Welcome to your September 2022 Newsletter.

John Lane

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT WITH OUR LAST TWO SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. OUR LUNCH IN AUGUST AT THE SYDNEY ROWERS CLUB HAD CLOSE TO FORTY MEMBERS ATTEND. WE HAD TO REARRANGE TABLES AND CHAIRS TO ALLOW US TO SIT TOGETHER. OUR LUNCH AT THE SYDNEY ROWERS IS ONE OF OUR MOST POPULAR. FOR MOST MEMBERS, THE LUNCH BEGINS WITH A SCENIC TRIP FROM CIRCULAR QUAY TO ABBOTSFORD. THEN IN SEPTEMBER, WE HAD A TOUR OF PETERSHAM RSL'S NEW PREMISES AND LUNCH.

In October, we are off on a six-day trip to the Murray Darling area. The journey has been two years in the making because of COVID. However, I am sure the wait will be worth it. There will not be a single day function in October.

We have forty-three members and friends on the trip. Unfortunately, we have had a few dropouts because of medical reasons. **There is still time to join us, but you need to let me know ASAP.**

I am looking forward to the trip; we have a terrific itinerary waiting for us.

Emu Plains General Meeting

A big disappointment in August was the need for the committee to cancel the meeting venue at O'Donoghues Hotel, Emu Plains. Unfortunately, the cancellation came with only 24 hours' notice. Because we were receiving conflicting advice on the extent of the rail disruption, there was the hope there would be a breakthrough in negotiations between the State government and the Rail Union. However, widespread disruption to rail services on the western lines seemed likely as Thursday approached.

The committee decided it would be too difficult for people to travel to Emu Plains, hence the late-stage cancellation. I apologise for any inconvenience that this may have caused some members.

The good news is that we did decide to continue to have the August General Meeting via a Zoom video conference with forty members in attendance. At such short notice, a pleasant surprise. It was an enjoyable meeting; I am grateful to all for their contribution. We always like to see people come to our general meetings in person.

Zoom does offer the advantage of hybrid meetings that benefits our out-of-town members or when members cannot make the trip to a particular venue on the day of a general meeting.

If you have not tried Zoom to join us at a General Meeting, I encourage you to give it ago. If you have tried Zoom in past, you will notice the improvement. Paul Rewhorn and Col McQueen have continued to refine coverage of the meeting from both a video and audio perspective. They tell me they have more refinements on the way.

You may recall we had planned to have a guest speaker from the Rural Fire Service for our August meeting. However, the person has been kind enough to re-book with us for a rescheduled October General Meeting.

Australia's Telecommunications History

Members may recall my attempts to have the National Museum of Australia tell Australians about the role of telecommunications in our nation's advancement and development over the past 170 years. In the mid-nineteenth century, the Australians understood that our large land mass had the promise of prosperity; however, its vastness and sparse population were a significant challenge.

Retired Telecommunications Employees Association

SEPTEMBER 2022

General Meeting

** **Thursday, 29th September, starting at 10.30 am**

Stroke FOUNDATION
Guest Speaker

Petersham RSL Club

★★★ 301 Trafalgar Street, Petersham
and via
Zoom Video Conference

Now we are emerging from the COVID pandemic, the Association warmly invites members to now attend in person. The Zoom Video conference will continue; a reminder email will be sent to members on the Monday prior to the meeting. The e-mail will include a link for you to join the via Zoom Video Conference. For first time Zoom users, the email will include basic instructions on how to use the Zoom Video Application.

The Zoom Video Conference link will open at 10.15 am allowing members you to check their computer's camera and audio. Perhaps have a brief chat with other members before the meeting's commencement

** Please note because the original date for our general meeting has been declared a public holiday for a National Day of Mourning on Thursday 22 September to mark the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Association has postponed our meeting to the Thursday (29TH September), of the following week.
*** Note the Petersham RSL is now in new premises at 301 Trafalgar Street which is parallel to the railway line and just a short walk (200m) from Petersham Station.

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Committee

Trevor Anderson, John Bryce, Allan Fairbairn, Steve Flynn, Bob Hamblion, Vince Haywood, John McAuliffe, Arthur McCarroll, Paul Rewhorn, Barry Robinson, Garry Masman, Ron Milosh, Warren Morley.

Welcome to your September 2002 Newsletter (Cont'd).

August of this year was the 170TH anniversary of the opening of the Overland Telegraph between Adelaide and Darwin. The Overland Telegraph gave Australia communications with the rest of the world. At first, the telegraph brought improved trade with the outside world and later would impact individual Australians.

Fortunately, the early colonies and the Australian Federation are today's "*early adopters*". Australia has never behind other countries, introducing the latest telecommunications advancements such as telephony, radio, television, the internet, and smartphones as part of everyday life. However, the story of this achievement goes largely untold. The National Museum features the *Victa Mower* and the *Hills Hoist*. I am sure there is a lot more to Australia's achievements than the invention of these two items.

My first attempt to bring this issue to prominence was back in 2008; I was to try again three years later, to no avail. I did achieve a phone conversation with a representative of the National Museum, but I would prefer to forget that experience. You could say, at this point, the whole effort fell into a heap. However, the episode told me that to proceed; the Museum would do so only with private sector donations. I wrote to the then CEO of Telstra, who declined to finance the project.

I am now motivated to have yet another attempt with a new federal government. We have four of us working on this latest attempt Barry Robinson, Merv Savage, Paul Rewhorn, and myself.

We have already written to Susan Templeman, the Federal Member for Macquarie and Special Envoy for the Arts. Merv is a member of the Labor Party and in the Minister's Macquarie electorate, who we hope can facilitate a very busy minister's attention.

Barry and Paul are putting together a presentation if we are fortunate to meet with the minister. I appreciate their efforts; this is not a project you can do alone. We will share some of the presentation material in the newsletter or during a future general meeting.

Let us hope this current venture will have success.

September 2022 General Meeting

We had yet another change to our general monthly meeting; this time, our September General Meeting is now on Thursday, 29TH September 2022. The original date planned for the meeting was a week earlier, declared a public holiday, a day of mourning for Queen Elizabeth II.

We decided for the following reasons.

- Many members would have found it disrespectful to have continued with the meeting.
- Train timetables would have run on a public holiday schedule.
- Our guest speaker from the Stroke Foundation was entitled to a public holiday.
- We had a fifth Thursday in September 2022; a too simple a fit.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the September General Meeting and lunch after that.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

A Stroke Foundation representative will be our special guest speaker at our September General Meeting

Learn the F.A.S.T. signs of STROKE

FACE drooped?
ARMS can't be raised?
SPEECH slurred or confused?
TIME is critical! Call 000.

If you see any of these signs
Act *FAST* call 000 (triple zero)

Vale Mario Crkvencic

Sam Lanza and Lee Walkington, wrote the following tribute.

The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association is sad to report the passing of member Mario Crkvencic.

Mario passed away on the 7th of August 2022 from a heart attack while cycling around the Inner West Bay Run, Sydney. Mario was just 59 years of age.

Around 150 people comprising of family, friends and workmates attended a funeral service for Mario at the Sacred Heart Chapel, Rookwood

Mario's son, Andrei and Sam Lanza, a friend and workmate, spoke movingly of Mario's life and his many achievements. Mario was born in 1962 in Banjaluka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (then a part of Yugoslavia). Mario met Anita, his future wife there in 1986. Mario had to move to Zagreb, Croatia, to study. While studying there, a war broke out in 1991. Anxious to avoid the draft, Mario and his brother moved to Singapore to work as an electrician for five months before finding work again as an electrician in Europe.

In 1992, the war had spilled over into Bosnia itself, so Mario returned home to care for his family. Late in the same year, Mario and his family stayed in Cypress before migrating to Australia in late 1993.

Arriving in Sydney, Mario worked at several small jobs while also studying English at the Wesley Mission. Two days per week of work experience accompanied the English course. His work experience was with Telstra where he impressed everyone with his work ethic. Telstra after a short while offered Mario full-time employment. Mario went on to work with Telstra for the next 28 years.

All who worked with Mario spoke highly of him as a hard worker, capable technician, and a great friend and workmate. Mario commenced with subscriber installation by doing cabling. Later, he worked with the delivery of Spectrum and data services products as part of a project team. Mario received recognition for his outstanding efforts on several large projects, which included the 2000 Sydney Olympics and other Special Events projects.

Later in his career, Mario was engaged with the Telstra Defence Department account, providing on-site support to meet customer requirements in Sydney and Canberra. Unfortunately, like much other staff, Mario found that Telstra's work environment was much different in 2021 compared to when he started. Mario decided to accept redundancy, preferable to staying in a job that he once loved

The large turnout at Mario's funeral included many current and former Telstra employees. It was a testament to the high regard that Mario was held in by all his former workmates. Never one to simply defer to the wisdom of his managers, Mario was always the first to ask the difficult question, why?

Workmates found that Mario had a unique view on practically any topic and would fearlessly argue in favour of it, always with a twinkle in his eye. Mario was indeed one of a kind and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. I am sure all Retired Telecommunications Employees Association members will join us in extending condolences to Mario's wife, Anita, his son Andrei, his family, and many friends.

Welfare News

Peter Hack

I must start this month's welfare report with the sad news that **Merv Nolan** passed away on 14TH August 2022. He was 79 years. Merv was in care, suffering from dementia and Parkinson's; he had been nonverbal for some time.

A funeral service for Merv was on Friday, 9TH September 2022.

Bob Nowfel had heart surgery at Westmead Hospital on Tuesday, 6TH September 2022. His surgeon is pleased with the result. Bob spent time in intensive care recovering after the operation

Berni Fonti underwent an operation on 7th September 2022. While he is recovering well, his physician has advised Berni not to travel at this stage on our trip away

Kevin McFadden is now back home after a five-week hospital stay while recovering from several fractures.

Finally, I have just received news that **Tom Brown** is recovering from a fall in Westmead Hospital. Unfortunately, Tom's fall went undetected for a couple of days. Tom was initially uncoherent but slowly recovering. A late update: Member Neil Bowmaker has visited Tom in hospital on Tuesday, 27TH September 2022. Tom continues to recover, however doctors want Tom to remain in hospital to undergo further tests to understand the reason for his fall.

Vale Kevin Peter Barry

I would like to record the passing of Kevin Peter Barry on 3rd March 2022. He was not a member of our Association.

Kevin was born on 1st September 1931. He commenced his career joining the Postmaster Generals Department (PMG) as a Telegram Boy before he passed the "Technicians in Training" entrance examination in 1947. Kevin commenced his training in 1948. Later in 1956, he passed the Senior Technician Examination.

Kevin enjoyed his roles as a Trainee, Technician, Senior Technician and Supervising Technician at various work locations at the Training School in Sydney, then Goulburn, Cootamundra, Picton, Mittagong, Bowral and Gosford.

In 1977, Kevin was promoted to Senior Telecommunications Technical Officer Grade 2, the First Assistant to the Officer-in-Charge in the Gosford Multi-Function District. Kevin retired in 1986.

Kevin was a competent and dedicated member of the PMG and Telecom Engineering Branches. He had the respect of both his staff and management in his roles as supervisor and manager.

He enjoyed cricket as a player and spectator, although his passion was golf. He played golf throughout his working life and well into retirement.

In retirement, he enjoyed making candles for his Church. In addition, he was a volunteer at his local St Vincent DePaul Society Branch and a tour guide at St. Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney.

Together with his wife Barbara, they were Telephone Councillors with Lifeline.

Kevin's dedication to his children has been everlasting as they have excelled in their chosen professions, practising all over Australia and the United Kingdom.

Kevin passed away in hospital with his wife of 66 years by his side. He is survived by his wife Barbara, children Ann, Bill, David, Peter, Cathy, and Susan, as well as several foster children. Kevin and Barbara had twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The Retired Members Association extends its condolences to Kevin's wife Barbara, his family, friends and former workmates.

workmates.

The above tribute was written by Bob Spear on behalf on the Association

Vale John L Warburton

The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association is sad to report the passing of John Warburton (Warb) early on Tuesday, 6TH September 2022. John was born on 22ND October 1944.

His funeral will be held for John on Wednesday, 14TH September, at Craig's Hill Crematorium, Goulburn.

Warb is survived by his wife Inday, sons Chris and Dale and stepdaughter Rosel and family

John was a 1960 Technician in Training. After the completion of his following the completion of his training, he was appointed to the Goulburn Telephone Exchange. John was to go on spending the whole of his career in the Goulburn District.

Initially, John worked at the telephone exchange. Then after the introduction of FMO (Future Mode of Operations), he left his cherished position of Senior Technician on the MDF and Test Desk to take up the position of Cell Leader with Customer Installation within the new Customer Organisation.

John was well liked and revered among those with whom worked with. Workmates would remember for his antics especially on a Monday mornings after his Sunday game of football and the following celebrations.

Warb was a dedicated football player playing for Goulburn Workers Football Club in the Group 8 competition. He was the Captain Coach of the Taralga Football Club for several years.

John was active in the Goulburn ATEA subbranch.

The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association extends its condolences to John's wife Inday, family and his former workmates.

Mid North Coast Annual Get-together

Our first reunion since 2019

Wednesday 26TH October 2022

We usually gather from 10 am onwards

The get-together is absolutely informal, there is no business agenda. Just come along and renew old friendships, everyone is very welcome. Please spread the word to those who may be interested.

For further information please contact Peter Lygoe. Ph. (02)6551 0500. Email: peter.kayl@bigpond.com

All former or current PMG/Telecom/Telstra employees are welcomed at our annual get together at Port Macquarie.

West Port Macquarie Bowling Club in Buller Street, Port Macquarie

Goulburn District Reunion

Wednesday, 26TH October 2022

10am for 11am Start

VENUE

**Goulburn Workers Club
1 McKell Place**

If you have ever worked any-where near Goulburn you will be most welcome.

Facebook: PMG, AUSTRALIA POST, TELECOM AND TELSTRA REUNIONS
Contacts: Geoff Chadwick 0407 164 466, Kel Morby - 0427 266 125 (Text Please),
Bob Speer - 04088 639 00 or e-mail speer.r.65@gmail.com, Barry Jordan - 0419 480 542
Please RSVP by 12TH October to allow for name tags to be processed.

Story of the Overland Telegraph

Paul Rewhorn

One hundred and fifty years ago, a small group of talented technicians and bushman gathered under a tall poll near Frew's Ironstone Ponds, deep in the Northern Territory Bush.

At 12 noon, their leader Robert Patterson, climbed a ladder and grasped the two ends of a telegraph line to join them. He promptly received an electric shock.

This delayed the joining by a few minutes. Patterson found a handkerchief and tried again. Wrapping the wire with the cloth he soldered it the southward facing line of wire to its mate. The Overland Telegraph now stretched 2839 kilometres.

O**N THE 22ND OF AUGUST 1872, THE FIRST TELEGRAM WAS SENT FROM PALMERSTON (LATER KNOWN AS PORT DARWIN AND TODAY DARWIN) TO ADELAIDE WITH THE JOINING OF OVERLAND TELEGRAPH CONNECTION AT FREW'S' IRONSTONE PONDS.**

The hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Overland Telegraph went largely unreported in the media, underscoring the lack of appreciation for the role that telecommunications have made in the development and advancement of our nation.

Before explaining the construction of the *Overland Telegraph*. The invention of the telegraph came In 1837, Samuel Morse, his assistant Alfred Vail, and US physicist Joseph Henry invented the single-wire telegraph. Morse and Vail later developed the *"morse code"* in 1844.

Morse and his colleagues transmitted telegrams over an experimental line from Washington to Baltimore.

Colonies - Telegraph Expansion

Within ten years of the telegraph, telegaraph lines begun to appear in Australia. the Australian colonies were what we call *"early adopters"* today. Just sixteen years after the invention of morse code and the single-wire telegraph, all the Australian colonies, with one exception, each had an extensive network of telegraph lines. South Australia and all the eastern colonies capitals were connected. Western Australia was the last colony to adopt the telegraph, connecting to the eastern colonies in 1874.

The first telegraph line linked Melbourne to Williamstown in 1853; the line was 17 kilometres long. A year later, the line extended to Geelong; the first news over the line was about a certain rebellion at the Eureka Stockade.

In 1858, a telegraph line opened between Adelaide and Melbourne. This line was later critical in bringing international telegrams to the other eastern colonies. One year later, an undersea telegraph line connected Victoria and Tasmania.
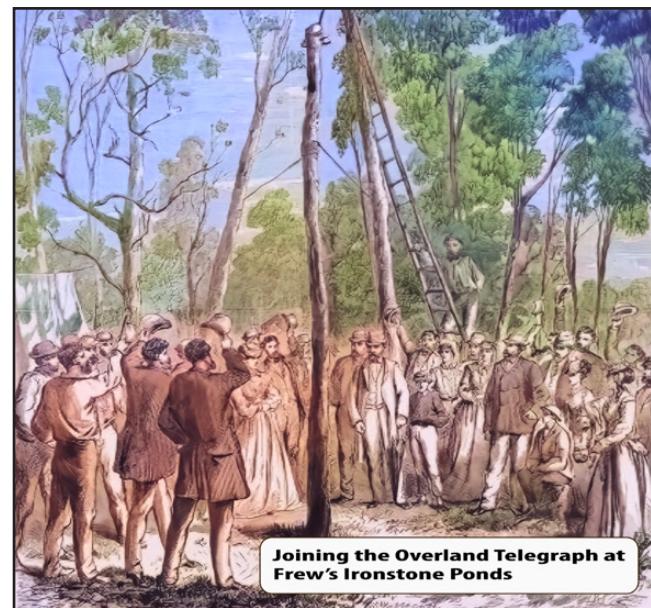
Meanwhile, telegraph line construction occurred within Tasmania, Queensland, and New South Wales.

NSW constructed its first telegraph line between Sydney and Liverpool in 1857.

Three years later, telegraph lines connected Sydney and Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, the capital of the new colonial of Queensland. Even a direct telegraph line existed between Adelaide and Sydney.

International Telegraph

The colonies were aware that an international telegraph connection would bring significant commercial benefits to the colonies. Telegraph lines were already connecting Europe with Singapore and into Java.

Joining the Overland Telegraph at Frew's Ironstone Ponds

Story of the Overland Telegraph (Cont'd)

The South Australian, Queensland, Victorian, and New South Wales colonies were competing to have a route connecting Australia with the rest of the world. There was intense competition; Queensland offered financial inducements to the other colonies to support their attempt.

Queensland saw South Australia as its principal opposition and even tried to coerce the other colonies from supporting a telegraph route from South Australia.

Victoria considered building a line across the continent up through Menindee to the North Coast. One of the reasons for Burke and Wills setting out on their ill-fated expedition. Queensland envisaged an undersea cable between the Singapore and Java and the Gulf of Carpentaria would be underground. Their telegraph line would go via Normanton. While Queensland start the construction, it abandoned the project when it was clear the undersea cable from Java would end at Darwin.

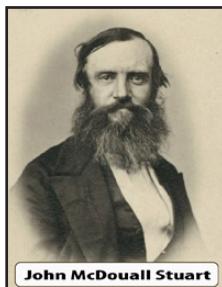Two people were instrumental in the construction of an overland telegraph route.

Charles Stuart: Finding A Route

A telegraph route from Adelaide to the north coast of Australia looked the most logical way to connect the Australian continent with the rest of the world. However, there was a problem; no European had seen what was in the middle of the continent. Some speculated there was an inland sea.

John McDouall Stuart

Therefore, before there could be a telegraph route, someone had to explore the centre of Australia and find a way to the continent's north coast.

Enter *Charles Stuart*, a Scottish explorer. Stuart was a civil engineer before emigrating to Australia at 23. Stuart found early employment with the South Australian Surveyor General, marking blocks for settlers and miners.
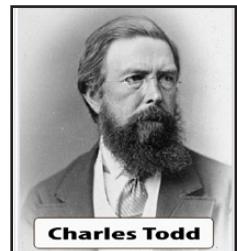
Stuart was to lead the first of six expeditions beginning in May of 1858 within South Australia. On his fourth expedition in 1862, he found a path from Adelaide to the north coast. The Stuart Highway today follows that path.

Charles Todd: Making the Overland Telegraph a Reality

The South Australian government recruited Charles Todd from England in 1854. Todd, before he emigrated from Britain, during a farewell speech claimed he would connect London with Australia. Todd was an experienced telegraph professional. He was a keen astronomer and among the first to observethe planet Neptune. Todd saw the potential of the telegraph, learning how it could calculate accurate time in different areas and for weather prediction.
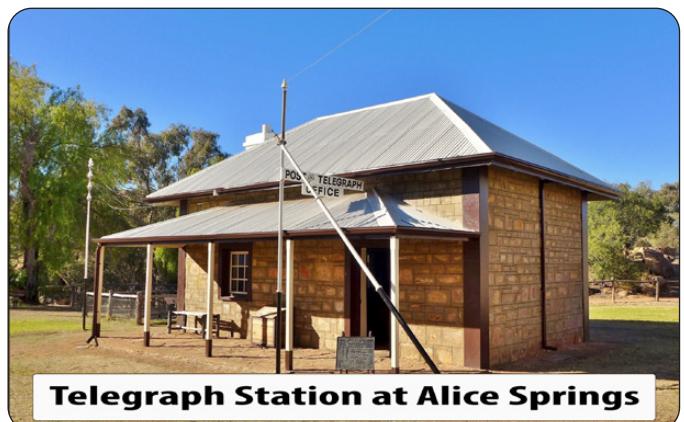
Charles Todd

Todd divided the construction of the 2,839 km telegraph line into three sections as follows:

- *South Section: 804 km north of Port Augusta.*
- *Central Section: 1,007 km inside of Central Australia. Charles Todd led the work in this section as it was considered the most difficult.*
- *North Section: 639 km south of Darwin.*

On the 15TH of September 1870, the first telegraph pole of the Overland Telegraph was planted. In 1871, telegraph stations were constructed at Palmerston (now Darwin) and Alice Springs.

Telegraph Station at Alice Springs

Story of the Overland Telegraph (Cont'd)

It is worth reminding that the overland telegraph line route would pass over land which Europeans had only recently explored and transversed just ten years earlier. The limited size of the newsletter prevents me from going into much more detail about the construction. However, it is worth noting a few key points:

Afghan cameleers were essential in bringing supplies, telegraph equipment (wire, tools and insulators), food and other supplies. There were also bullock teams bringing supplies. We also learn that horses were terrified of camels; frightened, horses would scatter in all directions.

Camels and horses were the first hooved animals in the central region of Australia. They would trample on the natural streams flowing from the artesian basin. They destroyed the streams, a vital source of water for our nation's first people who had lived in the central region for tens of thousands of years.

The Overland Telegraph served Australia to just beyond the Second World War. It was vital to the second world war effort; the government needed to add more telegraph lines to cope with the increased telegraph traffic during the war period.

As the 20th century passed, telephony became more accessible to the masses with decreased prices. For example, around the 1960s, there was price parity between the cost of a three-minute phone call and a 15-word telegram. Ten years later, telegram transmissions fell by half.

In 2013, in India, Ashwani Mishra, a reporter for a News TV channel, sent the last telegram over a wire to Rahul Gandhi, the Vice President of the Indian National Congress.

The Overland Telegraph was a noteworthy feat for South Australian Colony which was less than fifty years old. Yet, there is a scant mention of this feat when telling our history, the same applies for the whole of our telecommunications history. Our vast size and sparse population have long been a challenge to our nation's advancement. Telecommunications has made a significant contribution to overcoming the challenges our sparsely populated country has faced throughout history.

Camp of the Overland Telegraph, Ropers Creek Northern Territiry (1870)

RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION: APPLICATION FORM

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Step 1 - Application	
First Name	Last Name
Spouse/Partner Name (*the Retired Members Assocation has regular social functions to which Spouses and Partners are welcomed*).	Date of Birth (Optional). *You may wish to only provide year and/ or month of your birth details.*
Address (First Line)	Suburb/Town/City
Address (Second Line)	Postcode	State
Contacr Phone Number	Monthly Newsletter Preference (Except December and January) Email ☐ Post ☐ None ☐
Email Address	
I would like to purchase a name badge at $15 (includes postage). Yes ☐	Name on Badge

Step 2 – Work History
Brief Description of your work history in Telecommunications Industry

Step 3 – Payment

A membership payment together with postal edition of the newsletter and badge payments (only if later two items are applicable) can be made by posting a cheque to the Secretary, or via electronic transfer.

Cheque payments are payable to CWU Retired Members Association and post to:

Secretary, CWU Retired Members Association
22 Cameron Avenue,
Baulkham Hills
NSW 2153

Bank Transfers (electronic payments)
Great Southern Bank
BSB 814-282,
eSaver Account No: 10642769.
Please include your surname on the
electronic payment reference.

Payments preferences are:

Membership plus free Newsletter via email $20
(Note this is a once only membership payment)   ☐

Membership plus the current year's Newsletter via Post $35   ☐

Membership plus Name Badge $35   ☐

Membership plus Name Badge plus the current year's Newsletter $50   ☐

I wish to apply for membership of the Retired Members Association. I understand that by completing this application form and making payment, I agree to abide by the constitution of the Association. Please tick if you agree. ☐

You can read and download (pdf) the Retired Members Association's constitution at:
http://www.cwuretired.org/docs/CONSTITUTION.pdf

Retired Members' New Member Application Form - Issue 1: 25 October 2021