



## Welcome to your April 2024 Newsletter

*John Lane*

**W**elcome to your April 2024 newsletter. What a great turnout for our March social, which included a ferry trip to Bundeena and lunch at the Community and Social Club. We had about thirty-five people in attendance. I will be looking at putting another Bundeena trip on next year's calendar.

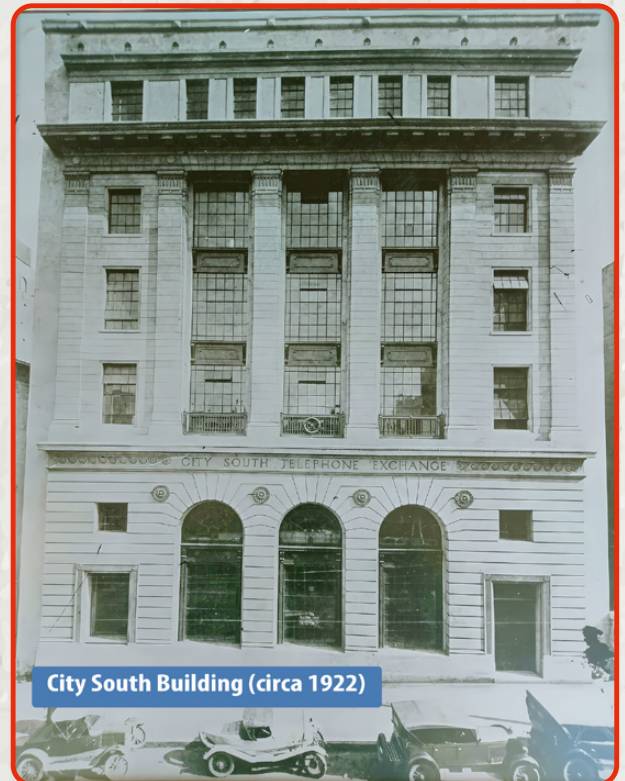
### MURDER IN THE BUILDING

I was pleased to receive an email from member John Davis. He had primarily gotten in touch to let me know how much he looks forward to the newsletter and what a great job Paul does in putting it all together. Of course, we all endorse those remarks.

In his letter, he expressed surprise that we made no mention of an attempted murder that occurred in the old City South building. It seems that John was the only one to put it all together. Many of us would have seen a news reporter on television with a scene behind her; John recognised the scene as the old City South building. The reporter told us that someone had alleged that an elderly bloke had shot his solicitor in the groin. John, quoting from the 'Sydney Morning Herald', said that the solicitor's office was on the ninth floor.

Can you believe that! I frequented the City South Carrier Terminal, TOC (Television Operations Centre), and SOC (Sound Operating Centre) in my day. The TOC and SOC were on the fourth floor; the building had five floors.

City South is a heritage-listed building built in 1922. Developers pulled down the original building, leaving behind the front façade and constructed at least nine new floors in its place. The original facade covers almost the nine floors, showing how much floor-to-ceiling space was necessary to fit exchange equipment and the floor strength required to support equipment weight.



City South Building (circa 1922)

Speaking with Paul Rewhorn, he told me that older staff members informed him that the front of the building was heavily sand-bagged during the Second World War, obviously a strategic site. The carrier terminal was the Sydney terminal for the coaxial cable to Melbourne. The toilets were outside of the building, with exposed balcony access. Every floor had a balcony to the outside toilet. You had to make a quick dash in winter and during wet weather.

Let us also remember the lower floors, which housed the telephone exchange and MDF (Main Distribution Frame), where our dear departed members Dave Morgan, Col Wilson and Stan Elderidge worked for many years.

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RETIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

# Tour of the NSW Anzac War Memorial

## Thursday, 18TH April 2024

### Tour Commences at 10.30 am



Sir Philip Game, the Governor of New South Wales, laid the foundation stone for the Anzac War memorial on 19 July 1932. The completion of the memorial was two years later. The memorial commemorates the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landing at Gallipoli.

Now you have the opportunity to see the memorial from the inside.

The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association members will visit the memorial in April, the month of Anzac Day. Our visit will include a service and a guided tour.

The cost is \$20 per head, and we will need a minimum of fifteen people.

If you would like to join us, please text or email me.

Phone: 0417 238 687 Email: [a-lane@bigpond.com](mailto:a-lane@bigpond.com)

Following lunch, we have lunch at the City of Sydney RSL Club.

## RETIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES 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**

*Alan Bassman*

0407 502 553  
alanbassman53  
@gmail.com  
46 Lyle Street,  
Girraween NSW 2145

**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

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



RETIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

**APRIL 2024 GENERAL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**  
*Commences: 11.05 am*

Note the Meeting for this month only is on a Wednesday

**The General Meeting will be held at the Petersham RSL Club (301 Trafalgar Street, Petersham) - The club is an easy 150m walk from Petersham Station.**

Members can participate in the meeting via Zoom Video. However, you are encouraged to join meeting with us in person at the Petersham RSL. After the meeting you are welcomed to join with fellow members over lunch.

The club boasts an excellent bistro.



The Meeting will also be held via ZOOM  
Meeting ID and passcode information will be emailed to members on Tuesday afternoon, 23<sup>RD</sup> April 2024

Early REMINDER Central Coast & Newcastle Members

Retired Telecommunications Employees Association

**The May 2024 General Meeting on the Central Coast**

**Train timetables and local directions will be in the May 2024 Newsletter**

**Thursday, 23<sup>RD</sup> May 2024**  
Meeting starts at 11 am

**WOY WOY HOTEL**  
**33 Boulevard,**  
**Woy Woy**



## Welcome to your April 2024 Newsletter (cont'd)

Some more information that John gave me was that way back before the entire building was needed to house equipment. The upper floors, were the headquarters for NSW accommodating the senior engineers. I was unaware of that one. I love learning these history snippets. Anyone else who has other interesting snippets, feel free to drop a line. to our editor.

### RETURNING TO JOHN DAVIES

John and I exchanged a few emails after the initial one, he eventually told me that he still plays nine holes of golf every Friday afternoon with his son, Alun. He is 95, so how good is that! It must be the New England air is all I can say.

John returned to New England soon after his retirement. Every February, he would organise a day for a get-together with his old "Class of 46" mates at the Masonic Club in Castlereagh Street. He also joined the Retired Members soon after retirement. Upon joining, he soon realised different groups would advertise their annual get-togethers in the newsletter, he encouraged his whole year to join to make it easier for him to arrange their annual class reunion day.

The same message was not lost on several other groups. An example of our Association making it easier for groups within our Association to keep in contact. They have not lost that all-important network that existed in their work environment. If you have been wondering how to organise your old workmates for a get-together, encourage them to join the RTEA, let us help you reconnect. We are always looking for ways to encourage new members. It's not a new one, but it is undoubtedly the one that makes a whole lot of sense.

### HYDE PARK MEMORIAL

Many members have already told me they will attend the Hyde Park Memorial social event, a tour of the memorial and museum. I needed a minimum of fifteen for that tour, and I anticipate having the numbers. We will have lunch at the City of Sydney RSL Club afterwards. The club is a close walking distance located at the Haymarket end of George Street. You will find full information inside this newsletter.

### BRISBANE WATERS HISTORICAL TOUR.

As advertised in this newsletter edition, the June social is a historical ferry cruise with commentary on the Brisbane Waters. It would like to thank Barry Robinson for organising this function. Many will recall that Barry organised a similar historical cruise last June on the Hawkesbury River starting from Brooklyn.

One of our most successful event in terms of attendance that I can remember. For this reason we are having a similar event. If you come on the cruise you will learn that the Brisbane Waters has own unique history.

We do need forty starters, so Robbo will be asking for names. Please see the advertisement within this newsletter edition.

### AUTUMN LEAVES LUNCH - SPRINGWOOD

Our May Social Event is our Autumn Leaves lunch at the Springwood Bowling Club on Thursday, 16 May 2024.

This lunch should suit our members who live west of Sydney and the Blue Mountains. This newsletter provides details on all the lunch and train times.

### TRIP AWAY

We are still planning our annual trip away starting Sunday, 13th October; however, I am still waiting for our prospective tour company to advise me of the tour details they are putting together. They are to provide me with a couple of choices, and we will mull over and choose the most appropriate one for this year.

**If you also intend to join us, please text or email me. My contacts are inside, and complete information is inside the newsletter.**

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## Welcome to your April 2024 Newsletter (cont'd)

### VALE BOB LANIGAN

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During the week, I learned of the passing of Bob Lanigan who passed away on Thursday, 4th April 2024. I knew Bob personally, I worked with Bob at City East and played Rugby League on the API (Australian Postal Institute) competition. I have written a personal tribute to Bob which you will find inside this newsletter edition. Vale Bob Lanigan, a nice man and a good friend.

### MARCH 2024 GENERAL MEETING

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We had an excellent number of members attending our March 2024 General Meeting in person and then more online via Zoom Video conference.

You may recall that Carol Hamblion donated a beautiful knee blanket to the Association for us to raffle. The raffle raised \$157 for Dementia Australia. The March meeting endorsed raising the donation to \$250, a generous decision.

Also, there were two award presentations at the meeting. The first award went to Ron Milosh. Ron received an OBE ("Over Bloody Eighty") award. What is unique about Ron's award is that he designs and prints our awards. Bruce Noake decided to design and print the award Ron's OBE. Bruce and Terry Livingston travelled from Newcastle with the award. Not knowing this, Ron had printed his own award. What happened? Ron received two awards. Well done, Ron. Nice gesture Bruce and Terry.

Ron has been the Association's official photographer for years. You often see him with his camera at our social events, particularly our Christmas Party.

Next, we made an award to Lee Walkington. The award was in appreciation for his continued service to our Union, long after his retirement. Volunteer work, I might add, in the most difficult of times. In recent years, unions have had a difficult time as they struggle to raise wages and improve conditions. We often read of underpayments and poor conditions; therefore, we hope Unions continue to succeed.

Regarding meetings, I would like to remind you that our April 2024 General Meeting will be on Wednesday, 24th April, because ANZAC day this year falls on a Thursday. **We will have our May 2024 General Meeting at Woy Woy. We always have great support from our members on the Central Coast and Newcastle; we look forward to this continuing again this year. Details are inside the newsletter.**

I look forward to seeing you at our April 2024 General Meeting. Again, a reminder to avoid a conflict with ANZAC Day, the meeting will be on Wednesday, 24<sup>TH</sup> April 2024.



## Retired Telecommunications Employees Association MARCH 2024 AWARDS



**Ron Milosh**  
OBE

Our talented photographer, Ron Milosh, received an OBE (“Over Bloody Eighty”) award. What sets Ron’s award apart is that Ron prepares all our awards to honour our members. Now it was his turn to receive an award

Ron has been the Association’s official photographer for many years, bringing his camera to social events, particularly our Christmas Party and on trips away.

When Ron turned eighty, he thought it would be up to him alone to prepare and print his own certificate and bring it to a general meeting, hoping that someone would present him with his own prepared award.

However, Bruce Noake remembered Ron’s birthday and decided to print and design an OBE award for Ron. Bruce and Terry travelled from Newcastle to bring the award and see its presentation to Ron.

The result was that Ron received two OBE awards.



**Toni Stevens**  
OBE

During our recent lunch at Bundeena, John Lane had the honour of presenting Toni Stevens with our “Over Bloody Eighty” (OBE) award.

Toni and Alan regularly attend our social functions throughout the year. During our annual trip away, members have come to know and enjoy her company of Alan and Toni.

Congratulations Toni.



**Lee Walkington**  
Certificate of Appreciation

The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association had the pleasure of presenting Lee Walkington with a certificate of merit. The award is in appreciation for his continued service to our Union long after his retirement; volunteer work in the most difficult times for Trade Unions.

Congratulations and thank you, Lee



## Change over to “Fibre to the Premises” Offer

Chris has asked if the Retired Telecommunications Employees Association could republish his letter in our newsletter. We are pleased to do so. Chris wrote to the editor of the Illawarra Mercury (April 4, 2024) concerning a current offer from NBN via various telcos for a free installation of “Fibre to Premises.”

### Letter to the Editor – Illawarra Mercury, April 4, 2024

#### Fibre to the premise: A tip from a reader

It's great to see the Albanese government implementing the original plan for Australia's National Broadband Network (Illawarra lines up for NBN upgrades, Mercury, April 2).

Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) is the premium broadband provisioning platform and, as your article highlights, is rapidly becoming available to more local homes. I strongly recommend that your readers use the NBN 'Check your address' website to see if FTTP is available at their address, as your article indicated it is not yet available in Farmborough Heights, yet a friend living in that suburb was upgraded just last week.

For the free NBN upgrade, customers must sign up with a service provider for a new 100Mb/s (or higher) plan for at least six months. To encourage customers to take up the higher speeds, some service providers are offering a discount that means for the first six months, a new high-speed plan can actually be cheaper or the same price as their current (lower speed) plan using existing technology. After the discounted six months, they are then free to adjust the speed to suit their budget.

Chris. Cartledge, Wollongong

**O**ur newsletter has published numerous articles over the years, and what a debacle it has been when politicians choose to seize upon a sound and much-needed infrastructure project for their short-term political gain. What is now on offer could have been delivered to Australian homes and businesses years before. After all political interference, the rollout has cost billions more than the Labor government's original estimate of \$43 billion back in 2009.

When the Coalition came to government, their first notion was to scrap the NBN project entirely. Then, the policy shifted when along came Malcolm Turnbull as the Communications Minister with a proposal for mixed technology solution relying primarily on “fibre to node” using existing copper to reach the home. The plan soon ran into trouble, and NBN had to purchase copper cable after finding after finding that significant amounts of copper required replacement. Now we had a purported modern technology solution that relied on copper that had been in the ground for more than fifty years, possibly requiring NBN to make more copper purchases to maintain its network. By this time, perhaps Mr Turnbull and the government had wished that had went with original proposal for a “Fibre to the Premises” costing \$46 billion which they had now exceeded.

Circumstances reached a ridiculous point where customers in NBN areas who accessed the internet via HFC (cable TV infrastructure) would be forced to migrate to Fibre to the Node, paying more for slower speeds. Members raised this point at our general meetings and their refusal to migrate.

As Chris mentions, the current Federal Government is making good on its promise to fix NBN by moving customers from “Fibre to the Node” (FTTN) and “Fibre to the Curb” (FTTC) onto “Fibre to the Premises” (FTTP). Telcos are now offering a free transfer, although you must change your current plan. Therefore, when deciding to transfer, you must carefully consider the plans on offer and study the terms and conditions. Final tip: Compare the plans offered by the telcos, and do not just rely on your current service provider.



### Vale Terry Tierney



The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association is sad to report that Terry Tierney passed away on Saturday evening, April 13, 2024, in Liverpool Hospital. A Requiem Mass for Terry will be held on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024, at 10.30 am Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sefton ((6 Kerrinea Road, Sefton). It will be followed by a burial service at Kemps Creek Cemetery. Later, there will be a gathering at Carnarvon Golf Course, 65-95 Nottinghill Road, Lidcombe, at 2 pm.

Terry was 83 years old. He had been a Retired Telecommunications Employees Association member for nearly twenty-four years. Many members would have gotten to know Terry and his wife, Judy, during our annual trips away.

Terry was born in Garah, a town in north-western New South Wales.

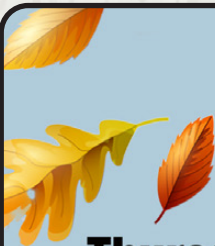
Terry was a 1959 Technician in Training. Soon after completing his TIT training, Terry studied for his senior technician qualification, which he passed early. He was appointed to a senior technician position after the then-mandatory two-year wait period (barrier exam).

His first position was with City North area maintenance, including PABX. After, he was a technical instructor for several years before returning to City East subscriber installation as a senior technical officer. In his later years, Terry was the manager of Haymarket Subscriber Installation until his retirement in 1993.

Terry enjoyed fishing and hosting friends on weekends.

The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association extends sincere condolences and sympathy to Terry's wife, Judy and children Tania, Paul and Michael.

RETIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



## Autumn Leaves Lunch

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

We meet between 12 and 12.30pm at the club.

**Springwood Bowling Club  
81 Macquarie Road,  
Springwood**

*(Map and train timetables are in the May 2024 newsletter)*



THE RTEA IS HAVING ITS TRADITIONAL AUTUMN LUNCH ONCE AGAIN. EACH YEAR AT THIS TIME, WE MOVE AWAY FROM OUR COASTAL LUNCH SITES UP TO THE LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS. THE LUNCH AT SPRINGWOOD PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR MEMBERS IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS AND WESTERN SYDNEY TO JOIN TOGETHER OVER LUNCH.







## Vale Robert (Bob) Jack Lanigan.



The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association is sad to report that member Robert (Bob) Jack Lanigan passed away on Thursday morning, 4th April 2024. A funeral service for Bob was on Monday, 15th April 2024.

Bob was 81 years of age.

Bob was a member of our Association for twenty years and a 1959 Technician in Training. Many members would know Bob for his involvement with the NRL (National Rugby League). Bob was a player in the 1960s; he played for Newtown between 1964 and 1969 and was their top point scorer in 1966. Later, Bob became known for his work as a Ground Manager. He completed more than 650 games as a Ground Manager over 23 seasons, including Grand Finals, State of Origins and Tests.

John Lane knew Bob personally and has made the following tribute to Bob.

*"Bob's career has been covered in this edition. As I knew Bob personally I also wish to contribute. I don't suppose there are too many blokes around who played Rugby League with Lanno. Well, I was one of them. Yep, that's right. We played in the API competition for City East. I worked in East Exchange on maintenance whilst Bob was working in one of the branches on installation. It was at the time when he got the gig of playing for Newtown first grade. We all knew he could kick goals. He kicked a goal at Waterloo Oval in one game that was about four metres in our half and about seven metres off the centre of the field. That's no BS, and it won us the game. Another of his Newtown teammates who played for City East was Gary Torrens. Gary was on exchange maintenance like myself in East. We were a pretty formidable side with champion players like those two, but they had blokes like me as a handicap.*


*They were all trying to teach me how to play this strange game. I grew up playing real football. You know, the one with the round ball. I understand that Bob still holds the record for the number of points scored in a first-grade season with the format of the day: the number of teams and rules in place.*

*Bob gave a great exposé of his career at one of our Woy Woy meetings. I was so proud of him to find out that Parramatta Eels employed him and later New Zealand Warriors to coach goal kicking and sports fitness. Chris Anderson also got Bob to join him in Wales, where he had a gig coaching a Rugby Union side. He also advised Craig Bellamy on players for the Melbourne Storm in their early days because the Storm's feeder side was on the Central Coast in those days. Bob lived on the Central Coast.*

*The story about him being employed by the ARL to manage the technical area is also very interesting. I remember a conversation where Bob was so disappointed because the ARL decided it was too risky to have an old bloke exposed to so many people when COVID hit our shores. Bob would have been in his mid-70's.*

*Vale Bob Lanigan: a nice man and good friend."*


The Association extends its condolences and deep sympathy to Bob's wife, Glenda, daughter Dearne, granddaughters Killarney and Tyla-Belle, son-in-law Gavin, and his former workmates.



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**Vale Tony Thomas**

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The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association is sad to report that Tony Thomas passed away at his home on Friday, 22nd March 2024.

A funeral Service was held for Tony will be held on Wednesday, 10th April 2024,

Tony was a 1959 Technician in Training. He started at Dalley Street local exchange in 1960. Later, he went on to work in Dalley Street Subscriber Maintenance.

Fellow workmates recall Tony as a lovely person with an infectious sense of humour.


The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association extends its sympathy and condolences to Tony's wife, Carmel, other family members, and former workmates.



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**Vale Raymond Beckhaus**

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The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association is sad to report that Ray Beckhaus passed away on Thursday, April 4, 2024, in a Brisbane hospital. A funeral service for Ray was held in Queensland on Monday, 15th April 2024.

Ray was born in Sydney in 1942.

He joined the PMG in 1958 and worked on the Eastern side of Sydney during the 1960s and 1970s on subscriber equipment and PABXs. Part-time, he carried a tray at various cinemas around Sydney, selling drinks and sweets.

He married Juanita in 1966 and had three children. In the 1970s, he moved to Binnaway, and it took only a short time before he became accepted as a local.

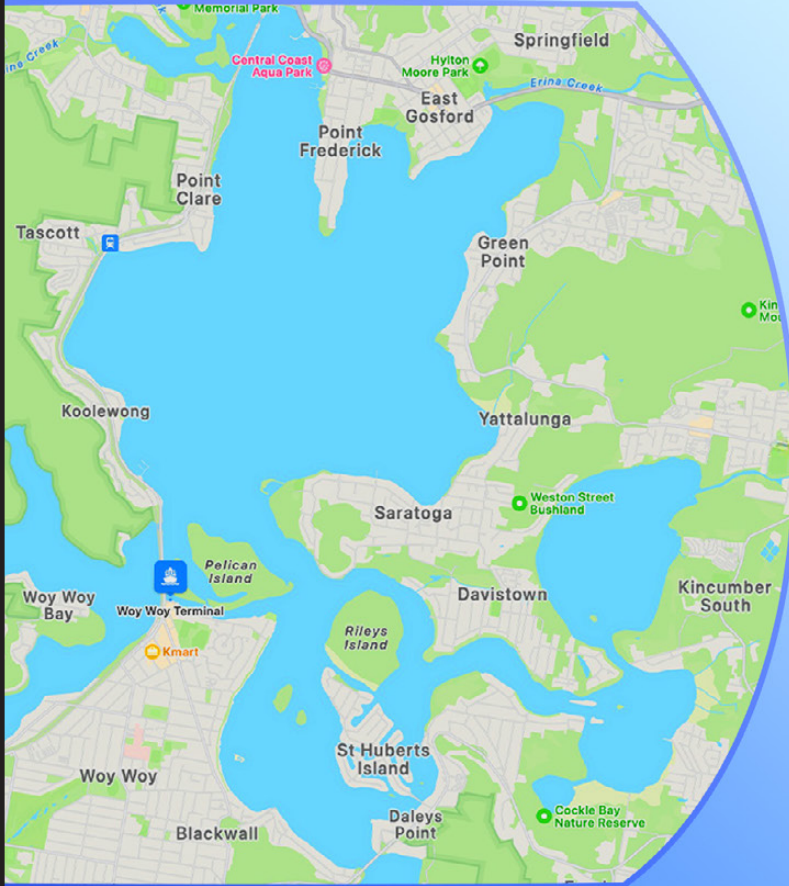
He transferred to the Training School and travelled from Binnaway to Sydney every weekend, leaving a yard full of worn-out motor vehicles. After leaving PMG/Telstra, he opened a service station in Binnaway and became a qualified motor mechanic.

Then, he joined NSW Railways as a Communication Technician stationed at Goulburn. Again, he would travel home to Binnaway on weekends. With his family moving to Queensland, Ray and Juanita sold up and moved to Marsden, Brisbane.

The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association extends sincere condolences and sympathy to Ray's family, friends and former workmates.



RETIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



# HISTORY & HERITAGE CENTRAL COAST

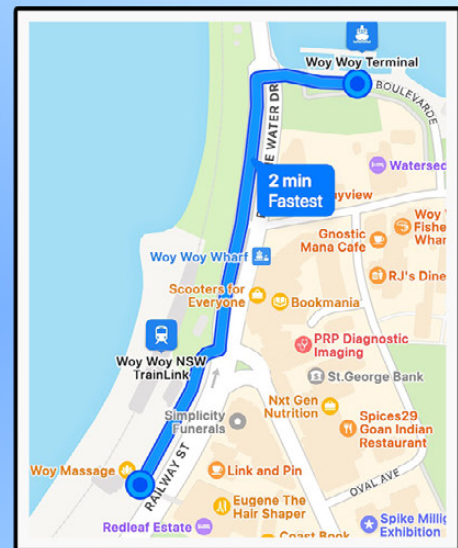
## BRISBANE WATER RIVER FERRY TOUR

**THURSDAY, 20TH JUNE 2024**

The ferry departs Woy Woy Wharf at 9.35 am and returns around 12.45 pm

The Association will arrange a table for lunch at a hotel in Woy Woy.

**For members travelling from Sydney, a train leaves Central at 7:45 a.m. arriving at Woy Woy at 9:02 a.m. The walk from Woy Woy Railway to the wharf terminal is 350 metres (see map below)**



The ferry 'Sorrento' has a large screen display with specially prepared graphics, historical photographs, video of working models and animations throughout the tour with expert live commentary.

We will travel throughout the Brisbane Water, where we will learn about:

- Governor Phillip arrived on the Brisbane Waters only weeks after establishing the colony.
- When waterways were the highways
- Timber getting from the once great forests
- shipbuilding in the area
- the Woy Woy tunnel - longest in Australia
- the 1900's thriving tourist industry

**ADULT \$45**

**CONCESSION \$40**

The minimum number we will need for the tour is 40. If you would like to go on the tour please email either John Lane or Paul Rewhorn. Their contact details are on page 2 of the newsletter.