

Some further detail and the 'fine print': The price is subject to numbers but is expected to be around \$3,800 per person (no single supplement). In the case of cancellation for any reason, a full refund (or substitute date) will be available. All meals, except three lunches when away from the train, are included. Alcoholic drinks are at 'own cost', on or off the train, which is licensed.

Indicate your interest by a deposit of \$400 per person payable to Epping and District Probus Club (see Day Outing for November for banking details). Deposits will not be forwarded to Vintage Rail until details are confirmed. Final payments will be due in December. Enquiries to Wal Gallagher on mobile 0429-484-639.

BRAIN TEASER

Three men went into a hotel to hire a room for the night. The Bellboy was behind the desk and charged them \$10.00 each. They paid up the \$30.00 and went up to their room.

The Manager came to the desk and told the Bellboy that he had charged them too much and to take five dollar coins back. On the way up the stairs the Bellboy thought, "how am I going to give three men 5 dollars?" So he put two dollar coins in his own pocket and gave the men back \$1.00 each, which meant they had in fact paid only \$9.00 each. Three times nine equals 27, plus the \$2.00 the Bellboy kept equals twenty nine. Where's the missing dollar?

The answer will be in next month's Newsletter. The answer to last month's Brain Teaser is: Because they are John and Michael Not.

Those were the days—A Bit of Nostalgia

My mum used to cut chicken, chop eggs and spread butter on bread on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't seem to get food poisoning.

Our school sandwiches were wrapped in wax paper in a brown paper bag, not in ice pack coolers, but I can't remember getting eColi.

Almost all of us would have rather gone swimming in the creek, the lake or at the beach instead of a pristine chlorinated pool (talk about boring), no beach closures then either?

We all took PE and risked permanent injury with a pair of Dunlop sandals or bare feet if you couldn't afford the runners instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built in light reflectors that cost as much as a small car. I can't recall any injuries but they must have happened because they tell us how much safer we are now.

We got the cane or the strap for doing something wrong at school, they used to call it discipline yet we all grew up to accept the rules and to honour and respect those older than us.

Private and confidential for Probus use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.

Epping and District Probus Club Inc.



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Secretary	Ross Beattie	9871-1838
Welfare Officer	Ray Palmer	9836-4516
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OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENTS MISSIVE

It's summer and we are still stuck in the Covid 19 pandemic with its social restrictions and limitations on gatherings, etc. However, there are some brighter signs on the horizon with talk of the government relaxing some rules during this month.

Even so we have been able to arrange some activities including walks, bicycling, the coffee club and old codger's music group amongst others. This month we are having a virtual General meeting of our members via Zoom on Monday, 12 October at 10.00 a.m. This meeting will be an abbreviated one and will include a presentation by Ken Fletcher on his journey across the Nullarbor a few years ago. We will also bring members up to date on future activities planning and the development of a new Website.

At our Committee meeting on 15 October we will consider adding to the current activities including a Boat trip on Sydney Harbour in November and a train journey next year on the *Southern Aurora*.

Once again I encourage any suggestions you may have as members. To submit these Email me at landor@optushome.com.au or contact me or any other Committee member by phone.

We have been in lockdown for seven months now and it now seems like a permanent condition. I certainly am looking forward to a potential change for the better in the coming months. This October edition of our Newsletter has been prepared by Col Short and will be distributed to members by Email. Leo Hart and Ray Palmer will print some copies and mail these to those members who do not have access to Email.

Keep well and be optimistic about a change for the better in the future—we will get through this. My best wishes.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I hope everyone is well. It is a relief to see health guidelines being eased and the community allowed greater social mobility. However, everyone should err on the side of caution: mask up in crowded public places unless

impracticable, avoid handshakes, et cetera, and keep reasonable distances when dining out et cetera. We encourage you to participate where practicable in this month's Club activities we can conduct: Coffee Morning (9th Carlingford Court), General Meeting (!!!) via Zoom (12th), Old Codgers Music Group (19th), Cycling (23rd), and Rambles—details are as given elsewhere in the Newsletter.

MEETINGS

October

This month's virtual General Meeting is via a ZOOM session on Monday, 12 October 2020 at 10.00 a.m. It will highlight the Nullarbor Plain and areas surrounding it. The title is "Nullarbor Surprises".

Our President Michael Brinsden, who has crossed the Nullarbor both on the old road and the new Eyre highway maybe 40 times or more as he lived in Western Australia for many years; will tell some stories of a special trip he made from Perth to Sydney as he introduces Ken Fletcher to present a slideshow of his and Barbara's experiences in this area.

Ken and Barbara have taken their caravan across the Eyre Highway six times on three trips to Western Australia and have ventured off the main road to take side trips to see some of the less visited places of interest in this unique part of Australia.

Some of these places include the Eyre Bird Observatory on the edge of the Bight occupying the old Telegraph Station, the Koonalda Cave and now deserted Homestead of the Koonalda sheep station and the railway station at Cook on the TransAustralian Rail line, once a rowdy fettler's town but now with a population of three. It is where the trains stop to allow passengers to get off and has facilities for the driving crew to have a rest.

Editor's Note: As one who has travelled by train between Sydney and Perth in both directions seven times in 14 years, and as a person interested in history, geology and facts, the actual "geologically true" Nullarbor Plain can only be traversed and seen from a train window, unless one is prepared to drive on the dirt road located beside the railway line or as Ken did and drive up to Cook. Unfortunately today, the cost of travelling on the train is very expensive since it was privatised and the removal of economy class.

DAY OUTINGS

October

At present, no more than 20 people are allowed to gather outside on a public place. Unless this restriction is eased, the picnic will not be held this year.

WELFARE REPORT (prepared by our Welfare Officer, Ray Palmer)

I made contact with the following non-active members and all say they are OK at present: Ian Campbell, Brian Howard, John Salmon, Tony Malin, Ron Macintosh, Dick Nicholson, John Webb, Wal Williams and Paul Woodward. Laurie Fuller is slowly deteriorating and has been moved to another level of care at the Baptist Care in Kellyville. Arthur Goswell is not feeling so well at present, but the Doctor is keeping an eye on him. John Steele-Smith is finding he has good days and bad days. John Salmon will be turning 90 on 13 October and our good wishes will be sent to him. No contact made with John Cox or Owen Harrison.

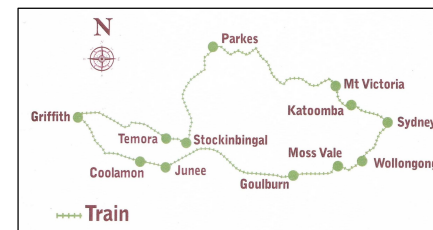
And now to our active members: Ron Leslie has spent some time in hospital, but is now home under Doctor's orders. Philip Jones is also having his ups and downs, but is keeping well.

TOUR NEWS

In anticipation of the pandemic restrictions continuing to ease, and tours being able to run in 2021, it is proposed we begin by re-discovering the magic of rail with a Vintage Rail Tour to the Riverina in March 2021.

The planned tour with Bishops to the Eyre Peninsula this year has been re-booked for April–May next year, date yet to be confirmed, and the tour planned for Yarrowonga has been re-booked for September next year.

The Riverina Vintage Rail Journey is as advertised in *The Senior* newspaper and features: Five days/four nights aboard newly restored *Southern Aurora* sleeping carriages on many rail lines that do not have scheduled passenger services. We will travel clockwise through Wollongong, Moss Vale, Goulburn, Junee, Coolamon, Griffith, Temora, Stockinbingal, Parkes, Mt Victoria and Katoomba, sleeping on the train in restored sleeping carriages, twin double bunks with en-suite facilities for couples, singles with bathroom facilities at the end of the carriage. As well, Dining and Lounge carriages are available along with sightseeing—included by chartered coaches in off-train excursions.

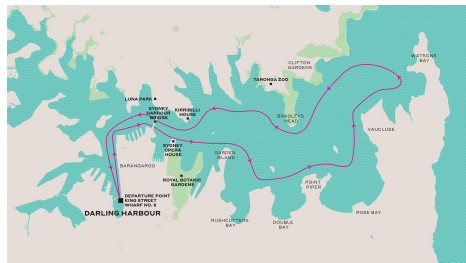


We will depart Sydney Central Station at 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 24 March 2021 returning at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, 28 March 2021. The highlights include: stunning sea views from the Illawarra line; Historic Goulburn; Coolamon Cheese Factory; a visit to the Piccolo family farm at Griffith; meri De Bortoli's 'Il Campo' gardens and winery in Griffith; a choice of Temora's famous Aviation Museum or Temora's Bundawarrah Centre and Rural Museum; and finally a Blue Mountains regional tour.

November

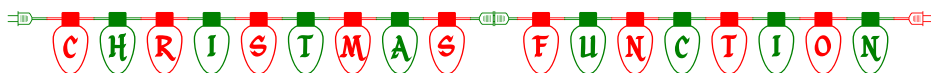
Next month's outing will be on Monday, 16 November 2020, and is a 2½ hour tour around Sydney Harbour (and this is not a Captain Cook cruise!). The discount price for the cruise, which includes a 3-course lunch and unlimited drinks, is \$99 per person. Although the boat can take up to 90 people, due to COVID19 restrictions, a maximum of only 34 places is available. Please see below for a picture of the boat and a map of the route. As we would like to have a good idea of numbers by Friday, 16 October 2020, and to avoid disappointment, please book early and make your payment as described below.

We will assemble at Epping Station Concourse at 10.30 a.m. to catch the 10.47 a.m. train on



platform 1, arriving at Wynyard at 11.32 a.m. This will allow for a 23-minute walk to Darling Harbour. We will board the boat at 11.55 a.m. (just outside the Cargo Bar) for a 12.30 p.m. departure. The cruise will finish at 3 o'clock at Darling Harbour.

The money for the cruise can be paid either by Direct Deposit to Westpac BSB: 032 287; Account No. 154993, with a short description stating YOUR NAME and the event [e.g. CRUISE Your Name (no hyphen, slashes, etc.)] or by cheque payable to "Epping and District Probus Club" and posted to: Epping and District Probus Club, P.O. Box 855, Epping, NSW, 1710. Please ensure your name is written on the back of the cheque.



We are waiting to get confirmation from the North Ryde RSL that the Christmas party, planned for Thursday, 10 December 2020, will proceed. Details will be provided in the November Newsletter.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Club will continue with the following activities in October, keeping in mind the need to follow the coronavirus restrictions. These are as follows:

- Friday, 9 October at 10.00 a.m., the Coffee Club at Carlingford Court, with social distancing, social distancing, masks, as appropriate.
- Monday, 19 October at 2.00 p.m., via Zoom, the Old Codgers will listen to a presentation of fine music selected by Hugh Knight. Full details will be sent separately.
- Thursday, 22 October at 10.00 a.m., John Peters will lead a Ramble through the 'Creeks of Cheltenham', partly through bushland commencing at John and Pam's place at 81A Cheltenham Rd, Cheltenham and heading toward Roselea. Full details will be sent separately.

Cycle Group

There were 7 riders on Friday, 25 September 2020. Meeting at Mill Park Street, Rhodes at 10.00 a.m., our route was anti clockwise along the Parramatta River cycle path and on to Parramatta Park. We returned via Silverwater Bridge to Mill Park Street for lunch. Ross was sprinter on this ride with Godfrey hot on his heels. We cycled approximately 26 km. It was here that the Wobblers had a wobbly, the usual café at Mill Park was closed. Fortunately Ross knew of an alternative lunch venue phew!!

The next ride will be on Friday, 23 October 2020 involving Prospect Parklands and viaduct ride. Access to the Parklands is via Reservoir Road. Take the M4 from the Cumberland Highway (*Wentworthville*). After driving about 4 km along the M4 take the 1st exit ramp to Reservoir Road/ Blacktown. Turn left at the lights, then right at the 1st roundabout into Reservoir Road, then the 2nd left into William Lawson Drive.

The meeting point is a small parking bay on the left, approximately 2 km down William Lawson Drive. You will see 3 enormous water pipe sections (*tourist thing*) beside the bay.

NB: We are not able to use the normal meeting point at Andrew Campbell Reserve as the reserves are currently being used for a movie set! Make sure you are looking your best we may get a part!!!

We will ride along the Prospect Canal Reserve track, over the viaduct, then a short stint along the Cumberland Highway cycle path before turning into Prospect Creek for the return journey back to Prospect Reservoir (approximately 20 km). Following the ride we will have light refreshments at the Royal Cricketers Arms on Reservoir Road.

The Parklands are at their best at the moment, an oasis in the middle of suburbia. Those of us who have ridden this route before will see a vast difference on the return section of the ride. What was a bit of a wilderness is now an extensive development of sporting fields, etc. It looks great.

If you wish to participate please contact Steve Drury, prior to the day, on phone 9872-7447 or mobile 0487-785-444. Note, a loan cycle and helmet may be available if required.