

NEWSLETTER

August 2020

www.cwuretiredmembers.org

WELL, THE YEAR 2020 IS NOT THE YEAR WE ALL HOPED FOR. WE WERE ONLY ABLE TO HOLD ONE SOCIAL FUNCTION THAT WAS WAY BACK IN MARCH. NOTWITHSTANDING, THE COMMITTEE HAS MET EACH MONTH THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, AND WE HAVE CONTINUED OUR GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THE GENERAL MEETINGS ARE WELL ATTENDED. THE MOST PLEASING ASPECT IS THE HIGH ATTENDANCE OF COUNTRY MEMBERS.

LATEST UPDATES

John Lane

While there is little likelihood of having social functions from now and until the end of the year, there is still a glimmer of hope for our Christmas Party and the trip away to Crescent Head in November. Unfortunately, it will be another month before I can provide definite confirmation one way or the other.

I will start with the Christmas Party. The State Government's COVID-19 health regulations have put in place a social distance of 1.5 metres between persons. This requirement would not allow the Petersham RSL to host our Christmas Party in their current functions room. We may be able to acquire a larger function room. Inquiries are underway, and we will need to study the ramifications and other health restrictions.

Crescent Head trip away may still be possible. However, like the Christmas Party, we still have more inquiries. I thought the biggest roadblock would be the use of a private bus coach to convey us to and from Crescent Head. However, it would seem the NSW Government has agreed that private bus operators can carry passengers at full capacity. More, the Crescent Head management informs us that their dining and conference rooms are spacious enough to allow them to comply with health regulations for breakfast and dinner.

On the downside, some of the places we planned to visit are closed. Although there is some expectation that some may re-open before November. There is no organised nightly entertainment because the area is not big enough. Will be going without bingo, too a higher price to pay?

I will be in touch with members who plan to go on the trip to seek their views and intentions.

I have mentioned before; we are currently undertaking a review of the constitution. The work is progressing well, and we should be able to report to the general membership in a few weeks.





Retired Members Association



September 2020 General Meeting

Thursday, 24th September 2020
Meeting Commences at 10.30 am.

The General Meeting will take place via Zoom Video Conference Please note there will be no in-person attendance at the FSU.

Members can join the meeting using your PC with a camera and microphone. You have a PC without camera you can still join, just no one will be able to see you.

You can also use a smartphone (iPhone or Android) by downloading the Zoom application. You can also attend using a home phone or dial in with your mobile. Of course, there will be no video.

Members who receive their newsletter via email, will receive an invitation, you need to reply to email (detailed in the email). Members who have replied will receive a Zoom link to access the General Meeting on the Wednesday afternoon/evening prior to the General Meeting.

Retired Members Association Office Bearers

PRESIDENT

John Lane

0417 238 687
a-lane
@bigpond.com

SECRETARY

Bruce Muirhead

02 9639 0990
muirhead
@bigpond.com
22 Cameron Avenue
Baulkham Hills, 2153

TREASURER

Bob Hamblion

02 9502 2525

SECRETARY

Bruce Noake

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

0409 332 464
bnoake
@bigpond.net.au

WELFARE OFFICER

Peter Hack

0408 969 530
hackysnr
@bigpond.net.au

VICE PRESIDENT

Colin McQueen

0429 151 209
colin.mcqueen
@bigpond.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Bruce Coxall

WEBSITE
0418 414 658
02 9597 2224
webadmin
@cwuretired.org

EDITOR

Paul Rewhorn

0418 626 625
pdrewhorn
@me.com

Committee

Alan Bassman, John McAuliffe, Trevor Anderson, John Bryce, Allan Fairbairn, Steve Flynn, Terry Livingstone, Paul Rewhorn, Jim Spencer, Ron Milosh, Garry Masman, Warren Morley, Alan Stevens.



Trevor Mervyn McCarthy



The *Retired Members Association* is sad to report that Trevor McCarthy passed away on Sunday, 23rd August 2020. There was a memorial service for Trevor on Monday, 31st August 2020 at the Mollymook Golf Club,

Trevor was aged 93 and had been a member of the *Retired Members Association* for over sixteen years.

Trevor, the youngest of three children, was born in Granville on the 3rd April 1927. Trevor, throughout his life, valued physical fitness. He was an ardent cyclist, later in the early 1970s returned to cycling, with a veteran's classification. He specialised in road riding, and together with fellow veterans from Lidcombe won the Veteran State Team Championships in 1978 and 1979. Trevor also rode in many Goulburn to Sydney road races.

It was at a cycle club picnic, Trevor met Joyce. Trevor and Joyce married in 1954. They celebrated 66 years of marriage.

Trevor at the age of seventeen, followed his father's career, joining the PMG as a technician in training. He worked in Sydenham, Canberra, the Overseas Radio Terminal, Dalley Street and finally the Haymarket Carrier Terminal. Trevor came to the combined Haymarket Trunk Exchange and Carrier Terminal from its earliest beginnings. The trunk exchange and carrier terminal were expanding rapidly, to become one of the largest communications complexes in the former PMG and Telecom.

Trevor had to manage a large staff, many of whom were trainees. Trevor took a personal interest in the development of trainees. He gave them the opportunities to prove their value to themselves and their workmates. Many, later in their careers held senior positions in Telecom/Telstra and outside companies.

Trevor retired in 1991 after 47 years of service. He was later to move to Dolphin Bay to be with other family members. There, Trevor kept up his fitness doing light weights, walks, and cycling. He particularly enjoyed croquet. He was a volunteer at the Marine Coastal Patrol for many years.

A highlight for Trevor in retirement was as a volunteer at the Sydney 2000 Olympics. He helped at the Dunk Grey Velodrome.

Trevor was the husband of Joyce, Father and Father-in-law of Greg and Wendy, and Ian and Bev. Grandpa of Andrew, Kristy, Ben and Dane. Great Grandpa of Jared, Beau, Eden, Pypar, Noah and Indi.

The *Retired Members Association* extends its condolences and deep sympathy to Trevor's family, former workmates and friends.



Sid William Piggot (lovingly known as Jack)



The *Retired Members Association* is sad to report to members that Sid Piggot passed away on the 21st July 2020. Sid was 94 years of age.

Sid was a member of our Association since 1985 and one of the first one hundred members of our Association (membership number: 64). Sid, during his long career with PMG/Telecom, worked in Traffic Engineering. The Association was about to award Sid with its OBN (Over Bloody Ninety). Unfortunately, due to COVID19 restrictions at his nursing home, we could not present the Award in person. The Award is now with Sid's wife, Betty.

Sid was known to his friends as Jack. The nickname "Jack" was given to him as a little boy as his favourite doll was Jackie Coogan.

Jack was only 13 when he witnessed the death of his father in a tragic accident at the Coogee Swimming Pool. Jack left school at the age of 14 to work on a milk cart to help his family survive. Then at age 17, joined the Australian Navy and served on the HMAS Kanimbla during the Second World War. Following his service in the Navy, Jack learned tailoring at Marco Productions. There, he pursued his passion for music. Sid studied under the famous Australian opera singer Lionello Cecil who had studied at the La Scala in Italy and who had sung in hundreds of operatic performances throughout Italy and Europe in the 1920s.

While at Marco Productions, Jack met his future wife Betty at a dance at the Petersham Town Hall. Betty encouraged Jack to resume his education. Jack worked during the day and studied at night to complete his education to complete his matriculation.

Jack and Betty married in 1952 and were coming up to their 68th anniversary this September. Jack worked many jobs to save for their first home at Kingsgrove, where Betty still resides. Jack first worked with the PMG in administration then further studied to enter technicians in training.

Jack retired from Telecom at the age of 57. He continued to study electronics, chemistry, calculus and history during his retirement. He continued to enjoy playing tennis, singing and helping his growing family.

Sid and Betty have three daughters Narelle, Leanne and Lorraine who gave them seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren with a further two on the way.

The *Retired Members Association* extends its condolences and deep sympathy to Sid's wife Betty, family members and his many friends.



COVID-19 IN AGED CARE RESIDENCES

JULY 2020 ISSUE OF THE RMA NEWSLETTER FEATURED AN ARTICLE ON AGED CARE; THE ITEM ENDED WITH A REMINDER OF THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK AT THE NEWMARK AGED CARE RESIDENCE IN SYDNEY. WHERE THERE HAD BEEN OVER SEVENTY COVID-19 INFECTIONS, AND NINETEEN RESIDENTS LOST THEIR LIVES. DESPITE THE TERRIBLE DEATH RATE, ONLY SIXTEEN PER CENT OF THE RESIDENTS RECEIVED HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

Newmarch House was not the only aged care residence in Sydney to have a high infection and mortality rates.

Second and subsequent waves of infection are consistent with pandemic outbreaks. The conditions in Newmarch House and other aged care places should have forewarned the federal government and the necessity to have a plan and prepare for further outbreaks of COVID-19 infections.

We now know that the second wave of COVID-19 did come to Victoria and has taken a devastating toll on senior citizens who reside in aged care. The Victorian death toll is 661 and continues to climb. Ninety per cent of the deaths have come from within aged care residences. You could only begin to imagine the emotional toll this is having on their families, made worse by being separated from their elderly relatives.

In response to the crisis in aged care, Mr Morrison and federal ministers are giving us mixed messages. On the one hand, the prime minister has apologised in parliament for the high death toll within aged care residences in Victoria. Then seems to downplay the impact of COVID-19 within aged care residences; he quotes the statistic that 97 per cent of age care homes in Australia have not had a single COVID-19 infection. He drill-downs further to advise that 90 per cent of age care homes are without a single infection in the whole of Victoria. The drill-down stops at the outskirts of metropolitan Melbourne. There we find about 1,700 elderly are suffering from the virus and 1,300 health care staff infected, contributing to 700 hospital admissions and about 600 deaths. This figure would have climbed more by when you read this article.

Aged Care Minister, Senator Colbeck has a statistic too. He tells us that Australia is doing "35 times better than the UK"; whatever that is supposed to mean. The same Senator who before a Senate committee hearing could not recall either the infection rate or the number of deaths in aged care.

Back to the subject of planning, Peter Rozen QC, senior counsel assisting the Royal Commission into Aged Care told the Commission that there was no plan to protect residents in aged care. He stated that later evidence before the Royal Commission would reveal neither the Commonwealth Department of Health nor the aged-care regulator had developed a COVID-19 program specifically for the aged-care sector.

An American commentator has remarked that the COVID-19 virus has the ability first to seek out the vulnerable and then quickly exploit the vulnerability. He is referring to the high infection and deaths rates in the USA among the poor in African Americans and Hispanic communities. Many of whom live in overcrowded conditions, have an inadequate diet, have frontline jobs and are without access to proper health care.

There are parallels in Australian aged care that underlines the above commentary. The federal government has long neglected aged care in this country. You only need to go back to reports of kerosene baths, cruelty and neglect in aged care over past years. Added, the federal government has made repeated financial reductions to aged care and allowed the private sector into aged care, mostly unregulated and without transparency.

The federal government is spending \$13bn on aged care together with an additional \$1bn to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the federal government's massive subsidy, there is no requirement for the private sector to tell residents or their families how many staff they employ, the skill sets of these staff or whether there are registered nurses among staff profile. Nor is there a requirement to disclose just how much of the federal subsidy goes on individual resident care on items such as food and other services. The taxpayer does not know whether the money goes unspent or on non-care activities such as investments.

Continued on Page 5



COVID-19 IN AGED CARE RESIDENCES (Cont'd)

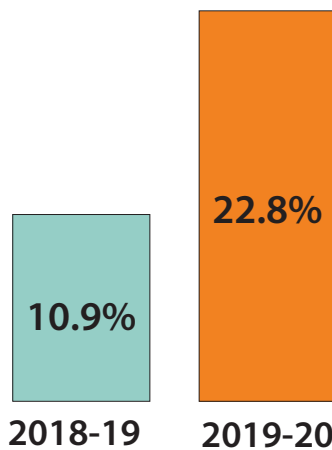
Shareholders or investors are the essential stakeholders for the private sector; profit is the primary motivation. The private sector makes room for a profit margin, applying a squeeze on expenses and having aged care residents pay more in accommodation fees. The Royal Commission into Aged Care has made it clear that there is a crisis in aged care. You have a poor quality of care standards, low pay and conditions for workers in aged care.

The private sector continues to oppose calls for minimum staff levels and skillsets. Staff continue to be paid minimal wages and employed in either a casual or part-time capacity.

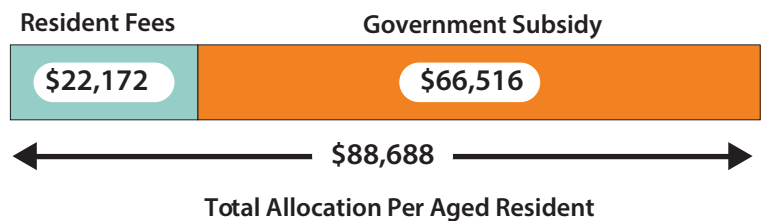
The Guardian Australia reports as of Friday, 4th September, the ten worst-hit aged care residences in Victoria in terms of COVID-19 infections and deaths are in the private sector, run by either a for-profit company or a charity. While in state-run homes that look after ten per cent of senior citizens, just four of the 1,121 active cases of COVID-19 linked to their aged care.

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission told the Royal Commission into Aged Care that underperforming residential aged care facilities have become such a burden; they had limited ability to monitor home care services to older Australians. The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission told the Royal Commission that **non-compliance in residential aged care was up from 10.9% in 2018-19 to 22.8% in 2019-20.**

Non-compliance in Residential Aged Care



There will be intense pressure on the federal government to increase funding for the aged care sector in the upcoming federal budget. No doubt, the federal government will provide some additional funding, whether it will be adequate is unsure. However, without transparency on just where the private sector spends the current \$13bn government subsidy, likely, additional funds will simply find their way into the private sector and not change the circumstances for senior citizens in aged care.



These are the steps the government need to take are:

Edge out the private sector and place more residential aged care into the community and the genuine non-profit sector. Or at a minimum demand more transparency on where they allocate federal government subsidies.

Reduce the waiting list for the home care package so more people can stay in their homes for longer. Over 103 thousand Australians are waiting on a home care package for which they have already had approval. The waitlist has shrunk by just 838 places since the end of 2019. The Royal Commission into Aged Care has heard evidence that aged residential care is not the preference for older Australians. Yet for Australians over 80 years, nineteen per cent live in residential care; the highest percentage in the OECD.

Independent measurement and public reporting of aged care residences

Better training for staff, including infection control
Ensure aged residences have mandated staffing levels to ensure the proper care of aged residents.

More transparency explaining the expenditure allocations within aged care. The federal government and residents pay large sums into aged care; however, because of the absence of regulation, the private sector does not have to report on the expenditure allocations.



WEARING A FACE MASK



AT THE START OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND HEALTH EXPERTS WERE GIVING US MIXED MESSAGING CONCERNING THE WEARING OF FACE MASKS - SOME HEALTH EXPERTS CAST DOUBT ON THEIR USEFULNESS. DURING THE SECOND SIGNIFICANT OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 IN VICTORIA, THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAS MANDATED THE USE OF FACE MASKS; A REFUSAL CAN RESULT IN A FINE.

Today, the NSW Government strongly the use of a clean face mask. Particularly when:

- *When it is hard to maintain 1.5 metres of physical distance from others; particularly when indoors.*
- *when in high-risk indoor areas such as public transport, rideshare, taxis, supermarkets, shops, places of worship and entertainment venues*
- *if symptoms develop while you are out of your home*
- *if you are out of your home and notified by NSW Health that you are a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case*
- *when caring or visiting vulnerable people*

Further, the government tells us we should wear a mask if:

- *asked to self-isolate, we have any symptoms and are seeking medical care*
- *are going to get tested*
- *or in the same room as another person when you have symptoms.*

We now know enough about the virus that a person can be infected:

- *yet show no symptoms (what is termed asymptomatic – more common in younger people),*
- *pre-symptomatic (not however displaying symptoms)*
- *or show mild symptoms.*

People in the above categories can be highly infectious; a reason why the primary value of wearing a face mask is to protect other people. Health experts also tell us that a mask is no substitute for good hand hygiene and physical distancing.

You should also know the precautions when wearing a mask:

- *Wash or sanitise your hands before putting on or taking off your mask.*
- *Ensure the mask covers your nose and mouth. The mask needs to fit snugly under your chin. Cover the bridge of your nose and against the sides of your face.*
- *Refrain from touching the front of your mask while wearing or removing it.*
- *Do not allow the mask to hang around your neck or under your nose.*
- *Do not reuse single-use masks.*
- *Wash and dry reusable masks after use and store in a clean, dry place.*

Symptoms of COVID-19

- *fever (37.5 ° or higher)*
- *cough*
- *sore/scratchy throat*
- *shortness of breath*
- *loss of smell or*
- *loss of taste.*



RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION



Elected Committee

<i>President</i>	Vince Haywood
<i>Vice Presidents</i>	Allan Fairbairn Bruce Coxall (also Editor)
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Hamblion
<i>Welfare Officer</i>	Peter Connell
<i>Secretary</i>	Peter Hack
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	Ralph Britten
<i>Social Co-ordinator</i>	Denzil Fogarty

Committee
John Lane, John McAuliffe, Jim Spencer, John Hickey, Bob Clifford, Denzil Fogarty, Norm Nelson, John Bryce, Max Wright, Dave Levit, Ron Milosh, Dick Orchard, Frank Ingersole and Dave Morgan

Returning Officer: John Loudon

Delegates

CRUMA Phil Orchard, Peter Hack and Jim Spencer
Aged Care Alliance: Jim Spencer and Phil Orchard

MEETINGS

General meetings are held at FSU Conference Room Level 2, 321 Pitt Street, Sydney and 741 George Street, Sydney commencing at 10:15 am except for May which is held at Woy Woy - Roosters Leagues Club Woy Woy at 10 am
Committee meetings are held at the union office 3rd Floor, 741 George Street in the city at 9 am

New Members

John Rufus, Darryl Powter, David Farquhar, Peter Hurst, Stuart O'Keeffe, Brian Fergus, Peter Howes, Paul Roper, Warwick Brodsky, Dave Hughes, Frederick Foord, Phil Lawler, Bruce Beros, Robert Chruszcz, Anthony Monk, Ronald Somers, Bruce Mitchell, Pat Leonard, Kevin Kelly, Tony Smyth, John Woods, Andrew Cant, Bruce Reece, John Alcorn, Ashley Fleming, Alun Davis, John Devoy, Bob Coote and John Devenish

Those Who Passed

Laurie Sawtell, Doug Sweeny, Gordon Farquhar, Alan Bible, Alan Chadwick, Laurie Settle, Bob Ticehurst, Ron Browne, Ken Quin (the Hook), Spencer Manning, Russell Hardacre, Laurie Guy, Spencer Joseph Manning, John Joseph Boldiston, Ron Folley, Eric Campedelli, Serge Zullian, Ted Kirk, Gordon Goudie, Jack Bucknall, Athol Gordon, Reg Dunn, John O'Neill, Bill Jeffries, Clem Hurst, R. Brown, Ron Brooker, Des O'Connell, Alan Driver (Foundation President), H. W. Blake, Peter Connell and Keith Finney

Guest Speakers

- Kerrie Sacco from FSU,
- Lauren Finestone from Legal Aid NSW
- Wayne Webber from the Teachers Federation who spoke regarding the Federal Governments push for school leagues tables



YEAR IN REVIEW 2009 (CONT'D)

Social Events

- Trip to Kiama,
- Trip to the Richmond Club,
- Autumn Leaves Lunch at Springwood,
- Trip to Newcastle,
- Tour of the ABC Ultimo,
- Trip to Tamworth,
- Cockatoo Island,
- Christmas Lunch at Combined Services Club
- Tour of Downing Centre Courts,

Reunions

Class of 1959, TIT - 50 Year Reunion
and Class of 1964, TIT - 45 Year Reunion,

Hot Topics

- Australia's future tax system (Henry Report),
- Lack of information regarding Telecommunications in the National Museum
- The proposal for a national broadband network

Points of Interest

During the year saw the passing of original President Alan Driver and our long time welfare officer Peter Connell. They both did great work for the Retired Members Association.

General Meetings moved to FSU Conference Room 321 Pitt St Sydney as of February, Central Coast meeting moved to Woy Woy Leagues Club, Union Aid Abroad Raffle, Major health award named after former president Harry Collins, In May Ralph Britten became editor of the newsletter, Vince Haywood negotiating with Paul Rewhorn to accept the role of editor of the newsletter and Bruce Coxall to be made a Life Member

The Outside World

The Black Saturday bushfires killed 173 people and devastated the nation.

Everyone was worried about swine flu (N1H1.)



The final episode of McLeod's Daughters aired
Mao's Last Dancer was the highest-grossing local film at the Australian box office.

Rudd Government – Approves the rollout of NBN