



Welcome to your February 2024 Newsletter

John Lane

Please let me start by wishing you good health for the coming new year. As we age, we realise how vital our health is alongside our family and friends.

During January, the committee held their annual planning meeting. We made considerable progress in determining our social functions for 2024. In this month's newsletter, you will find our social calendar for the first part of the coming year. We are close to finalising the second part of the year and will have more news for you soon.

I know there is early interest in our annual trip away. Now, I can advise you that I have asked a bus company to come up with some choices as to where we can travel within NSW; the same bus company that we used for the Southern Highlands and Sapphire Coast tours. We are asking them to provide package tour options. I hope to tell you more soon.

Our first function for the year is visiting the Telstra Museum at Bankstown on Thursday, 29th February. The Museum is closing later this month; therefore, if you long intended to visit the Museum, this is your opportunity, as it will be a long time before the Museum opens again at its new location.

Many members enjoyed our ferry tour of the Hawkesbury River. The tour was more than just a ferry trip on a specular waterway; we learned much about the river's history, particularly during the period of the two world wars. So, I am pleased to tell you that we will be doing a similar ferry tour, this time on the Brisbane Waters.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A reminder that we have our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, 22ND February 2024, at the Petersham RSL. The AGM opens at 11.05 am. Per standard practice, we hold our Monthly General Meeting just after the AGM closes.

An essential AGM agenda item is the election of a committee and executive for 2024. We are always looking to have new faces on the committee. If you are interested, there is a nomination form in the newsletter. Are you thinking about helping on the committee? Now is the time to act and get your application to the Secretary. Nominations close just before the election of a new committee and executive commences. Besides the election, Alan Bassman will deliver our financial statement for the year 2023.

It is always good to see members attend our meetings in person; it is an essential part of what our Association is all about. Petersham RSL has excellent catering, offering various meals, from sandwiches and pizzas to a complete choice of meals. However, if you cannot attend in person, we have the Zoom video conference to allow you to participate.

PETERSHAM RSL

I would like to share the good news that Petersham RSL has given our Association a grant allowing us to use their meeting room free of charge for 2024.

One of my concerns was where we could hold our meetings in person, particularly after the COVID lockdowns and when the Finance Sector Union could no longer offer us a meeting room. We faced the possibility of paying for a meeting room each month, resulting in a severe financial drain. Therefore, I cannot thank Petersham RSL and Col McQueen enough for their assistance.

Still, more on Petersham RSL, I thank members for their positive feedback about our Christmas Party last November. As I mentioned before, the caterers did an excellent job, and thanks to Santa for coming along and presenting the wine lucky door prizes. It was good to see Santa had a helper; a not so small elf in the form of Dennis Larkin. They both excelled.



Arthur McCarroll Receives Medal of the Order of Australia

Retired Telecommunications Employees Association member Arthur McCarroll received a Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day.

Arthur received the medal for his services to the community, sports and, in particular, Surf Life Saving. Arthur has been at the North Steyne Surf Life Saving Club member since 1967.

The medal's presentation notes Arthur's significant participation in surf lifesaving at a Club, Branch, State and National level.

Arthur has been a member of our Association for over thirty years and currently serves on committee. He is also a proud 1958 Technician in Training and is now an organiser for the year's reunions.



RETIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Office Bearers

PRESIDENT	<i>John Lane</i> 0417 238 687 a-lane@bigpond.com	SECRETARY	<i>Bruce Muirhead</i> 02 9639 0990 muirhead@bigpond.com 22 Cameron Avenue Baulkham Hills, 2153	TREASURER	<i>Alan Bassman</i> 0407 502 553 alanbassman53@gmail.com 46 Lyle Street, Girraween NSW 2145	SECRETARY	<i>Bruce Noake</i> ASSISTANT SECRETARY 0409 332 464 bnoake@bigpond.net.au
WELFARE OFFICER	<i>Peter Hack</i> 0408 969 530 hackysnr@bigpond.net.au	VICE PRESIDENT	<i>Colin McQueen</i> 0429 151 209 colin.mcqueen@bigpond.com	VICE PRESIDENT	<i>Bruce Coxall</i> WEBSITE 0418 414 658 02 9597 2224 webadmin@cwuretired.org	EDITOR	<i>Paul Rewhorn</i> 0418 626 625 pdrewhorn@me.com

Committee

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



RETIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)
FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY AFTER BY THE
FEBRUARY 2024 GENERAL MEETING
TO BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY 2024 AT 11.05 AM

The two meetings will take place at the **Petersham RSL Club (301 Trafalgar Street, Petersham)**, an easy 150m walk from Petersham Railway Station.

While the AGM and the General Meeting will be available via Zoom Video Conference, we invite you to join us in person at the Petersham RSL!

The club boasts a fantastic bistro where you can enjoy a delicious lunch along with fellow members

Annual Meeting Agenda

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Alan Bassman will present the 2023 Financial Report (a copy of the report is inside this month's newsletter).

Nominations for all executive and committee positions will remain open until just before the meeting; if you would like to stand for a position, please feel free to do so. Please contact our Secretary, Bruce Muirhead for a nomination form. A nomination form is included with this newsletter.



The Meeting will also be held via ZOOM
Access details will be emailed to members on
Monday afternoon , 19TH February 2024



Welcome to your February 2024 Newsletter (Cont'd)

MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY

During the Christmas and New Year period, we experienced the loss of several members, namely Elizabeth Aspell (wife of Bob), Brian Bateup, Bruce Beggs, Ian Cornwall, Jack Webb, Arthur Webster, and John Loudon. This news has undoubtedly cast a shadow of profound sadness over their families and friends. They have our sympathy and condolences; there are tributes in this newsletter.

I would like to honour my dear friend John Loudon. John and I began our journey as "*Technicians in Training*" in the class of 1958. Our bond remained strong despite us taking different career paths within the PMG, Telecom, and Telstra. John worked on exchange switching and transmission installation at the Haymarket ARM and City South Carrier and some suburban sites before eventually transitioning to network design, where he eventually retired.

Although our professional paths diverged, our connection persisted thanks to the enduring tradition of regular reunions among the trainees of the class of 1958. I dare say more and larger attendance reunions than any other intake year.

What kept the class of 58 united, more than any other intake year, was our tradition of regular reunions. We have John Loudon to thank for the reunions, which he was asked to organise, starting with the 1978 reunion at the Mandarin Club. John continued with the reunions, which went on to extend over several days at Port Macquarie.

At John's memorial service, I recounted how he meticulously orchestrated every detail of the reunions, from selecting the venue, ensuring available accommodation, and curating the dinner menu. Yet, on the inaugural occasion at Port Macquarie, John overlooked a crucial element: the weather. Saturday morning saw steady rainfall, escalating into a torrential downpour by evening, accompanied by fierce winds.

Col Cooper, also a 1958 Technician in Training, had a meeting in Sydney on Saturday morning; he planned to fly to Port Macquarie in the afternoon. His plane took off for Port Macquarie; however, as the aircraft approached Port Macquarie, the weather was so bad that the plane had to return to Sydney. Later, his aircraft made a further attempt and was successful. Col eventually arrived at the reunion around 11 pm.

John told us that the CSIRO claimed that Port Macquarie had Australia's best climate and presumed weather would not be an issue.

John took a keen interest in our Retired Telecommunications Employees Association and introduced many of his 1958 friends to it. He was our returning officer at several of our AGMs

As was stated at the memorial service, once you became a friend of John, you had a friend for life. Like many in our Association, I had the privilege of having John Loudon as a friend.

On this note, I hope to see as many of you as possible at our AGM on Thursday, 22nd February 2024 at Petersham RSL.



RTEA SOCIAL CALENDAR FOR 2024


Tour of the Telstra Museum



An opportunity for a guided tour of the e Telstra Museum at Banktwon before it closes for an extended period. See treasures from our telecommunications past: Old Payphones, Television and Radio control the Speaking Clock".

Whatever your telecommunications background, you will surely find something to interest you. **Full details in this months newsletter.**


Lunch at Bundeena



It is twelve years since the RTEA has had a social day at Bundeena. The plan is to have lunch at the Bundeena Community & Social Club, a short walk up a hill. Before lunch, you may like to walk around the village, the beachfront, or the Bundeena Art Trail. Travel to Bundeena requires a train trip to Cronulla, and then we take a ferry to Bundeena. - **Details in this month's newsletter.**



TOUR OF THE SYDNEY WAR MEMORIAL



You have probably seen Sydney's War Memorial as you have walked through Hyde Park. Now you have an opportunity. to see the memorial from the inside. The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association has arranged for a guided tour. **The cost is \$20 per person.** After the tour, we will have lunch at the Sydney RSL on George Street.



Autumn Falls Lunch at the Springwood Sports Club



Now we are well into the Autumn; it is time for our traditional Autumn Leaves Lunch. Join other members for a cozy gathering at the Springwood Sports Club, where we share good food and, even better, the company of fellow members. The Autumn Leaves Lunch allows our members west of Sydney and the Blue Mountains to attend a function without all the travel hassle. For our members who live closer to Sydney, you have a fast train service between Central and Springwood Stations.

The venue is the Springwood Sports Club, a ten-minute walk from Springwood Station. **The April Newsletter will have a reminder along with a train timetable**



Historic Tour of the Brisbane Waters (Via Ferry)



Last year, Retired Telecommunications Employees Association members had a ferry tour of the Hawkesbury River. Our tour guide explained the history behind many of the sites on the Hawkesbury River. The tour was very popular among members; the tour was fully booked at one stage. This year, we are doing a historic tour of the Brisbane Waters. Keep a look-out in future issues of the newsletter for more details. **Date will require later confirmation**

There are more social events in the second half of the year. A tour of the Diseases Museum at Sydney University - Lunch at the Sydney Rowers - Our trip away from Sunday, 13 October to Friday, 18 October and more.



Tod Mirgis Receives the Association's OBN Award



Arthur McCarroll Presents Tod Mirgis with his OBN Award

Over the New Year period, Arthur McCarroll, on behalf of the Retired Telecommunications Employees Association, presented Tod Mirgis with the Association's Over Bloody Ninety (OBN) Award

Tod has been a member of our Association for over 32 years. He joined the Association in its formative years. He regularly attends our monthly general meetings.

Tod has given outstanding service to the union movement over the years. Tod has occupied executive and branch councillor positions with the Technical Division of our union in New South Wales and represented the union at ALP conferences.

Tod's commenced his career with the then PMG began in the Central West around the Orange area. Tod worked at Dalley Street Exchange and later at the Haymarket Trunk Exchange (ARM).

A highlight of Tod's career was his appointment as the Chairman of the Promotions Appeal Board in NSW.

The Association's OBN award is an opportunity to acknowledge Tod's achievement of reaching ninety and for his support of our Association and the Union movement.

1957 Technicians-in-Training

67TH Year Reunion - 2024

All 1957er's and Trainees from other years together with their wives, partners or girl friends are most welcome

Wednesday, 13th March 2024
Revesby Workers Club
28 Bent Street, Revesby 2214

Our reunion will commence at 11am although many will arrive earlier. The club opens at 10am. Those who enjoy their morning coffee will get theirs from the coffee shop after entering the Club. The Revesby Workers Club is located across the road from Revesby Railway Station (you will see it on your left if coming from the city on the East Hills Line).

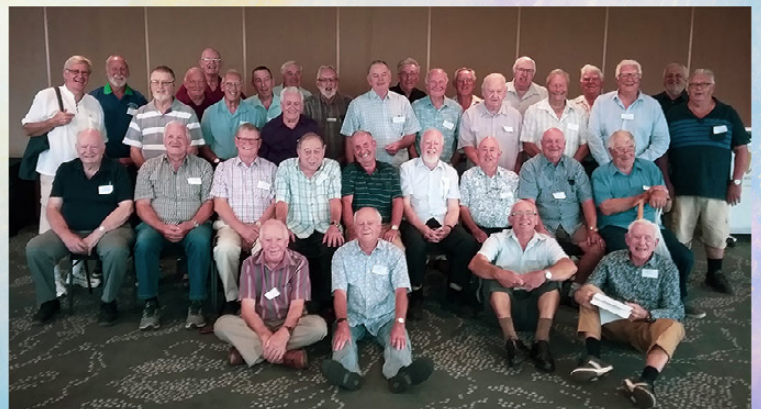
You can the club enter via Coles, there is a lift in on the left, past the checkouts. For those travelling by road the Revesby Workers Club has a very large car park (it is FREE enter) via Brett Street. **Important: Coles has a car park too but it is very expensive.**



Further Information:

For further information and to register your interest please e-mail Bob Speer on speer.r.65@gmail.com or sms to 0408 863 900. or if necessary just turn up on the day.

Bring an item of memorabilia, as they always enhances remembrances.



**Financial Balance Statement - 2023****Retired Telecommunications Employees Association - RTEA****Income & Expenditure Statement For Year Ending 31st. December 2023**Start 01 Jan 2022End 31 Dec 2022

Opening balance (1 Jan 2023)	\$22,896.43	\$30,529.99
Income		
Membership	\$120.00	\$80.00
Name Badges	\$120.00	\$30.00
Donations	\$275.00	\$195.00
Christmas Lunch	\$3,420.00	\$3,150.00
Trips Away	\$22,100.00	\$8,535.00
Other Social Outings	\$0.00	\$0.00
Newsletter mailout	\$840.00	\$465.00
Investment Income	\$1,049.05	\$215.15
Other - Miscellaneous	\$165.00	\$145.00
Total Income	\$28,089.05	\$12,815.15
Expenditure		
Social Refunds	\$3,680.00	\$2,125.00
Affiliation/Membership Fees/Dues	\$0.00	\$50.00
Name Badges	\$178.20	\$0.00
Donations -MSF, Dementia, Alzheimers etc.	\$100.00	\$100.00
Christmas Lunch	\$3,259.96	\$3,108.00
Annual Trips Away	\$18,363.91	\$14,297.00
Other Social Outings	\$0.00	\$0.00
Postage Stamps	\$165.00	\$118.80
Printer Needs - Toner / Paper / ink etc.	\$66.45	\$107.99
Misc. Stationery inc. Packaging	\$12.48	\$0.00
Misc. Postage and Packaging	\$94.32	\$4.40
www.Domain Hosting, Mailerlite. cwretired	\$291.59	\$149.90
ZOOM Meeting Subscriptions	\$230.89	\$229.40
Meeting Costs - Speakers/Mic's/ Survey Monkey	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$30.00	\$158.22
Welfare Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
CPSA Membership Dues	\$50.00	\$0.00
Dementia Australia Donation -Mary Kovacs Donations	\$300.00	\$0.00
Friends of the ABC Subscription		\$0.00
Total Expenditure	\$26,822.80	\$20,448.71
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$1,266.25	-\$7,633.56

BALANCE SHEET at COB 31/12/2023ASSETS**Current Assets**

CUA T/A	Prime Access A/C	\$182.71	\$240.60
GS Bank	E Saver A/C	\$2,788.93	\$1,155.83
Cash at Call		\$2,971.64	\$1,396.43
CUA T/A	Investment A/C 1	\$11,191.04	\$11,500.00
GS Bank	Investment A/C 2	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Term Deposits		\$21,191.04	\$21,500.00
Total Current Assets		\$24,162.68	22,896.43

LIABILITY & EQUITY**Current Liability**

Annual Trip Away	\$0.00
Christmas Lunch	\$0.00
Total Liability	\$0.00

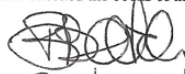
Equity

Members Capital	\$24,162.68
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Total Liability & Equity**\$24,162.68**

Compiled and prepared by Alan Bassman, Treasurer

This is to certify that I have checked the books of the RTEA and found them in order.


 Barbara Baker
 JP 130012
 6 February 2024



Retired Telecommunications Employees Association Exclusive Tour of the Telstra Museum

THURSDAY, 29TH FEBRUARY 2024
TOUR COMMENCES AT 10.30 AM
Location: 12 Kitchener Pde, Bankstown
A short distance (250m) from Bankstown Railway Station

The Telstra Museum has treasures from our telecommunications past: Old Payphones, Television and Radio control panels.

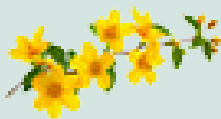
You will see various exchange switches dating back to the 1930s. There is also "George - the Speaking Clock". You will observe the rapid changes in mobile phones, some of the size of a brick, and then the smaller ones with extendable antennas.

Whatever your Telecommunications background, you are sure to find something to interest you.

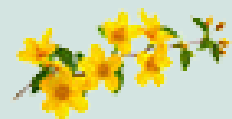
**After the tour, we will lunch at the
Bankstown Sports Club at
8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown**



- Start
- Bankstown NSW 2200, Australia
- Start on Bankstown City Plaza
- 105 m
Turn right onto Chapel Rd N
- 50 m
Turn left onto Kitchener Pde
- 35 m
The destination is on your left
- Arrive
- 12 Kitchener Pde, Bankstown NSW 2200, Australia



Vale Arthur Webster



The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association is sad to report the passing of member Arthur Webster on Saturday, 19th November 2023. A Requiem Mass for Arthur was on Wednesday, 29th November 2023, at St John XX111 Catholic Church, Stanhope Gardens.

Arthur was 79, soon to turn 80 and had been in care for several years.

Arthur was a member of our Association for close to 24 years.

Arthur trained at Randwick Telephone Exchange. He qualified as a Senior Technician, then moved to PABX Maintenance and the Redfern SDC. Later, he became a shift leader at Redfern Exchange.

He moved to Newtown After-Hours Centre as a Shift leader and then to Pitt Street After-Hours Centre. The Recall Centre controlled the recall of staff throughout NSW. He was to stay in that role until that function moved to Melbourne.

The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association extends its condolences to Arthur's wife, Judy, his daughters, and his other family on their sad loss.



Vale Bruce Beggs



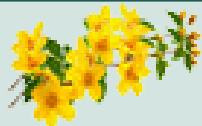
The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association is sad to report the passing of Bruce Beggs on the 3RD of February, 2024. Bruce was 86 years of age.

Bruce had been a member of our Association for close to seventeen years.

His workmates on the Mid North Coast described Bruce as one of nature's gentlemen and became a lifelong friend to many. Bruce had been stationed at Kempsey Exchange on maintenance since 1958. He was part of the 1954 Technician in Training intake. Bruce was a technician at Kempsey Exchange and STO Operations Analysis for the Kempsey DTB until he retired to Port Macquarie.

Bruce passed away in a Sydney nursing home after suffering from dementia for some years and being cared for by his brother Barry.

Bruce will be sadly missed by all who knew him. The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association extends its condolences to Bruce's brother Barry, other family members and his former workmates.



Vale Ian Cornwall



The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association is sad to report that member Ian Cornwall passed away peacefully in his home on Sunday, 28TH January 2024. Ian had experienced a prolonged battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Ian was a member of the Retired Telecommunications Employees Association for fourteen years.

Ian's professionalism and friendly disposition have left an indelible mark on all who knew him. His former workmates will deeply miss him.

Ian worked in Trunk Service, spending most of his career at the Haymarket ARM and following its closure in the late 1980s. Ian came to Haymarket Exchange before its commissioning. The exchange's new crossbar design had many teething problems that technical staff like Ian were called upon to solve. Once the Exchange was introduced into the switching network, it enabled subscriber trunk dialling. An innovation we take for granted today; we can make a call someone today without a thought of where they reside in Australia or the world.

After the Haymarket ARM, Ian had a role of managing Exchange Access via Telstra's exchange access system called EAC.

Our thoughts and condolences are with Ian's wife, Judy, other family members and his workmates at the the Haymarket Trunk Exchange.



RETIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

BUNDEENA LUNCH THURSDAY, 21ST MARCH 2024

It is twelve years since the RTEA had a social day at Bundeena. The plan is to have lunch at the Bundeena Community & Social Club, a short walk up a hill. Before lunch, you may like to walk around the village, the beachfront, or the Bundeena Art Trail. Travel to Bundeena requires a train trip to Cronulla, and then we take a ferry to Bundeena.

A Cronulla-bound train departs from Central at 10.19 am from the Eastern Suburbs & Illawarra line - Platform 25. The same train departs Sydenham at 10.26 am, Wollie Creek at 10:29 am, Hurstville at 10.40 am and Sutherland at 10.53 am. The train arrives at Cronulla at 11.08 am.

There should be ample time to walk from Cronulla Station to the ferry wharf in Gunnamatta Bay. The Bundeena Ferry leaves at 11:30 am. The ferry departs from Cronulla on the half hour throughout the day. The ferry return from Bundeena is on the hour.

It is important to note that the \$2.50 seniors concession for transport in Sydney and its surrounds does not apply to the Bundeena ferry. However, there is a concession charge of \$4.40 per journey

(Concession passes must be shown; the non-concession fare is \$8.80 per journey). The ferry operator accepts Eftpos and Credit Cards (fees apply).



Tod Mirgis Receives the Association's OBN Award



Over the New Year period, Arthur McCarroll, on behalf of the Retired Telecommunications Employees Association, presented Tod Mirgis with the Association's Over Bloody Ninety (OBN) Award

Tod has been a member of our Association for over 32 years. He joined the Association in its formative years. He regularly attends our monthly general meetings.

Tod has given outstanding service to the union movement over the years. Tod has occupied executive and branch councillor positions with the Technical Division of our union in New South Wales and represented the union at ALP conferences.

Tod's career with the then PMG began in the Central West around the Orange area. Tod worked at Dalley Street Exchange and later at the Haymarket Trunk Exchange (ARM).

A highlight of Tod's career was his appointment as the Chairman of the Promotions Appeal Board in NSW.

The OBN award is an opportunity to acknowledge his achievement of reaching ninety and his support of our Association and the Union movement.

Arthur McCarroll Presents Tod Mirgis with his OBN Award



Vale Brian Charles Bateup



The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association is sad to report the passing of Brian Bateup, who passed away on Wednesday, 22ND November 2023. Brian was being cared for at the Mount Druitt palliative care unit. Brian passed away peacefully, surrounded by family.

Brian was aged 77 years.

Brian was a 1962 Technician in Training and spent his first year at the Alexandria Training school. He worked the majority of his career at City North Subscriber Maintenance.

The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association extends condolences to Brian's wife, Jenny, his children, grandchildren and workmates.



Vale John Ludlow (Jack) Webb.



The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association is sad to report that John Ludlow Webb passed away on the 5TH of January 2024 in the Adelene Nursing Home, Wyong. Jack was 97. There was a funeral service for Jack on the 15TH of January, 2024, in Rose Chapel, Palmdale. Eileen, wife of 65 years, predeceased him, as did three of his children. Surviving Jack are his three children, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Jack was a Retired Telecommunications Employees Association member for over 21 years.

John Ludlow Webb was born on the 18TH of October 1926 at Ungarie. Parents Tom and Kate Webb lived on a farm named "Eden Vale". His formative years on the farm had him moving rocks exposed by the plough as his father prepared land for cropping. Jack also had the usual family farm activities, like collecting firewood, milking the cow, separating milk and helping his mother with her garden.

He met and married his lifelong partner, Eileen Joyce Dixon, while undertaking his Junior Mechanics Training Course, they married in 1949. Jack and Eileen moved to Goulburn in 1950 after completing his training.

Jack was a humble, gentle and caring man with a deep Christian conviction. Outside of work, he was a skilled builder who developed over a lifetime as he built his first family home in Goulburn in the early 1950s. Pastimes included travel, camping, adventure, and exploring this magnificent county. He declared that it would take many lifetimes to see it all. While he enjoyed the challenges of his golf, besides the game's challenges, togetherness and the fellowship of his fellow players most attracted him.

Jack's career commenced in 1941 as a Junior Postal Officer at Ungarie, where he was the "Night Attendant" at the Telephone Exchange. He worked there from 10 pm to 7 am, seven days per week. He moved to Condobolin after passing the Junior Postal Officer (JPO) examination. Later, he transferred to West Wyalong, where he worked alternate weeks as the Night Attendant and the Postman. While at West Wyalong, he studied for and passed the 1943 Junior Mechanic's Entrance Examination. While at West Wyalong. He also joined the RAAF Air Training Corps at Temora. He moved to the Engineering Department of the PMG in 1945, transferring to Sydney to undertake the Junior Mechanics in Training course.

Jack passed the Senior Technician's examination in 1954 while in Goulburn. He was soon an Acting Supervising Technician on shifts there, a position

he held until moving to Gosford in 1969. At Gosford, his community interests were the Parents and Citizen Association at the High School and his local Church.

Jack was a discerning Telephone Technician, a well-liked and revered supervisor and manager in the roles he fulfilled in his 45 years of service to the public of Australia with the Postmaster General's Department.

Following his retirement, he and Eileen undertook many camping trips around Australia, and he continued his involvement with his Church and golf. In 2004, Jack and Eileen moved to the Adelene Retirement Village, Wyoming. There, Eileen developed Alzheimer's. Jack took care of her to the point of physical exhaustion. Eileen moved into the Adelene Nursing home. Where Jack would visit her each day until she passed away in 2013.

Jack was to suffer a stroke which left him blind in one eye; his hearing deteriorated to the point where he would only communicate by e-mail. Jack took care of himself in his unit until, in July 2022, he moved to the Adelene Nursing Home.

The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association had the privilege of having John Ludlow Webb as a member of our Association. The Association extends its profound sympathy and condolences to Jack's surviving children, Ron, Margaret and Lindsay, their children and great-grandchildren.

The above tribute was prepared by Bob Speer.



John Ambrose Loudon



The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association is sad to report the passing of John Ambrose Loudon on Sunday, the 21ST of January, 2024. John was admitted in severe pain to Liverpool Hospital a few days prior. There was a memorial service for John on the 12TH of February, 2024. Many of our members attended, particularly those who commenced training with John in 1958.

John was a member of our Association for over 22 years. John was an active member and a regular attendee at our general meetings. He was the returning officer for our elections at the Annual General Meeting. He introduced to our Association many of his 1958 trainee friends, who are our largest Technician in Training group,

John was born in Coffs Harbour on the 24th of March 1943 and was one of eight children.

John joined the Postmaster Generals (PMG) in 1958 at sixteen. John met his future wife Heather at a local dance in 1965; they married in 1967. John and Heather were married for 53 years until Heather passed away in 2020.

They bought their first home in Punchbowl and had three children: Sandra, Alison and Joanne. There are three grandchildren: James, Harry and Stella.

John had many hobbies, including learning the guitar, cycling, and golf. He organised the Pacific House Social Golf Club rounds for seventeen years. John took a keen interest in motor racing and enjoyed working on cars. At home, he loved gardening and fixing toys for his children.

John worked on exchange and transmission installation at the Haymarket ARM and City South before eventually transitioning to network design, where he ultimately retired. Following retirement, John and Heather caravanned around Australia. They made many friends on the road trips, and the Kimberleys was their favourite place.

A strong tradition among the Technicians in Training who commenced in 1958 was their reunions. They held their first at the Mandarin Club in 1978. John organised later reunions, which extended over a weekend at Port Macquarie. John attended his last reunion in 2023.

John was a kind and welcoming person; we are all going to miss him. The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association extends sympathy and condolences to John's daughters Sandra, Alison and Joanne, his grandchildren James, Harry and Stella, and his friends from the 1958 Technician in Training intake.

I worked with John during the late 70s to early 80s. During those years John worked in switching and I worked in Long Line (now know as Transmission)

He was mentor to me in those early days of my career and he moved on to enhance his career.

We kept in touch over the years as John moved into retirement.

We had a yarn a few months back and he advised me that cancer had spread , so he was going into a more intensive treatment plan.

Rest in Peace, Mate

Chris Wilkie

This is indeed very sad news regarding our mate John Loudon. I was a fellow 1958 TIT with John, and we boarded at the same boarding house, 29 Ormond St Ashfield, in our first year of training. Of course like a lot of our year of intake, we kept in touch over the years, meeting every five years for our reunion, which John usually organised.

My condolences to John's family and may he Rest in Peace

Allan Crouch.

Good man, left us too soon. RIP buddy.

Edwin Mifsud

John he was such a nice guy and a good friend.

Alan Bardsley



Pyramids before Crossbar

Chris. Cartledge

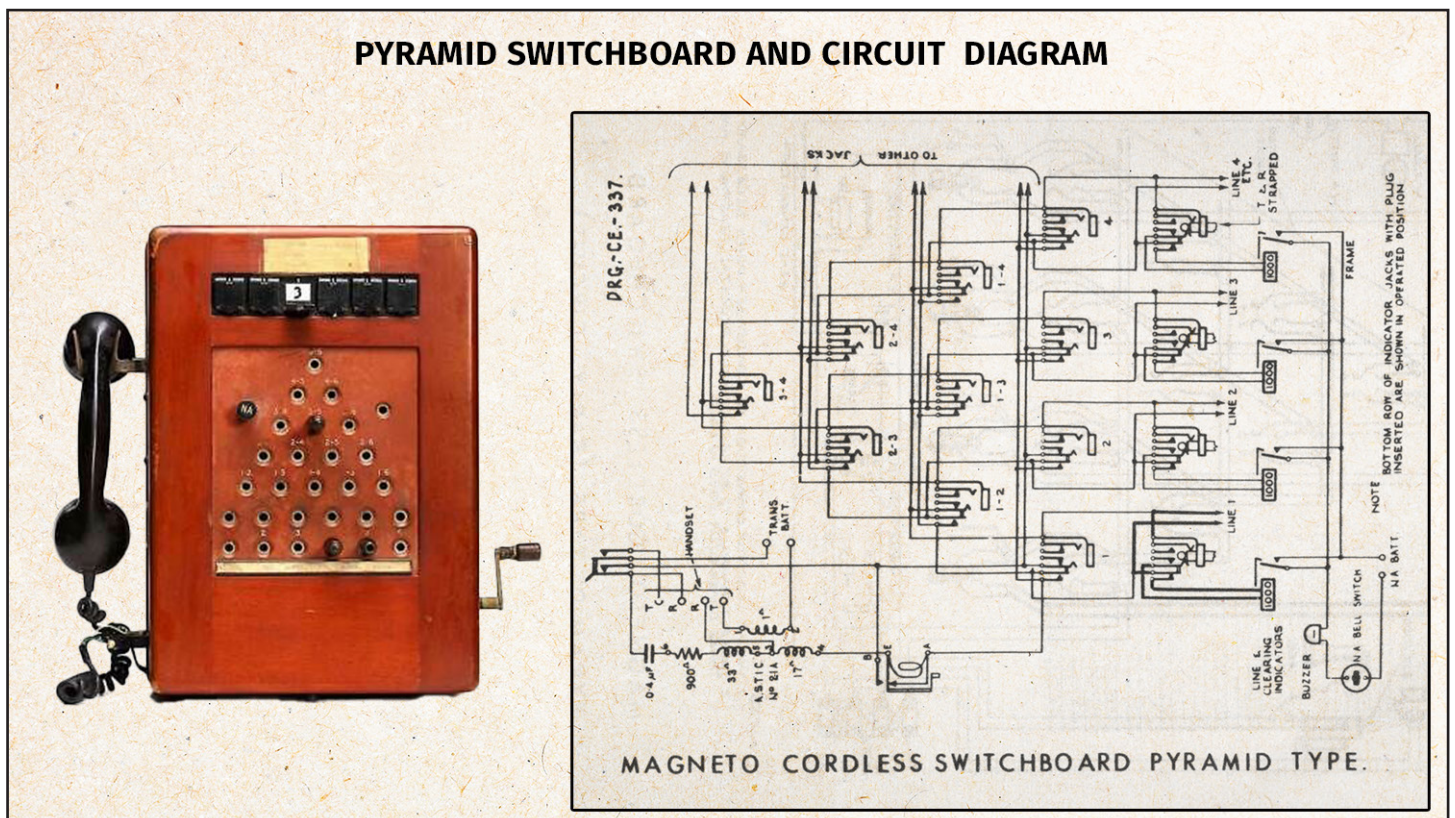
The uproar over the re-lining of the Giza pyramid in Egypt (*Sydney Morning Herald Jan 31, 2024*) brought to mind a pyramid of a different kind. One Saturday afternoon in the late-1960s I was recalled to attend the Tongarra Telephone Exchange, around 30klms south-west of Wollongong. The exchange was in the front room of a cottage on the side of the Illawarra Highway at the foot of Macquarie Pass. It was part of the Tongarra Post Office, the only business in Tongarra village and serviced the local, mostly dairy farms.

To my surprise the exchange was a ten-line Magneto Cordless Pyramid Switchboard (S13/6). The Tongarra exchange was a branch exchange running off the Albion Park manual telephone exchange, ten kilometres to the east. In my 40-year career it was the first and last time I would see such a unique part of Australian telecommunications history.

Having never seen a pyramid switchboard before, I pulled out my trusty Substation Equipment Handbook and in section G2-3 (Issue 2, 1959) was a picture of the switchboard together with the circuit diagram. I recall, it turned out the problem was a power issue.

The pyramid switchboard worked on a matrix basis and was cordless. If customer 3 wanted to talk to customer 5 a (cordless) plug was inserted in jack 3 and jack 5 and the connection made. It was somewhat like the crossbar switches which, later in my career, I maintained in several of the Illawarra's telephone exchanges.

In the early 1970s RAXs (Rural Auto Exchange) were installed at Tongarra and Albion Park making the manual exchanges redundant. The Post Office closed around 1974. The house on the highway at Tongarra is still there. As it turns out, in 1985 my eldest son Paul, bought a property on Tongarra Lane, Tongarra so I often pass the spot where that historic pyramid switchboard exchange was located.





RTEA SOCIAL CALENDAR FOR 2024



Tour of the Telstra Museum

An opportunity for a guided tour of the e Telstra Museum at Bankstown before it closes for an extended period. See treasures from our telecommunications past: Old Payphones, Television and Radio control the Speaking Clock".

Whatever your telecommunications background, you will surely find something to interest you. [Full details in this months newsletter.](#)



Lunch at Bundeena

It is twelve years since the RTEA has had a social day at Bundeena. The plan is to have lunch at the Bundeena Community & Social Club, a short walk up a hill. Before lunch, you may like to walk around the village, the beachfront, or the Bundeena Art Trail. Travel to Bundeena requires a train trip to Cronulla, and then we take a ferry to Bundeena. - [Details in this month's newsletter.](#)



TOUR OF THE SYDNEY WAR MEMORIAL

You have probably seen Sydney's War Memorial as you have walked through Hyde Park. Now you have an opportunity to see the memorial from the inside. The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association has arranged for a guided tour. **The cost is \$20 per person.** After the tour, we will have lunch at the Sydney RSL on George Street.



Autumn Falls Lunch at the Springwood Sports Club

Now we are well into the Autumn; it is time for our traditional Autumn Leaves Lunch. Join other members for a cozy gathering at the Springwood Sports Club, where we share good food and, even better, the company of fellow members. The Autumn Leaves Lunch allows our members west of Sydney and the Blue Mountains to attend a function without all the travel hassle. For our members who live closer to Sydney, you have a fast train service between Central and Springwood Stations.

The venue is the Springwood Sports Club, a ten-minute walk from Springwood Station. [The April Newsletter will have a reminder along with a train timetable](#)



Historic Tour of the Brisbane Waters (Via Ferry)

Last year, Retired Telecommunications Employees Association members had a ferry tour of the Hawkesbury River. Our tour guide explained the history behind many of the sites on the Hawkesbury River. The tour was very popular among members; the tour was fully booked at one stage. This year, we are doing a historic tour of the Brisbane Waters. Keep a look-out in future issues of the newsletter for more details. **Date will require later confirmation**

There are more social events in the second half of the year. A tour of the Diseases Museum at Sydney University - Lunch at the Sydney Rowers - Our trip away from Sunday, 13 October to Friday, 18 October and more.