



# NEWSLETTER

Retired Telecommunications Employees Association

RTEA - Proud of our Union Origin - now celebrating 40 Years

June / July 2025

**W**elcome to your June/July newsletter.

**Unfortunately, we were unable to produce a June 2025 newsletter because Paul was not well and was awaiting for a procedure in late June. Fortunately, he has rallied, and we have a newsletter for this month.**

As you read through the newsletter, you will notice that we have been hard at work organising functions and guest speakers for the remainder of the year. A little later, I will mention each of the functions and guest speakers.

## **SOUTH OF THE BORDER - TRIP AWAY**

However, the big event for 2025 is our trip away in October. The trip away is titled "South of the Border". We emailed members a brochure earlier this month. As we mentioned in the brochure, our Association has been holding an annual trip away for the past 20 years.

Our goal for our trips away is to bring together members over a few days to explore interesting locations, mainly from the comfort of an air-conditioned coach. Throughout our trips, the aim is to provide a variety of activities and enriching experiences, all while keeping it budget-friendly. We believe we have produced an affordable trip away, and

this year there is an extra day to enjoy as we include a visit to Floriade in Canberra and a visit to the Yarrangobilly Caves. I assure you that our tour of the caves is "senior-friendly".

For the rest of our stay, our base is at Wangaratta, from there we will take our daily tours around northeastern Victoria.

This newsletter includes a brochure with the full itinerary and prices, along with an online form to confirm your interest in joining us.

## **LUNCH AT THE MANLY CLUB**

Our social event for July is lunch at the Manly Club; last year was our first at this venue. Everyone who attended was impressed. Before our lunch, we will have the opportunity to visit the Manly Art Gallery and Museum, which is currently hosting an exhibition. Arthur McCarroll will meet members who come across from Circular Quay on the ferry that departs the Quay at 9.50 am to show you to the Art Gallery.

The Art Gallery, Manly Ferry Terminal and Manly Club are all located close to each other.

## **JULY 2025 GENERAL MEETING**

Our July 2025 General Meeting is on Thursday, 24th July 2025. **I need to mention that there will be a notice of motion seeking member approval to make a one-hundred-dollar donation to "ABC Friends".** At our April General Meeting, we had Professor Ed Davis speak on the media. This was the third occasion that Ed has taken the time to address our meeting on the media. Ed, like "ABC Friends", is a vocal advocate for a strong, independent, and publicly funded ABC. The media landscape is changing rapidly with the advent of "Live streaming", and we need an organisation like "ABC Friends" to protect the public interest.

*Continued on Page 7*

## **Funeral Service**

This notice is to inform members that Joseph Ward, the father of Christine Berle-Keys, recently passed away on Friday, 11th July 2025. Joseph was aged 95 years.

Many members would know Christine, the wife of late and popular member Ross Keys.

**A funeral service for Joseph will be held on Monday, 21st July 2025 commencing 11 am at the Castlebrook Memorial Park, 712-746 Windsor Road, Rouse Hill.**



June / July 2025

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Retired Telecommunications Employees Association

# JULY 2025 General Meeting 2025

**Thursday, 24<sup>TH</sup> July 2025**

Starts at 11 am

**Location****Petersham RSL****301 Trafalgar Street, Petersham**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE OF MOTION

The July 2025 General Meeting endorses the Retired Telecommunications Employees Association recommendation for a donation of one hundred dollars to ABC Friends.



The Meeting will also be held via  
**ZOOM** Access details  
will be emailed to members  
on Wednesday Afternoon  
22ND July 2025

Retired Telecommunications Employees Association

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Ron Milosh, Bruce Noake**



RETIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

THE MANLY CLUB  
ON GILBERT PARK

## Thursday, 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025

Our social function for July is lunch at the Manly Club with an optional visit beforehand to the Manly Art Gallery & Museum. **The Manly Club is a short walk (3 minutes/200 metres) from the Manly Ferry Terminal. The club's address is 2 West Promenade.**

Just before lunch, you may wish to join other interested members and visit the Manly Art Gallery and Museum (West Esplanade) then take a short walk to the Manly Club. It is a five minute walk, starting on the East Esplanade and walking 320m to your left from the ferry terminal

### VISIT TO MANLY ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

10.30 am to 12 noon

### LUNCH AT THE MANLY CLUB

12.30 am



## WISHING TO VISIT THE MANLY ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Suppose you would like to add a visit to the manly art gallery & museum to your day.

**Arthur McCarroll will meet you at the 9:50 am Circular Quay at the Manly ferry terminal (ferry arrives at Manly at 10:20 am).**

**If you arrive a little later, the Art Gallery is on the West Esplanade Reserve. The art gallery is currently hosting an exhibition titled "Welcome to Wherever".**

**The work of artists who enfold time and space, positioning us in relationship to an environment that is shaped by cultural, spiritual, political, social, and intellectual forces.**





## Retired Telecommunications Employees Association

**GREENPEACE**

**July 2025 General Meeting  
24th July 2025**

# **The Legacy of the Rainbow Warrior - - Forty Years on**



**Alexis Escavy from Greenpeace will deliver a special presentation on the organisation's ongoing efforts to protect the world's oceans—marking the 40th anniversary of one of Greenpeace's most defining moments: the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior.**

The Rainbow Warrior was originally a British trawler named Sir William Hardy, built in 1955 and later acquired by Greenpeace UK in 1977 for environmental activism. Renamed Rainbow Warrior, it was used in high-profile campaigns against whaling, seal hunting, and particularly nuclear testing and waste dumping throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s.

In 1985, the ship played a key role in relocating 300 Marshall Islanders from radiation-affected Rongelap Atoll and was preparing to protest French nuclear tests at Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific. Greenpeace planned to monitor the tests and maintain a peaceful presence near the site despite previous confrontations with French forces.

On 10 July 1985, while docked in Auckland, New Zealand, the Rainbow Warrior was bombed by the French intelligence agency (DGSE), resulting in the sinking of the ship and the death of Greenpeace photographer Fernando Pereira. The incident caused international outrage and exposed covert operations by France against peaceful environmental activism.



## Retired Telecommunications Employees Association

**We Return to Emu Plains for our August 2025 General Meeting**

**Thursday, 28<sup>TH</sup> August 2025**  
**The Meeting commences at 11 am**

**O'Donoghues Irish Pub**  
99 Great Western Highway,  
Emu Plains

Only 350 metres from Emu Plains Railway Station.  
A short walk across the car park

Our General Meeting at Emu Plains offers our members who live in Western Sydney and Blue Mountains the opportunity to get together with former workmates and to attend a RTEA General Meeting.

Many members travel from Sydney to Emu Plains each year for this meeting. Again, they are most welcome to attend. We will have lunch at O'Donoghues after the meeting.

Members travelling from Sydney can catch a train from Central Station departing at **9.33 am**, Strathfield at **9.46 am**, Parramatta at **10 am**, Blacktown at **10.12 am** and Penrith at **10.36 am**. The train arrives at Emu Plains at **10.38 am**.

Members traveling from Katoomba can catch a train departing at **9.16 am** and Springwood at **9.55 am**. The train stops at all stations between Katoomba and Emu Plains. The train arrives at Emu Plains at **10.22 am**. Both train services arrive at Emu Plains in sufficient time for the short walk to O'Donoghues Irish Pub for the meeting's 11 am start time.



The Meeting will also be held via ZOOM  
Access details will be emailed to members on  
Monday afternoon, 25<sup>TH</sup> August 2025





## Retired Telecommunications Employees Association

Our annual lunch at the Sydney Rowers Club is one of most popular with many members in attendance. Join us at the Rowers Club which easy to access by public transport (see below).

# Sydney Rowers Club Lunch

**Thursday, 21<sup>ST</sup> August 2025**

**Meet between 12 pm and 12.30 pm**

The Sydney Rowers Club on the Parramatta River, is 150 metres from the Abbotsfort Wharf (613 Great North Road, Abbotsfort Point). Sydney Ferries have service from Circular Quay. to Abbotsfort. The \$2.50 concession fare for seniors and pensioners applies.

We have reserved a table, if you like to join us for lunch. please e-mail, text or phone John Lane (see contact details on page 2 of the newsletter.)





## Welcome to your June / July Newsletter (Cont'd)

At the July General Meeting, we have Alexis Escavy from Greenpeace to speak at our meeting. It may not seem that long ago, but this year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the *Rainbow Warrior*. Alexis will talk on Greenpeace's efforts to protect the world's oceans. I believe we will enjoy the presentation and come away informed.

### AUGUST EVENTS

Well, this brings me to August, and hopefully, we will have started to thaw. In August, we have arguably our most popular social event of the year, lunch at the Sydney Rower Club. This year the date for lunch is Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024. You will find all the necessary information inside the newsletter including ferry timetables.

In August, we continue with the practice of having our General Meeting at Emu Plains. This brings our General Meeting to far Western Sydney and Blue Mountains who find it difficult to travel to Petersham. We hold our meetings at O'Donoghues Irish Pub which is only 350 metres from Emu Plains Railway Station. There is a notice inside the newsletter which also shows train times from Sydney and Blue Mountains stations.

I will finish now wishing you well and I hope to see you at a General Meeting or one of our social functions. Finally, please have a read of our trip away brochure, we have put a lot of time in the trip away's preparation which you will appreciate when you read the brochure.

See Brochure in email that came with the newsletter for full details

# South of the Border Trip Away 2025

From Sunday, 12<sup>TH</sup> October  
through to  
Saturday, 18<sup>TH</sup> October

WARNING  
BUSH  
RANGERS  
PRESENT  
IN THE AREA

NEW SOUTH WALES  
SOUTH WALES  
Passport

The graphic features a white bus on a dirt road, a rusted metal fence, and a blue sky with clouds. A warning sign is visible on the fence. Two New South Wales passports are shown in the top right corner.



# NSW Government amps down current battery rebates

Chris. Cartledge

Readers may remember an article in my name in the last RTEA Newsletter (May 2025) titled “Home Batteries – It’s Time”. Well, there’s been a change to the scenario I described regarding the cost of installing a home battery for your solar panels. And it’s not for the better!

Despite having incentivised the installation of 11,400 home solar batteries across the state in the past six months, on June 10, 2025 the NSW Government announced they are pulling the plug on their current home battery rebate scheme, effective from June 30, 2025. The imminent start of the Australian government’s \$2.3 billion Cheaper Home Batteries Program on July 1, 2025 has triggered this change.

“This surprise decision is a blow to solar homeowners planning to buy a home battery in coming months, and a betrayal of the prime minister and Federal Minister for Climate and Energy Chris Bowen’s assurance that the federal Cheaper Home Batteries program can be ‘stacked’ with state initiatives.” I

This means we are no longer eligible for the \$130/kW rebate previously offered by NSW. When stacked with the \$370/kW available under the Federal Government ‘Cheaper Home Batteries Program’ the rebate totalled \$500/kW. The change will cost me \$2,600 on the installation of my 20kW battery.

I can avoid this impost if I decide to share my battery via a VPP. “The NSW Government is directing the funds into a new scheme to encourage solar households to sign up to a virtual power plant (VPP) – a group of solar-powered batteries linked by software, which are owned by households and small businesses that have consented for excess stored power to be sold to the grid”. I

I do not want this complication at this stage in my life so will just have to cough-up the extra cash, taking the cost of my installation from \$4,300 to \$6,900 and extending the payback period from 4.7 years to 7.5 years.

However, because I will have a battery, I will not be paying the new ‘sun tax’ of 1.2 cents per kWh for energy exported to the grid between 10am and 3pm, not coincidentally also starting on July 1, 2025. This new ‘input tax’ is a function of energy wholesalers and will be passed onto retailers who will collect your money via a reduction in your solar feed-in credit. I’ve received notice that my feed-in credit will go from 5 cents/kWh to 3 cents/kWh from the start of the new financial year.

## REFERENCES:

1. <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/better-bang-for-buck-nsw-to-cut-battery-subsidies-as-federal-scheme-kicks-in-20250610-p5m69e.html>
2. <https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2025/06/10/nsw-pairs-increased-vpp-incentive-with-national-battery-rebate/>





# A Memorable Visit: Tour of the Railway Operations Centre, Alexandria

## INTRODUCTION

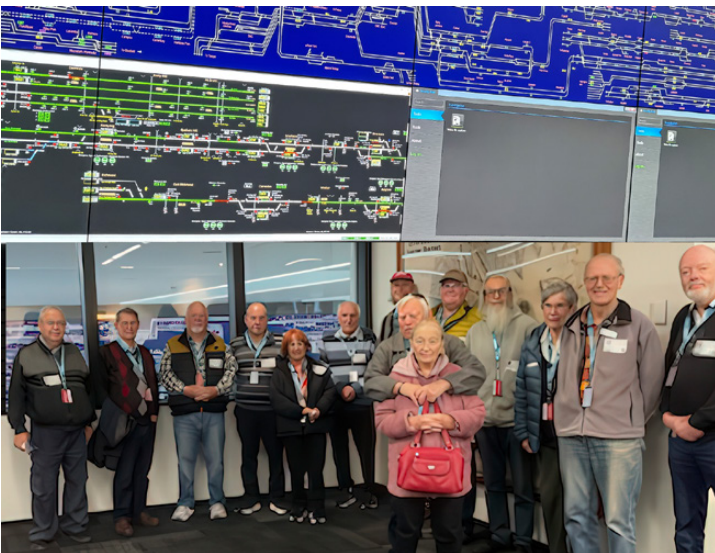
On a Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025, about 30 members of the *Retired Telecommunications Employees Association* (RTEA) took up an invitation to tour the Railway Operations Centre (ROC) located in Alexandria.

Many of us would have used the Sydney rail network over our working careers, travelling to and from work. Sydney has an extensive rail network, and our tour provided an insight into its network of train stations, as well as the management of the train timetable.

The Railway Operations Centre's mission is to keep our trains running on schedule efficiently and to help with the timely dissemination of information to customers when incidents do occur on the Sydney rail network, bringing monitoring and management all under one roof.

The Railway Operations Centre's primary function is to monitor where each train is on the rail network in real time. The \$296 million ROC incorporates a 33m display screen and 13km of cabling, all to handle train trips across the Sydney rail network.

Our day's tour commenced with a friendly reception at the Centre's modern foyer. The group was welcomed by Terry, a former train driver and now a senior staff member at the who showed enthusiasm for hosting an assembly of telecommunications veterans.



After a brief historical overview of the Railway Operations Centre, we donned visitor lanyards and were ushered inside the Railway Operations Centre. The \$296 million ROC incorporates a 33-metre display screen and 13km of cabling, which assists in the handling of all of the train trips that occur across Sydney.

Daily, Sydney Trains customers travelling on the rail network rely on clear, timely, up-to-date and regular audio

announcements to get to and from their destinations as efficiently as possible. The Railway Operations Centre delivers the announcements via a digital PA system.

Terry, throughout our tour, engaged in a constant question-and-answer session with our members, who were inquisitive and probed deeply into various rail topics.

## CONCLUSION



About thirty members took the opportunity to tour the Rail Operations Centre. While most of our social activities centre around lunches, it's clear that members also have a strong interest in learning about a variety of topics. We hope to organise more informative tours in the future like the tour of the Railways Operations Centre and invite more guest speakers to our General Meeting. However,



such events do require considerable planning and effort to arrange.

We end this article by expressing our gratitude to Terry and other staff at the Railways Operation Centre for taking time out from their working day to show us the ROC.