for a couple of weeks. Alan and Toni thank members for their emails and phone calls.

Collin Wilson is continuing his stay at the Baptist Care Facility (Shalom, Room 51), 150 -165 Balaclava Road. Marsfield (near the entrance of Macquarie University). Helen and Ann enjoyed a picnic meal with Col last Monday.

Hi All, Hacky



2020 SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

MARCH

Thursday

19

Lunch at Woolwich Pier Hotel

This popular lunch will be held in early Spring at the Mosman Rowers Club situated on the Sydney Harbour foreshore and just a short walk to and from Ferry Services.

This month's newsletter has further information plus the ferry and bus times.

APRIL

Wednesday

15

A Guided Tour of Sydney Trades Hall

The Sydney Trades Hall is a heritage-listed trade Union Building located in the Sydney CBD. The Trades Hall was conceived in December 1882

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Tour commences at 10.30 am. Following the tour, we will have lunch nearby. Note this is a Wednesday function

MAY

Thursday

21

Autumn Leaves Lunch at the Springwood Sports Club

The Autumn Leaves lunch has a long tradition for the *Retired Members Association*. This lunch gives our members in west of Sydney and Blue Mountains to catchup over drinks and a meal. For Sydney members there is the fast train service from Central Station and along the rail line to Springwood Station. The venue is the Springwood Sports Club.

The April Newsletter will have a reminder along with train timetable information.

JUNE

Thursday

18

Lunch at the Manly Wharf Hotel

This lunch was very popular last year. The day starts with ferry trip from Circular Quay to Manly. The Manly Wharf Hotel is a short walk from the Manly Ferry Terminal. Ferry timetables will be published in the May 2020 newsletter.

The lunch will commence around 12.30 pm

JULY

Thursday

16

Lunch at the Sydney Rowers Club

Our lunch at the Sydney Rowers Club will end the trilogy of our harbourside dining for 2020. The club has great seafood and there are great views from the club's dining room. For our members coming by train, there is a 30 minute Rivercat service from Circular Quay to Abbotsfort. The club is just 100m from the Abbotsfort Wharf.

Starts around 12.30 pm (Ferry Timetable will appear in the June 2020 newsletter)

Additional Social Functions and Information

There are more social functions being planned for later part of the year. These will be announced in future newsletter issues. These include lunch at the Piermont pub with walk around Darling Harbour (Barangaroo) and a visit to the Garvan Centre.

The Retired Members will be having its Christmas Party lunch on Thursday, 19th November 2020 at the Petersham RSL. The Association will be having its May and August monthly general meetings at Woy Woy and Emu Plains respectively. Like all general meetings, they will be held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Meeting notices will be published at least a month prior in the newsletter.



Retired Members - 2020 Trip Away



Crescent Head Resort

I CAN ANNOUNCE THAT THIS YEAR'S TRIP AWAY WILL BE A STAY AT THE CRESCENT HEAD RESORT. OUR STAY AT THE RESORT IS PART OF GROUP PACKAGE THAT INCLUDES RETURN COACH TRAVEL TO CRESCENT HEAD AND IS A SIX DAY AND FIVE-NIGHT HOLIDAY. THE TRIP AWAY IS FROM SUNDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER THROUGH TO FRIDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER.

JOHN LANE
Social Secretary

Our stay will include all meals, morning teas. The evening meals comprise three courses, with a choice of two dishes per course. The resort caters for special dietary requirements.

I have booked 26 villa style ground floor units (the entire resort's villas) set among two acres of Australian native gardens. The Resort is only a short walk from the village and beach.

Wonderful day tours of the Macleay Valley and beyond and organised nightly entertainment. Crescent Head is 5.5 hours north of Sydney on the Mid North Coast of N.S.W. The facilities at the resort include:

- ▶ Superior units with reverse cycle air conditioning
- ▶ Tea and coffee making facilities, fridge, microwave, toaster, digital television/DVD, clock radios, oil heaters, ceiling fans, hair dryers and extra pillows and blankets
- ▶ Solar heated swimming pool, steam room and Hot Springs Spa
- ▶ Daily room servicing
- ▶ Licensed Restaurant and bar
- ▶ Evening activities

I have included as a sidebar to this article (on the next page), details of the bus coach tours we will undertake during our stay at the Crescent Head resort.

The Retired Members Association is now taking bookings for the trip away. The price of the tour is \$845 per person (twin share). A single supplement is \$995. Our tour organiser requires a deposit of \$150 per person. Later, after I receive your booking, I will require payment by the 14th May 2020.

You can make your deposit payment via:

- ▶ In person at a general meeting or via cheque or electronic transfer:
- ▶ Post a cheque to the Secretary, (address shown on page 2 of the newsletter)
- ▶ Electronic transfer - Credit Union Australia (CUA) BSB 814-282, eSaver Account No: 10642769. Make sure you add your surname as a reference.
- ▶ Please contact me to confirm your payment.

Please note that the tour is for a maximum of 48 people. I will accept bookings in the order I receive them. Should the numbers exceed the maximum, I will create a reserve list similar to what was done for last year's trip away.

Also, the organiser will not refund deposits within 28 days of the tour's commencement. However, if we have a reserve list, I will endeavour to transfer the booking to persons on the reserve list.





Crescent Head Trip Away Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Meet, Greet & Travel

Coach Departure from Central Station (adjacent to Country Train Terminals) and other prior arranged stops to Crescent Head.

Greeting by our hosts and light refreshments.

The Bar opens at 5pm, followed by a delicious three course meal in the Resort dining room.

Day 2 Crescent Head, Rest or Recreation. History

After a hot buffet breakfast, aboard the coach and head up to Crescent Head Lookout for breathtaking views.

Then to the unique Slim Dusty Centre, show casing objects, images and sounds from his family's own extensive archive.

Back to the Crescent Head Resort for a picnic lunch to be enjoyed in the tranquil grounds of the Resort.

The rest of the afternoon is ours - relax around the pool, explore the village or take a breathtaking walk along the unspoilt Killick Beach.

At 5pm the Bar opens, followed by another delicious three course meal before your evening's entertainment begins.

Tonight – Indoor Bowls with a Twist!.

Day 3 A Day on the Hastings

A scenic cruise along the Hastings River while listening to the Captain's interesting and informed commentary.

A sightseeing tour of Port Macquarie before heading to Port Panthers for a light lunch. A tour of Vickers Fudge Factory in historic Wauchope.

A brief visit of the local Cassegrain winery and a wine tasting. A perfect end to a perfect day.

Return to the resorts where the bar is open at 5 pm before Dinner. The evening's entertainment – Bingo night!

Day 4 Macleay Valley Adventure

A trip down river to the mouth of the mighty Macleay. First, along the Belmore River to Gladstone and Smithtown, the home of the Milo factory.

Continue along the Macleay to South West Rocks for a tour of this pretty holiday destination. Next, we head over to the Captain Cook Lookout at the base of Smoky Cape Lighthouse, where a National Parks Guide will provide an interesting talk in the old horse stable museum. Built in 1891, Smokey Cape lighthouse is the most elevated in NSW.

Back to South West Rocks to explore this delightful holiday spot before enjoying a hot lunch in the heart of 'The Rocks'. After lunch has settled you can take a stroll around historic *Trial Bay Gaol*, which was the first Public Works Prison in Australia and later held German internees during WW1. The atmosphere will take you back in time as you imagine the harsh life lived behind these walls.

Tonight's entertainment – movie night.

Day 5 The Pub With No Beer

Today you will travel up the highway to the pretty verandah town of Bowraville, which was first established in 1842, as many were, for cedar getting. Morning tea is at the Bowraville Folk Museum while having plenty of time for a good look around.

Special areas of interest inside the museum are: a boarding house (a converted movie prop), rock room, Ryan's cottage, services museum, a unique naval collection, farm machinery and a church.

From here you will head via forest and farm to the legendary 'Pub with no Beer', made famous by Slim Dusty's song. Enjoy a tasty BBQ and salad lunch, soak up the atmosphere and view the extensive collection of memorabilia with numerous pieces about Slim. Despite the song, you will be able to get a cold beer if you like! Leaving Taylors Arms, you will return home with a leisurely drive past Scotts Head, Grassy Head, Stuart's Point and Mount Yarrhapinni.

For your last evening in the Resort, Dinner will include presentation of prizes awarded through the week, and will be followed by a thoroughly entertaining magic show featuring *Troppo Bob the Magician*. 'The best magician we have ever seen' is a comment the Resort staff hear frequently.

Day 6 Farewell

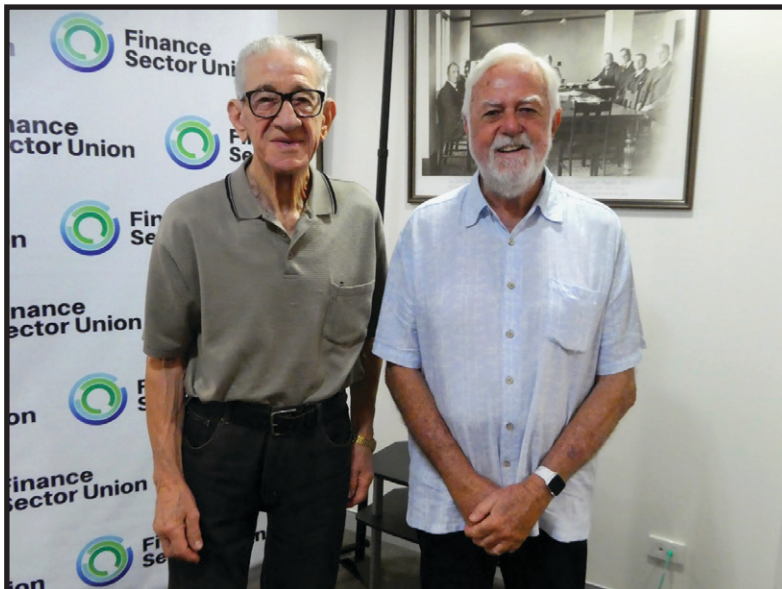
Breakfast and a farewell from the Crescent Head Resort Crew before you board coach and take one last look around Crescent Head to savour the memories. Morning tea, lunch and comfort stops are at convenient locations where you can also stretch your legs on the journey home.



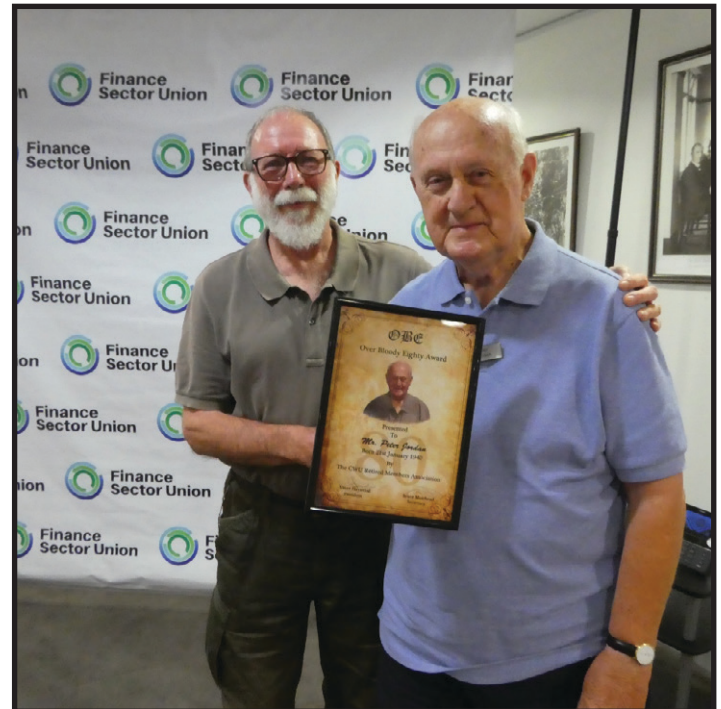
AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING



President Vince Haywood presents John Louden with Association's Certificate Merit. John for many years has been the Retired Members' Returning Officer.



Tod Mirgis and Ian McLean, former 1950 Technician in Training classmates. Both Tod and Ian served as on our Union's executive.



President Vince Haywood presents Peter Jordan with the Associations OBE (Over Bloody Eight) Award.