

However, Wayne will be absent for the September and October meetings, so if you are rostered for those months then you will need to be at the hall shortly after 8.30 a.m. to set up the chairs and tables if you are capable. If you are unable to be present as rostered, arrange a swap with another member and inform the Secretary pjpetersoz@gmail.com

August

Leo Glockemann Peter Golding John Griffin-Miller



September

Frank Hanlon Brian Hartshorne Brian Haywood



MEETING DAY LADIES COFFEE

Some ladies who regularly like to join us to hear our guest speaker at 11.00 a.m. meet at 10 o'clock at the Darcy Street Project Coffee shop. They are more than happy for other ladies to join them. The shop is located on the edge of Boronia Park and access is from the northern end of Victoria Avenue (the short section between Bridge Street and the Park) or the bottom of Coles Car Park.

TOUR NEWS

Parkes—5–10 November 2023

Parkes tour is now fully booked—26 from Epping and sharing with Oakhill Dural Probus Club. Final payments will be due (preferably by EFT to Probus account with e-mail advice to Wal) at the September meeting.

Departure will be 8.00 a.m. from in front of the Epping Club on Sunday, 5 November 2023. Please be there 20 minutes before. Daily seat rotation will apply and is essential for all passengers to participate.

Survey

To date only 12 responses to the Survey have been received so far!! Would members please respond to the Survey sent at the end of June even if you do not wish to participate in any tours.

Only one has expressed interest in going to India and/or Vietnam and one to Cook Islands. Five or six have expressed interest in short coach tours mainly in NSW. Two have expressed interest in Western Australia. Your suggestions and feedback are awaited.

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

Epping and District Probus Club Inc.



President	Col Jones	9871-2933/0419-017-365
Secretary	John Peters	9869-1957
Welfare Officer	Ray Palmer OAM	9836-4516/0407-230-908
Postal Address: PO Box 855, Epping NSW 1710		

VP DAY
15 AUGUST



VIETNAM
VETERANS DAY
18 AUGUST

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S PATTERN

Well our Morning Tea Co-ordinator Wayne Steele and his team have demonstrated the men can vary their menu. Well done Wayne. I think you deserve a couple of months off duty though I'm sure we won't miss out on morning tea. The calendar has been very busy despite many organisers being away or sick. Russell Gough is taking an overseas family holiday but has the program well organised. Ravi and other club Tour/Travel Organisers are struggling to identify travel/tours that members and partners can enjoy together. Please help him and your club by completing his survey or at least discuss your holiday plans with him.

We have suffered more than usual "sickies" this month, even our welfare officer, Ray Palmer, suffered a broken wrist but has still kept the sickies in contact and supported. Who is going to stir his tea/coffee!!

Don't forget to welcome our new member Peter Evans and join in the fun planned for our August Meeting.

MEETINGS

July

Barry Pareezer was our guest speaker last month, when his topics were "The Collision between HMAS *Voyager* and HMAS *Melbourne*" and "How to write your life story". Barry began with a story about his family, being born in Condobolin. At a very early age he joined the Air Cadets with the idea of joining the RAAF when he was of age. However, around the age of 15 or 16 he changed his mind about becoming a pilot to instead joining the RAN. His mother liked this idea and told him "you will see more of the world in the Navy than in the Air Force".

So on his 17th birthday he went to the RAN Recruit School, HMAS *Cerebus*, at Crib Point, Hanns Inlet, on the shores of Western Port Bay, 75 km south-east of Melbourne. At the end of his training he was sent to Sydney and on 22 November 1963 (the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated) he joined HMAS *Melbourne*. His superior told him “you look like Officer material”—so he was sent to clean the office.

In February 1964, HMAS *Melbourne* and HMAS *Voyager* were involved in flying exercises off Jervis Bay with planes from the nearby Air Station. On the night of the 10th *Voyager* was given the task of “plane guard” and was positioned behind *Melbourne* to the port side. The direction in which planes landed and took off from *Melbourne* depended on the direction of the wind. At 8.42 p.m., due to the existence of a crosswind, the ships carried out a 180° turn which put the *Voyager* in front and to the starboard of *Melbourne*. *Voyager* was order to resume the plane guard position; this would involve it turning to starboard away from *Melbourne* and looping around behind it. *Voyager* did turn starboard but then turned to port. The bridge crew on *Melbourne* assumed *Voyager* was doing a zig zag manoeuvre to allow *Melbourne* to overtake her. Unfortunately, the senior crew on *Voyager* were not paying attention to what they were doing and despite all efforts by both crews a collision became inevitable by 8.55 p.m. and a second later the ships collided (*Melbourne* took ½ a mile to stop) splitting *Voyager* in half. The bow section sank almost instantaneously, while the stern sank shortly after midnight. Eighty-three naval personnel were killed, most of whom were in the bow section. The *Melbourne*, while suffering damage did suffer any crew loss. It was able to sail back to Sydney with most of *Voyager*’s survivors, the rest being taken to the naval base HMAS *Creswell* at Jervis Bay.

A Royal Commission was established and found the Commander of *Melbourne*, Captain John Robertson, was responsible for not warning the *Voyager*’s crew. He had no legal support and he resigned from the Navy. Opinions were that the Royal Commission had been poorly handed and that Robertson had been made the scapegoat. Increasing pressure from the outcome of the first Royal Commission and the evidence from a former member of the *Voyager*’s crew that Captain Duncan Stevens was unfit to command, led to a second Royal Commission in 1967. This was the first time in Australian history that two Royal Commissions were held into the same incident. This Commission found that Captain Stevens was unfit to command and Captain Robertson was not to blame and was exonerated.

Barry continued to serve in the RAN and in 1967 was a member of the crew of HMAS *Perth*, which came under fire from coastal artillery on the 18th of October off the coast of Vietnam while investigating fishing junks. The ship was hit once, with the shell deflecting of the gun turret and penetrating the ship’s structure.

This next trip is on Monday, 28 August 2023 to travel to Maroubra Beach for lunch, travelling by train, bus, ferry and light rail. We will assemble on Epping Station’s Platform 5 near the 2nd front carriage location (just to the right of the southern escalators) no later than 9.20 a.m. to catch the 9.24 a.m. train to Chatswood Station, arriving there at 9.37 a.m. (this train leaves Rouse Hill Station at 9.03 a.m.). Here we will board the 9.39 a.m. train to St Leonards Station, arriving there at 9.45 a.m. We will proceed to Pacific Highway to join the Route 254 bus to McMahons Point Wharf at 10 o’clock.

We will catch the ferry at 10.29 a.m. to Circular Quay, arriving there at 10.37 a.m. in time to board the Light Rail to Kingsford Juniors Terminus (runs every 8 minutes). From Stand B at the Terminus we will board Route 396 bus to Maroubra Beach Terminus (about 2-minute connection) for lunch at the Pavilion Beachfront. After lunch, there will be time for a workout on the nearby open air gym (if you so wish) and a look at the heritage former tram terminus waiting shed before we join Route 350 bus at 1.34 p.m. to Bondi Junction Station, arriving there at 2.01 p.m. We will then catch the train back to Central Station and then back to Epping, arriving there about 3.20 p.m. Please contact Col Short on 9876-1018 before 8.30 a.m. if it is raining.

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

I have spoken to the following Non-Active members, or their family, and all say they are OK at present: Milton Bartlett, Dennis Druce, Bruce Frost, John Goodman, Alan Herron, Frank Johnson, Tony Malin, Dick Nicholson, Ray Thorpe, Wal Williams, Paul Woodward, Tony Chaine and Yew Cheah. Doug Sneddon says his leg issues are improving, but another cancer has to be removed soon. Constantly under care of Doctors. Owen Harrison is now home from Rehab following the break to his leg. He now has covid and far from well. Owen will be celebrating his 90th Birthday on the 21st of August—happy birthday Owen.

Now to our Active Member Les Jenkins—he is far from well following hospitalisation and Rehab with covid but hopefully coming home soon.

To Celebrations: Rick Collins turned 80 on the 5th of August and Brian Carlin will turn 91 on the 28th of August. Happy birthday to both gentlemen.

From the Editor: Our Welfare Officer had a fall and broke his wrist. Hopefully, an x-ray next week will show complete healing and cast can be removed.

MORNING TEA ROSTER

Wayne Steele is happy to do the pre-Meeting set up, so rostered members only need to be at the hall for serving and tidy-up. Rostered members are to assist putting tables and chairs away after the meeting if physically capable.

The next ride will be Friday, 25 August 2023 for the Parramatta River Parks run, meeting at Mill Park Street, Rhodes at 10.00 a.m. The ride will be along the Parramatta River Cycleway, via Meadowbank to Rydalmere where we will turn off to join the recently opened Carlingford cycleway, with a possible coffee stop at Telopea. We will then return to the Parramatta River Cycleway via Silverwater Bridge, ride on to the Armoury/Bunkers, into Olympic Park, past the Stadium to the Abattoir Café for coffee. We then continue on past the Emerald building into Bicentennial Park, to join the Liberty Grove cycle way back to Mill Park Street. Total distance is approximately 26 km. Please contact Steve Drury if you wish to ride or need more information, phone 9872-7447 or mobile 0487-785-444.

Movie Group—on 8 August, eight movie lovers thoroughly enjoyed *Oppenheimer* at Hornsby Event Cinema followed by lunch at Hornsby RSL Club. Details of the next movie will be advised to members via email. Contact Andrew Davidson, phone 9849-6774, for information or to offer any suggestions for future movies.

The Ramblers—on 20 July, 10 Ramblers met at Hardys Bay enjoying sunny weather on a 5km ramble along the foreshore from Hardys Bay, Pretty Beach and return for lunch at the Fat Goose Restaurant at Hardys Bay.

This month's Ramble will combine with the Day Outings activity (for full details please see the Day Outings report on pages 3 and 4).

Theatre—a reminder to those who have booked for The Theatre on Chester that *The Peach Season* by Debra Oswald, will be presented on Wednesday, 16 August. Wal Gallagher is taking bookings (\$25 each) for its final play for 2023 to be presented on Wednesday 15 November.

Wal is also taking bookings for the Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera *Iolanthe*, to be presented at the matinee performance on Sunday, 8 October. Tickets are \$44 each. For 'technical reasons' the performance of *Iolanthe* on the 8th of October has been switched from the Shore School to the Governors Centre, Sydney Boys High School, 556 Cleveland Street, Moore Park. There will be free parking on site. Alternately, the Light Rail stop at Moore Park is 2 stops from Central Station (6 minutes) and across the road from the theatre. The tickets have not yet been purchased, so if people wish to withdraw that is no problem. Somewhere suitable for a meal after is being investigated, and that will depend on whether we drive or use the public transport. If we drive, we could still go to the Kirribilli Club on our way home.

By Opal Card—8 members enjoyed a trip to Randwick for lunch on 24 July 2023. On the way they inspected the newly opened North-South Concourse situated over the Sydney Metro platforms 26 and 27. They then proceeded to Sydenham Station to look over the new Northern Concourse and the Metro platforms 1 and 2. A Metro train was observed in the Shunt Road beside Platform 1.

We very sincerely thank Barry for coming and giving of his personal experiences as a member of the RAN along with his life history and giving us hints on how to write our life story.

August

Trevor McAlister will be our guest speaker today, when his topic will be "A Virtual Walk—Exploring Hidden Sydney". His presentation will be a virtual walk—Exploring Hidden Sydney via Sydney's CBD, the Rocks, Epping/Ryde and Parramatta.

Trevor is a former secondary school teacher with an interest in local history and walking. In 2007, he began leading free walks around the streets and suburbs of Sydney and to make his walks more interesting began to draw people's attention to things of interest which they may not have noticed before. Over the years the number of walks and the features they contained, increased. These grew into a catalogue which became a book. Included were the largest and smallest, the oldest and the strangest. Each had a story which often gave a surprising insight into our past.

Trevor will have his book *Exploring Hidden Sydney* on sale for \$35 cash. All proceeds from the sale of the book go to The Rotary Foundation.

HAVE YOUR WALKING SHOES on and be ready for the special prizes that could be won.

September

Sarah and Paul Weaver will be our guest speakers next month on Monday, 11 September 2023, and their topic will be "The Way of St James". Like many of us since their children left home and retired they have definitely caught the travel bug and have enjoyed some wonderful holidays overseas.

In 2018, they embarked on a 120 km walk on the Camino de Compostela in Spain, also known as the Way of St James, a walk that many of us would like to have completed or dreamed about.

So listening to their talk will be the comfortable way to do this 120 km track. Their upcoming talk will tell you a bit about the history of the Camino, but they will mainly share some of their experiences—complete with a selection of their photos from the trip.

DAY OUTINGS

August

Ross Beattie and Rick Collins will lead a combined Rambles and Day Outing this month on Tuesday, 22 August 2023, which will be a casual walk around central Maitland to view some of the town's amazing colonial

architecture. A map (1997) will be provided which details some 35 properties (some now gone!) but there are many others such as at the Maitland Court House and the Gaol. Participants are also referred to other resources such as an article published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 24 November 2008.

The walk, starting and ending at Maitland Station, is about 3–3½ km, but can be shortened or extended! Lunch is planned to be at Lavenders Café, 1/418 High Street, Maitland. “Centrally tucked away at the top of the The Levee, Lavenders Riverside Café is a quiet and peaceful riverside destination, providing alfresco dining, overlooking the Hunter River”.

Please call or text Rick on 0411-611-338 or Ross on 0402-350-481 before August 20th if you would like to come or if you have any queries!

Car-pooling is suggested to travel to and from Maitland, but the 11.30 a.m. start time at Maitland allows travel from Sydney by train. If driving consider car-sharing (journey time about 1 hour 45 minutes each way). If travelling by train then catch the 8.40 a.m. train from Epping (platform 3) to Hamilton Station platform 2, arriving at 10.46 a.m. (travel in the last carriage), then cross quickly to platform 1 (stairs or level crossing) for the 10.50 a.m. train to Maitland, arriving there at 11.26 a.m. (there is another train from Hamilton at 11.31 a.m., arriving Maitland at noon. Return by say the 3.39 p.m. train from Maitland, changing at Hamilton and arriving at Epping at 6.34 p.m.

People may want to stay overnight: there is much more to see both in Maitland and also in East Maitland, Lorn, Morpeth and other nearby towns.

September

Next month’s outing will be on Monday, 18 September 2023 and will be our Annual Picnic—this year at the Lake Parramatta Reserve. Lake Parramatta was created as a result of the damming of Hunts Creek in 1856. The lake is now a recreational area with picnic areas, a cafe, a swimming precinct, boat hire facilities, and a great walking track.

It is intended that everyone gather there at approximately 10.45–11.00 a.m. for morning tea with lunch to be served at about 12.30 p.m. Lunch will consist of barbecued sausages and rolls with a wide choice of salads. The charge for lunch is \$20 per person and please bring your own drinks.

Access to the site is by car only and there are plenty of parking spaces. The main entrance to the park is via Lackey Street off Bourke Street in North Parramatta. Please register your interest in attending the picnic, and pay the \$20 cost, at or before the September meeting.

November

The outing in November will be on Saturday, 18 November 2023 and will be a ride on the newly refurbished Zig Zag railway. We will meet for

lunch (venue to be decided) and travel by car to Clarence Station, arriving by 2.00 p.m. where we will board the 2.30 p.m. Zig Zag train and travel to Bottom Points Station via Top Points Station and return to Clarence Station. The fare for seniors is \$27.50. Please advise Russell ASAP if interested.

If not paying cash, please make a direct deposit to Probus Account BSB 633 000 A/C 182681668 stating YOUR NAME and reason for payment and also advise the Outings Co-ordinator, Russell Gough, by email to: Russell.Gough51@gmail.com.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The following ‘Other Activities’ are planned for this month. It goes without saying all activities are conditional on compliance with any relevant Covid-19 restrictions. If you plan to attend an outdoor activity and rain develops or heatwave is forecast on the day before the outing commences, please check by phone the activities organiser as early as possible on the day.

Old Codgers Music Group—this month’s meeting will be at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 14 August at the home of Hugh Knight, 2/18 Fourth Avenue, Eastwood. If you wish to attend, please add your details to the Secretary’s list at the August General meeting or contact Hugh on 0400-753-087, so that seating can be arranged.

Coffee Club—last month 11 met for morning tea at the Coffee Club, Carlingford Court. All members, wives, partners, and guests are all invited to meet again ‘face to face’ to socialise over tea, coffee, etc., at the Coffee Club, Carlingford Court, at 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 18 August. Contact Ray Palmer, phone 9836-4516, if you have any questions.

Dining—16 members and guests enjoyed lunch at North Ryde RSL at Eastwood (formerly Eastwood Rugby Club) on Wednesday, 26 July.

Ross Beattie has offered to arrange lunch for noon on Thursday, 31 August at West Pennant Hills Sports Club, 103 New Line Road West Pennant Hills, just a short distance from Thompson’s Corner. For information contact Ross on 0437-030-337.

Members are encouraged to consider arranging a lunch sometime between now and December. Please discuss with Ray Finch: email rayfinch42@gmail.com or mobile 0414-746-954.

Cycle Group aka The Wobblies—there were six riders for the Cooks River run on Friday, 21 July 2023. After meeting at 10.00 a.m. at Yarrowee Road, Strathfield, we rode along the Cooks River cycle path to Gough Whitlam Park, Tempe. We had coffee at the Green House café in the park and returned via the cycle path on the opposite side of the river. It was a glorious day, sun was shining, birds were singing, etc., etc., and we were at peace with the world! The distance ridden was 25 km.