

VALE JOHN HICKEY

John Lane



The Retired Members Association is sad to report to members that John Hickey passed away on the 1st November 2020 at the age of 93. John was a member of our Association for over twenty-four years.

John was on our committee for twelve years and regular attendee at our General Meetings.

President John Lane has the following tribute to his friend and fellow member of our Association. There is a further tribute to John Hickey on page 3 of this newsletter.

I first met John in 1977 when I moved to a section where John had an office in the Sydney CBD. Although we never worked directly together, we became close friends. I'd like to think this was because we shared the same social beliefs and ideals.

I remember a time when John was doing a Bachelor of Arts Degree when he was in his mid-fifties. He called me into his office one day and asked me to read this paper he had written as part of his degree. He wanted my opinion. The paper was about the history of our Australian health system, and John had covered everything in much detail.

After reading the paper, I said, *"Wow! you have put a lot of research into this"*, to which he replied, *"I haven't actually, nearly all of it came from personal knowledge, and that is why I am seeking your opinion"*. I believe it speaks volumes about where his interests lay.

John was a most principled man. The best demonstration of his principles was when our Union, the ATEA, was in the middle of a major industrial dispute in 1978; the ARE11 dispute. Senior management had issued an instruction to all middle managers to go to their staff members and direct them to carry out a spurious task in a foreign telephone exchange. Technicians would refuse to carry out these instructions and were stood down. To my knowledge, John was the only manager who refused the upper management's instruction to take part. He was a member of the Union and

was going to adhere to the Union line. John came to me to tell me he was going to resign from the job as he felt his career would be now be over; he was not expecting very favourable treatment from senior management in the future. I was Vice President of the ATEA (Australian Telecommunications Employees Association) at the time; myself, along with help from Ken Walton, talked John out of this action.

Once there was a dispute resolution, no reprisals followed; in fact, John received a significant promotion before he retired. It speaks volumes of the respect that senior management had for John. He also had the respect of his staff.

John spoke so much about his life in Condobolin (Condo), where he was the OIC for several years; it was as if that was where his PMG life began from my perspective. I could establish that after John finished his training; he was a technician on shifts at Homebush Exchange. Later, he went to Barmedman as a senior technician and then the OIC position at Condobolin.

I understand that John wanted to return to the big smoke to raise his family. He did this by obtaining a transfer to the position of Shift Leader at City North Exchange. Later, he had a promotions to the OIC positions at Rose Bay, Pitt Exchange, and then the Customer Installation Manager for the North of the City. His last appointment was Manager, PABX installation NSW.



VALE JOHN HICKEY (cont'd)

I remember attending John's retirement function. I only caught up with him on occasions after his retirement. Later, after my retirement, I joined the *Retired Members Association* and found John on the committee.

We would have lunch together on regular occasions after a committee or general meeting. I became part of the "**four Johnnies red wine club**" because invariably, this became our drink of choice along with John Bryce and John McAuliffe.

I was also privileged to meet John's wife Kath on several occasions, and I feel fortunate to have been able to give her my sincere condolences to her in person.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank Peter Hack on behalf of our Association. Peter remained in contact and visited John and wife Kath when they were in care. He was a great comfort to them and kept us updated on John and Kath's health. In fact, the last time I spoke to John on the phone he spoke of the admiration he held for Peter on more than one occasion.

So many of us will miss a dear friend of such a great principle.



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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.



John Hickey



John Hickey, a member of our Association for over twenty-four years and a friend to us all passed away on the 1st November 2020. There was a funeral service for John on the 6th November 2020 at Saint Vincent's Catholic Parish, Ashfield. He was 93 years of age.

John was the third born child and had four sisters. John grew up in a happy family devoted to their Catholic faith. However, it was a time of great hardship because of the Great Depression. Within his street, John's father was the only person with employment; just one day a week.

After John completed his school education, he joined the PMG as a Technician in Training. His career in the PMG, Telecom and Telstra was to become long and successful one. He finished his career as senior manager. He had a reputation as an excellent people manager.

John married his wife Kath when they were both twenty years of age. They raised four children Geoff, Margaret, Trish, and John. After qualifying as a senior technician, the family moved from the city to the country. First, John went to Barmedman and then to Condobolin, where

John was the OIC for eight years.

John and Kath returned to the city and lived at Lidcombe. Later in 1980, they moved to Lapstone to be closer to their family. It was a happy time for the family; John and Kath had ten grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. It was during this time John took early retirement. John and Kath moved to Ashfield in 1996.

John valued education; he ensured all his children had an excellent education. John himself achieved a university degree at fifty. John worked as a volunteer for several charitable institutions, including Vision Australia.

The Association presented John with a "Certificate of Appreciation" in November 2014. John had served on the committee for twelve years. It is thanks to the effort of members like John Hickey; our Association grew into the organisation it is today.

The *Retired Members Association* extends its sympathy and condolences to John's wife Kath, his family, and his many friends.



Heather Loudon



The *Retired Members Association* is sad to report that Heather Loudon passed away on the 1st November 2020. Heather is the wife of John Loudon, whom members will know from his organisation of 1958 trainee reunions. There was a funeral service for Heather on Monday, 9th November at the South Chapel at the Rookwood Crematorium.

Unfortunately, many friends and members of our Association could not attend the funeral service, as they were away on our annual trip away at Crescent Head. However, they could be with John and his family in spirit; able to view the service via a live-stream.

President John Lane writes the following tribute:

I met Heather through husband and friend John. John was a 1958 trainee along with me. John is the organiser of the 58er's congregating at Port Macquarie every five years at which our wives attend. These are the occasions I would meet Heather. She was a fine lady who was so unlucky to suffer such poor health over such a long time. The fact that she could give smiles and kindness along with her debilitating illness speaks volumes of the person she was - sincere condolences to my friend John.

The Retired members Associations extends condolences and sympathy to John, his family, and his many friends in our Association.



Members observe Heather Loudon's Funeral Service from Crescent Head



WELL, I ASSUME MANY MEMBERS WILL BE PLEASED TO SEE 2020 BEHIND THEM. LAST FEBRUARY, WE PUBLISHED OUR SOCIAL ITINERARY FOR 2020, ONLY TO SEE THE CANCELLATION OF ALL BUT TWO OF OUR SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. OUR VISIT TO THE WOOLWICH HOTEL WENT AHEAD ON THE SAME DAY AS THE RUBY PRINCESS DISEMBARKED ITS PASSENGERS. FORTUNATELY, NONE OF OUR MEMBERS CAUGHT COVID-19, EVEN THOUGH SOME MINGLED WITH THEM AT CIRCULAR QUAY ON THEIR HOME JOURNEY

Latest Updates

John Lane

Our trip away to Crescent Head was a great success. The trip allowed members the opportunity to tour the mid-north coast. I think people were so happy to catch up with friendly faces and have a brief holiday. Something we had all been hanging out for some time. Danny Cater, a member who lives in Crescent Head with wife Pam, came down to meet us over drinks on a couple of occasions. It brought a pleasant touch to our stay.

While we had the opportunity of having so many members together, on behalf of the Association, I presented life membership to Bruce Noake. Bruce was only on our committee for just a year when the Assistant Secretary position became vacant. Bruce stepped up and accepted the job. Each month, Bruce takes on the demanding role of taking the General and Committee meetings minutes.

He also stepped up when we needed a Santa Claus for our Christmas lunch. He has been our Santa for the past five years. This year he took on the added responsibility for printing, labelling, and the postage of newsletters for members who receive a printed copy of the newsletter.

On Tuesday, 24th November, we had what you might call an informal Christmas Get-together at the Petersham RSL. Again, I presented life membership to two more members, John Bryce and Ron Milosh. John Bryce has been on our committee since 2003. He must have folded and labelled thousands of newsletters over these many years. Ron Milosh makes all our awards; now it was the time for Ron to make his own award. Ron is also our resident photographer and has been on our committee since 2004. I would like to thank on behalf of members both John and Ron for their service to our Association. The November General Meeting endorsed all three life memberships.

Photos the life membership presentations are on page 6 of this month's newsletter. I also had the privilege of presenting OBEs ("Over Bloody Eighty") awards to Joan Lane and Terry Tierney.

As mentioned, we had a Christmas Party at the Petersham RSL on the 24th November. The Petersham RSL has undoubtedly become a place for RMA members to frequent. The club has been very kind to us and always gives friendly service. You cannot ask for more. Our newly elected Vice President Col McQueen is also Vice President of the Petersham RSL.

This year, the *Retired Members Association* elected me as President. I thank the members for this great honour. Foremost, once again I want to thank our previous president Vince Haywood, who is our longest-serving president ever.

I have mentioned before that Vince's need to retire early in the year, caused the need for a review of our constitution. Our constitution, in its current form, gave no direction on how to replace an executive position mid-term. We all found a need to modernise the constitution to accommodate modern technologies.

A final draft is now ready and will soon be despatched to all members for their decision at the February General Meeting in 2021. We have also taken on the advice to investigate the need or otherwise to become incorporated. There will be a recommendation to members for incorporation, however, we will not seek a membership approval on this until a later general meeting in 2021. The immediate aim is to bring our constitution up to date.

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LATEST UPDATE (CONT'D)

On a sad note, the month of November saw two people among us pass away. Heather Loudon and John Hickey. I knew Heather through her husband, John Loudon. I knew John Hickey in the workplace and on the RMA committee. There are tributes to Heather and John in this month's newsletter.

On a final note, I wish to thank this year's committee for all their hard work, particularly regarding the review and re-write of our constitution. The result has taken countless hours. I must mention Col McQueen and Warren Morley, who both went the extra mile in their efforts to complete the document.

I have one more administrative matter, on the 25th February 2021, our Association will hold its annual meeting. The annual meeting has an important agenda item, namely, the election of new office bearers for 2021.

Over the past couple of years, fresh faces on our executive and committee have reinvigorated our Association. Therefore, if consider you contribute, please nominate for a position. This month's newsletter includes a nomination form which will also be on our website.

Now, I take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a safe and happy festive season. Fingers crossed that 2021 will be a better year than what we have endured during 2020.



**Last Newsletter
for 2020**

**Back in February
2021**



JOAN LANE RECEIVES OBE AWARD

While on our annual trip away at Crescent Head, President John Lane presented wife Joan with the *Retired Members Association's* OBE ("Over Bloody Eighty") Award.

We are sure Joan assists John with the planning and organising of our trip-aways. They are so well run, we are certain that John could not be doing it alone.

Congratulations and best wishes Joan





THREE MEMBERS RECEIVE RMA LIFE MEMBERSHIP



President John Lane awards John Bryce with Life Membership at our informal Christmas Party in November 2020



Bruce Noake receives a Life Membership Award from President John Lane. The awards was made during our annual trip away at Crescent Head.in November 2020



Ron Milosh receives a Life Membership Award from President John Lane. The awards was made at our informal Christmas Party in November 2020



THE YEAR 2020: A YEAR WE WOULD ALL LIKE TO PUT BEHIND US.

Paul Rewhorn

COVID-19

The year 2020 is a year we would all like to put behind us. The year started with disastrous bushfires and followed shortly after that with the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, in Australia, the State governments' priority was the community's health and welfare. The governments listened to the health experts' advice.

Sadly, other countries have not been as fortunate. Their governments were less inclined to heed the advice of their health experts and timid in their response, fearing the economic consequences of a general population lockdown. Of course, not that there has been no impact of the pandemic in Australia. We have had over 28,000 infections and 900 deaths; most of the deaths have been in aged care homes. The USA, UK and other countries exceed our total death toll each day.

As we move into 2021, our country will rely on testing and tracing, and the welcomed news there will be the general distribution of a vaccine.

As the pandemic comes under control, the focus will shift to economic recovery and people's return to employment. Here, we are not likely to see the same level of bipartisanship dealing with economic recovery. Now the federal government is turning back to their old ideology of having a balanced budget. The government is being encouraged by the latest quarter's GDP growth and unemployment figures. However, the country is still worse off than at the pandemic's commencement and the resultant lockdowns.

The *JobKeeper* programme ceases in March and the financial supplement for *JobSeeker* will also end in the same month. Many sectors of the economy will continue to suffer well beyond this year. If the Great Depression taught us anything, reducing incomes, like age pensions, welfare payments and wages would only prolong and deepen the current recession. The government is now proposing broad changes to industrial relations, replicating the disastrous "work-choices" legislation.

Our economy has spluttered along since the global financial crisis of 2008. Early removal of income supplements will not be suitable for the unemployed or the economy. It comes back to need to have money circulating quickly throughout the economy. Asking the workforce to do the heaviest lifting,

reducing incomes, and work conditions is not the answer. Instead, there is the need to invest in infrastructure and direct support for ailing parts of the economy.

Royal Commission Recommendations

Our newsletter featured many articles focusing on the Australian Banking Industry's corruption and the need for its reform. Many Australians lost their homes and life savings, and farmers lost their properties. The bank's insurance arms failed to pay out on policies based on the flimsiest of excuses.

The Federal Government, for a long time, ignored repeated calls to have a Royal Commission. When Treasurer, Mr Morrison even chastised the Labor Opposition for their repeated calls for a Royal Commission into the financial services industries. He claimed the Labor Party calls for a Royal Commission were irresponsible, as they would undermine Australians' confidence in their banks and other financial services. He ignored the fact that Australians watched and read reports of unscrupulous behaviour on the part of the banks and their subsidiary insurance companies each day. The multitude of bank scandals was even aiding organised crime. Some banks were facing billion-dollar fines.

Facing an upcoming election calls for a Royal Commission had become too loud for the federal government to continue to ignore.

The Royal Commission had limited terms of reference and a short timeframe for hearings and their report's delivery. The Royal Commission delivered their final report to the Governor-General on Friday, 1st February 2019. The final report showed that the financial services industry disobeyed the law and regulators had not enforced the law effectively.

Amid the pandemic, Mr Frydenberg granted the banks an extension into this year for the banks and other financial services to respond to the Royal Commission's reform recommendations. Mr Frydenberg is trying to tell us that the financial services industries (the big banks) could not cope under these extraordinary pandemic circumstances, despite their vast resources. In contrast, average Australians had to adapt to life-changing circumstances, months of lockdown, working from home, reduced incomes and having to school tutor their children for good measure.

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KEITH SAVILL RECEIVES OBN AWARD

Treasurer Bob Hamblion recently had the privilege of presenting Keith Savell with the Association's OBN ("Over Bloody Ninety") award.

Keith has been a member of our Association for close on eighteen years.

Members will know Keith for his many years of dedicated service in the Customer Equipment Installation discipline.

For Bob Hamblion it was a particular honour for him to present Keith with the OBN Award. Keith encouraged Bob to study for the Senior Technicians Exam; once he passed, it was a life-changing event for Bob. No doubt, Keith offered the same guidance to many others.

Since receiving the OBN, Keith has suffered some serious health issues. He has decided to move to Queensland to join family there to assist in his recovery, we all wish Keith good health and happiness.



THE YEAR 2020: A YEAR WE WOULD ALL LIKE TO PUT BEHIND US. (CONT'D)

The Australian public adapted to new conditions, months of lockdown, working from home, reduced incomes and having to school tutor their children for good measure. Meanwhile, the financial services industries who had been ripping them off for years received a free pass.

The Guardian newspaper reported on Tuesday, 19th January 2021 that close on two years after receiving the Royal Commission's recommendations, the government has either abandoned or not fully implemented more than half of the recommendations. Mr Frydenberg has undermined the pro-regulation consensus that was evident after the Royal Commission announced its recommendations. Now, he is taking advantage COVID-19, telling us the implementation delays are because of the pandemic environment

Not content with stalling the Royal Commission's recommendations, the Treasurer has introduced new laws that are the reverse the Royal Commission's recommendations. He describes the new laws as removing "unnecessary barriers to the flow of credit to households and small businesses". The changes will allow retailers to continue to sell loans to customers at the point of sale. The Royal Commission recommended that this practice should discontinue. The government had previously announced the Royal Commission's recommendation would be in place by the end of 2020.

The Treasurer has also rejected the Royal Commission's recommendations, banning mortgage brokers from receiving commissions over a home loan's life and they receive the same treatment as financial advisers. Again, the lobbyists were soon at work after the announcement of this recommendation. They portrayed the mortgage broker as small business owners who were just serving the interests of home borrowers.

All this is a far cry from two years ago when Mr Frydenberg appeared before the cameras. Then he promised swift action to implement the Royal Commission's recommendations, promising this would take just months to complete. Like many times before, the banks have employed lobbyists to influence the federal government successfully. Doing so, once again, they have drowned out the voices of ordinary people.



ARTIE MAC OUTBACK



This is a true tale of a young Artie Mac
Who worked for a while in Bourke and outback
He was a technician in the old PMG
A job that he cherished and had down to a 'T'

He thought that the outback was really 'you beaut'
'Til his bosses in Sydney sent out a Dodge ute
Well it rattled and clanged with crook steering and dings
But the worst was suspension and dubious springs

With worn out shocks and four balding tyres
They said "she'll be right" but he knew they were liars
But he gathered his tools and equipment to load
Then headed out west on the Wanaaring road

From side to side it rattled and rolled
And bottomed each pothole that it did behold
'Twas around halfway when the radiator did boil
The air filter fell off and spilt all its oil

The engine spluttered and started to croak
The Dodge was then covered in a cloud of blue smoke
Artie lifted the bonnet to see the engine on fire
And thought that this could be his funeral pyre

So he grabbed the extinguisher from under the seat
And put out the blaze midst the smoke and the heat
Then as he pondered he started to doubt
Whether he should have put the bloody thing out

But its lonely out there on the Wanaaring track
And well near 40 in the water sack
On the side of the road through a wire fence
He spied a large dam that he'll remember hence

He was thirsty and sweaty and terribly hot
So he stripped off his clothes and I mean the lot
He dived in the water the colour of clay
The cool on his body was making his day

When something latched on to his balls with a yank
He broke a world record swimming to the bank
A big bloody yabbie had attached to his gear
Oh the pain to remove it as he stifled a tear

Then as he got dressed in a rather black mood
He vowed never to swim in dams in the nude
Just as he sauntered back to the Dodge
He was wondering where that night he would lodge

As the sun was sinking slowly out in the west
He thought that he'd give that Dodge a test
But after a splutter a whirr and a fart
He was surprised to find that the engine would start

So he went on his way in the fading light
Happy that he would make it that night
When he finally arrived at the Wanaaring pub
He recounted his story over beer and some grub

By Arthur McCarroll 16/10/2009



CWU RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

NSW TELECOMMUNICATION AND SERVICES BRANCH

Nomination Form Executive and Committee Positions for 2021

NOTE TO CANDIDATES AND NOMINATORS – GENERAL INFORMATION

- » The Candidate and the two Nominators must be members of the Retired Members Association.
- » The Candidate must be nominated by members of the Retired Members Association.
- » The Candidate must agree to the nomination by signing this form
- » The election applies for ALL positions on the Management Committee.
- » A separate nomination form is required for candidates who are applying for election to multiple positions.
- » The completed form must be lodged with the nominated Returning Officer prior to the Retired Members Associations's Annual Meeting for 2021 to be held on Thursday, 25th February 2021, commencing 10.30 am or via post or email to the Secretary

Position Nominated For:

*Vacant Positions are: President, Vice President (2 positions)
Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and
Committee (15 positions)*

Nominee Full Name

I Accept the nomination (sign above)

I nominate the above member
First Nominator

Print Full Name

(sign above)

I nominate the above member
Second Nominator

Print Full Name

(sign above)

Please complete and print the form mail or email a copy to:

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