#### SAY WHAAAT???

- ➤ If women belong in the kitchen then surely men belong in the garage with all the other tools.
- ➤ Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- Time flies like an arrow.....fruit flies like a banana.
- > There has been a protest organised for tomorrow against Fairy Bread.....police are expecting hundreds and thousands.
- Everyone that has been through John Lennon International Airport has had to be quarantined. Imagine....all the people.
- The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.—George Burns



President Michael and the Committee would like to wish all the members of the Club and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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

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# Epping and District Probus Club Inc



President Michael Brinsden 9617-0960 Secretary Ross Beattie 9871-1838 Welfare Officer Ray Palmer OAM 9836-4516 Website: http://www.rnbt.id.au/edpci

Postal Address: PO Box 855 Epping NSW 1710



his is the last Newsletter for this turbulent and difficult year for all of us. Despite the entry of the Omnicom variant of the Covid virus I think that common sense will prevail this time and the opening of travel, both international and between States, will still occur in January/February. Let's hope so anyway as our economy has been severely hit over the last two years.

Our monthly meetings will resume in the Church Hall next February with at this stage no restrictions except vaccination proof at the hall entrance. Frank has lined up an interesting line of speakers for next year and I believe that all our normal activities can be scheduled from February onward as usual. Elsewhere in this Newsletter there is further information on some activities that will be scheduled in December and January through what is normally our holiday period.

As you know the Committee passed a resolution to donate \$1,500 to the Presbyterian Church to purchase a Defibrillator for the Church Hall. This item has been purchased by the Church and is now mounted near the entrance to the Office in the Hall. The Church Session has asked me to pass on to the members of the Epping and District Probus Club its sincere thanks for this gift. In due course I will ask for volunteers from our members to be trained in the use of this device.

Lastly, I would like to thank those members who volunteered for duties at our monthly meetings and for other tasks at various times. Without your help it would be impossible for the Club to function efficiently. However, we still have a problem with the succession to me as President next year. Several of our members have been approached by me and other members of the Committee but so far, no member has agreed to fill the vacancy next year. I

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should point out to all members that without a functioning Committee the Club will not survive very long. Most members of the current Committee will continue next year, and I will transfer to the Past President position on the Committee. In that role I can support the new President if he has not previous been a committee member and is not familiar with our operational procedures. Please do consider nominating as every member who wishes the Club to survive will be very grateful indeed.

The Christmas Party is on next Tuesday and I look forward to seeing you there.

#### **MEETINGS**

#### November

erek Jones, our newest member, was the fill in guest speaker last month, when his topic was "Travelling in Greece". Derek's background has taken him into many activities and countries—he has been involved in IT, electronics, business ventures, politics, marketing and the Royal Marines to name some. While living in the Middle East, one such activity took him and his wife to Greece, this they both found extremely interesting,

Greece is a very small country with an area of approximately 137 square kilometres and a population of 12.5 million people across the Greek peninsula and Mediterranean Basin. The religion is Christianity with Greek Orthodox making up the greatest percentage. The country is generally of poor quality soil with approximately 80 per cent mountainous.

The culture is heavily influenced by the Turkish as the country had been ruled by the Ottoman Turks for over 400 years from about the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Those that have travelled to that part of the globe find that a Greek coffee is really a Turkish coffee.

Greece has endured some troubled times. During the Ottoman rule many people fled either to the mountains or to other European nations to escape the foreign rule and again with the German occupation during World War II. More recently the population has increased due to the return of Greek Civil War refugees and international migration. With the collapse of the Communist's governments there was a significant influx of Eastern Europe migrants resulting in an economic downturn.

During their time in Greece, Derek and his wife were given wonderful opportunities, many experiences of the life, culture and enjoyment of Greek ways which he said took us on a journey which we were able to experience without COVID restrictions, airport queues and long flights.

We very sincerely thank Derek for filling in as guest speaker and for his informative talk on Greece.

## Adelaide to Uluru—10–21 August 2022

Dookings are now open for this 12-day tour to the outback, Adelaide to Uluru via the Flinders Ranges. Among the many highlights are Burra, Hawker, Wilpena Pound, Pichi Richi Explorer (steam-train ride), Port Augusta, Woomera, Coober Pedy (Desert Cave Hotel with choice of underground or above ground accommodation), Alice Springs, MacDonnell Ranges and Uluru. There is a free day in Yulara for anyone interested in a number of optional tours available there. Return to Sydney from Yulara.

Travelling by luxury coach after the flight to Adelaide, the tour is priced at \$5798 per person twin share and a single supplement of \$1195.

## Yarrawonga—18–23 September 2022

provided early in the new year. Deposits already paid for this tour when it was cancelled will be carried forward.

Please contact Wal for further information on any of the tours: email <a href="https://www.gwg.email.org/wwg.email

#### WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?

Some answers by famous people:

Machiavelli: So that its subjects will view it with admiration, as a chicken which has the daring and courage to boldly cross the road, but also with fear, for whom among them has the strength to contend with such a paragon of avian virtue? In such a manner is the princely chicken's dominion maintained.

George Bush: National Security was at stake.

Albert Einstein: Whether the chicken crossed the road or the road crossed the chicken depends upon your frame of reference.

Howard Cosell: It may very well have been one of the most astonishing events to grace the annals of history. An historic, unprecedented avian biped with the temerity to attempt such a Herculean achievement formerly relegated to Homo sapiens pedestrians is truly a remarkable occurrence.

Charles Darwin: It was the logical next step after coming down from the trees. Ronald Reagan: I forget.

Mr. T: If you saw me coming you'd cross the road too!

Dr Johnson: Sir, had you known the Chicken for as long as I have, you would not so readily enquire, but feel rather the need to resist such a public display of your own lamentable and incorrigible ignorance.

#### SECRETARY'S GUFF

here are only two Club events currently scheduled for December: the Christmas Luncheon at North Ryde R.S.L. on Tuesday, 7 December (arrive 11.15 a.m. for 11.30 a.m. start and 12.00 noon ain course) and a President's Coffee Morning (Friday, 10 December at 10.00 a.m. at the Coffee Club, Carlingford Court). Knowing the Wobblies, they may be on their bikes somewhere as well! And the Dining Group may get hungry.

Thinking of the Coffee Morning, we need a couple of lads to step forward to serve as incoming President and Vice-President for 2022: the rules disallow Michael Brinsden from doing a third consecutive year. You can also consider nominating for one of the other Management Committee positions. Nomination forms will be emailed to all members soon.

There will be no Outings, Walks et cetera until February as we take time out to celebrate Christmas and the holiday season (if holidays are possible!) and avoid the heat and humidity of the Australian summer. I take this opportunity to wish you and those you know a joyous Christmas and a safe comfortable new year.

Our next General Meeting, in the Epping Presbyterian Church Hall, will be on Monday, 14 February at 10.00 a.m.

## CHAIR AND MORNING TEA ROSTER FOR FEBRUARY

ostered members capable of setting up chairs and tables should be at the hall shortly after 8.30 a.m. If you are unable to be present as rostered, please arrange a swap with another member and inform Roster Co-ordinator, Mark Gibbs, by email <a href="mailto:bevmark21@hotmail.com">bevmark21@hotmail.com</a> or phone 9899-8545.



Bill Thomson Milton Bartlett Robert Chow Lance Walker Yew Cheah



## **TOUR NEWS**

## Queensland Outback to Reef—15–28 May 2022

his tour is fully booked but a waiting list is in place if you want to add your name to it. Second instalments of \$3000 for those already booked are payable by 18 December 2021 and final payments by 15 March 2022.

## February 2022

es Fenech will be our guest speaker on Monday, 14 February 2022, when his topic will be "Australia's Communications Links with the World". This talk will take you on a historic journey about the development of Telecommunications; from the Telegraph, to the Radio era, undersea Cables, Cable stations, local Radio transmission stations to satellitesand the delivery of images from the moon landing.



Les is a member of the Parramatta & District Historical Society. He has worked in Telecommunications with Telecom, Telstra, OTC and Optus.



ur Christmas Function this year will be held on Tuesday, 7 December 2021 at The Grand Pittwater: North Ryde Community Club. Our function is timed to commence at 11.15 a.m. Drinks will be served at the lunchroom entrance from approximately 11.20 a.m. and lunch will commence at 12 noon. The Menu will consist of three courses with an entrée, a main course and dessert. There will be two dishes per course and they will be served alternately to each person at each table. Gluten-free meals can be requested. Self-serve coffee and tea will be available after dessert. Drinks ordered during lunch will be at individual cost and can be obtained from the Bar.

Seating is at round tables seating ten. Guests are encouraged to circulate between tables during the meal. There will be a short address from our President after the main course. A public address system will be in operation during the day.

Please remember that members and guests attending the Christmas Function must wear a mask and bring evidence that they are double vaccinated against COVID-19 or that they have a medical exemption.

## DAY OUTINGS

# February 2022

The first outing next year will be on Monday, 21 February 2022, and will be a visit to the Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney. This

is a new museum of art, science, history and ancient cultures that recently opened to the public. It features 18 new exhibitions across four floors of galleries. The price for the guided tour is \$10 per person, with a minimum of 10 people required. Please register you interest at the February General meeting. We will pay on the day.

We will assemble at the Epping station Concourse at 9.50 a.m. to catch the 10.05 a.m. express train to Central station. We will then take a bus from Railway Square to the University of Sydney. The tour will commence at 11.00 a.m. A table will be booked for lunch at the Sounds café on the Chau Chak Wing Museum terrace.

#### March

he second outing next year will be on Thursday, 31 March 2022, and will be a trip on the Nepean Belle Paddle Wheeler. This cruise on the Nepean River will take 2½ hours and will take us up the Nepean River Gorge through very scenic surrounds. The boat is equipped with a Bar and lunch table facilities. Please note that drinks on board can only be purchased with cash. A delicious lunch will be served while we cruise the river and we will be entertained by the Captain's commentary.

Guests are asked to be at the dock at Penrith, ready to board, by 11.30 a.m. for a 12 noon departure. The cost is \$53 per person (senior's prices) for the cruise and lunch. Please register (and pay) for this outing at the February General meeting so a booking can be made.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

# Cycle Group

here were 7 riders on Friday, 19 November 2021 for the Narrabeen Lagoon ride. Meeting at 10.00 a.m. at Billarong Playground car park on Wakehurst Parkway, we rode 2 laps of the lagoon (a distance of 19 km). Lunch/coffee was at the H2O lakeside café on the lagoon foreshore.

The next ride will be the Prospect Parklands and viaduct ride on Friday, 17 December 2021. The meeting point is 10.00 a.m. at Andrew Campbell Reserve on William Lawson Drive. The Parklands is possibly our most scenic ride. However, don't forget our history with the 'Prospect' curse! **Come prepared!** 

Access to the Parklands is via Reservoir Road. Take the M4 from the Cumberland Highway (Wentworthville). Approximately 4 km along the M4 take the 1<sup>st</sup> exit ramp to Reservoir Road/ Blacktown. Turn left at the lights, then right at the 1<sup>st</sup> roundabout into Reservoir Road. Second left is William Lawson Drive.

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 lunch/coffee at the Royal Cricketers Arms on Reservoir Road (maybe even a bit of Christmas cheer).

Please contact Steve Drury if you wish to participate or need more information. Contact details are: email <a href="mailto:sandbdrury@gmail.com">sandbdrury@gmail.com</a> or phone 9872-7447 or mobile 0487-785-444.

# † IN REMEMBRANCE †

We pause to remember those of our number who have passed away since 1 December 2020—Ian Evans, Bruce Cunningham and Malcolm Crapp. We think also of member's and deceased member's wives—Robyn Brothers, Noelle Brinsden, Mavis Pearson (widow of Keith, who passed away in 2004) and Heather Parsons (widow of Ross, who passed away in 2000).

### BELATED WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

e are pleased to welcome into our membership Derek Jones, who resides with his wife Ruth at Unit 2, 4 Bishop Avenue West Pennant Hills, phone 9484-4304. Derek was inducted at the June 2021 meeting, the last prior to the COVID-19 lockdown.



### WELFARE REPORT

he following Non-Active Members say they are OK at present: Ian Campbell, John Cox, Bruce Frost, Owen Harrison, Brian Howard, Philip Jones, Ron Mackintosh, Tony Malin, Dick Nicholson, John Steele-Smith, Wal Williams and Paul Woodward.

Laurie Fuller is being looked after fairly well considering his high needs—his memory is good at times. Alf McDermott said his doctor is happy with the progress of the condition of his mouth cancer and will see him in two months time.

And now to our Active Members: Ron Leslie is struggling with health issues, especially emphysema, while Doug Sneddon reports his operations in Strathfield Private Hospital went OK.