

WELCOME TO YOUR APRIL 2018 ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER. I WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MARCH GENERAL MEETING, THE MEETING HAD IN ATTENDANCE OVER THIRTY MEMBERS. WE ALSO HAD A NUMBER OF MEMBERS AWAY BECAUSE OF THE 1958 TECHNICIAN IN TRAINING REUNION HELD AT PORT MACQUARIE. I WILL SAY MORE ABOUT THE REUNION LATER. BRUCE COXALL CHAIRED THE GENERAL MEETING IN MY ABSENCE. ON EACH OCCASION THAT BRUCE HAS CHAIRED A GENERAL MEETING, I HEAR NOTHING BUT SUPERLATIVES AS TO HOW WELL HE MANAGES THE MEETING'S AGENDA. THANKS, BRUCE, IT IS APPRECIATED AS ALWAYS.

President's Message

April 2018

Vince Haywood



Earlier, I mentioned the *1958 Technician in Training Reunion*, this year their *60th-Year Reunion* was held at Port Macquarie over the period from the 15th to 18th March. Instrumental to the continued success of the 1958 trainee reunions comes down to one of our members, John Loudon. John puts in a great deal of effort and personal time into making the 1958 Reunions a success. No doubt, he is rewarded by the tremendous turnout and the good time that is had by all. Well done John.

Still, on the subject of outstanding and valued members, I received some concerning news that **Kevin Connell** had a fall in early March. Kevin required seven stitches on his forehead and has some fluid in his lungs. He is at Canterbury Hospital. Hopefully, by the time you read this article, Kevin will be back home. Members will remember that Kevin along with his friend John Hickey received an *OBN (Over Bloody Ninety) Award* at our October 2017 General Meeting. **John Hickey** also has not been in the best of health. I am sure all members will join me in wishing both Kevin and John a full recovery.

John Baron - OAM

I received a phone call a few weeks ago from a member, John Barron to advise that he has moved to Forster to live with his daughter due to his lack of mobility. John was an activist with the Union in the 1960's. Our Union, the Communications Workers Union (former ATEA) conferred life membership on John in 1982. John's service to the Union goes back to 1952, he went onto represent the Union as a delegate to the Trades and Labour Council and the ACTU.

Outside of the Union, John was involved in Community Service with the RSL. He even found time to coach the Green Valley United Soccer team. In recognition of community service, the Order of Australia (OAM) was conferred on John on Australia Day.

I am sure all Retired Members will join me in congratulating John on receiving his OAM, John deserves the recognition this Award brings to him, well done John.

Education Funding Distribution

I am sure that many members have attended a 'Grandparent Day' at their grandchildren's local school. My wife and I were fortunate to attend a similar function at our grandson's school at *Wentworth Falls Public School* on Harmony Day. The day started with a visit to his classroom and then we were invited to a concert in the school's hall.

The hall soon became full and many people had to remain standing throughout the concert. The school principal apologised, saying that the school's *Parents and Citizens* were holding cake stalls to raise money to extend the hall. The plans have been finalised and the school hopes to commence the extensions commenced in 2020.

At around the time of our visit, I read that **Scots College is to pull down their existing library and replace it with a replica of a Scottish castle**, at a cost of \$25 million. Further investigation showed that seven private schools plan to spend a combined total of more \$365 million on new facilities and redevelopment. Here are some examples of the redevelopments. **Loretto at Kirribilli has submitted plans for a \$103.3 million** new five-storey "innovation centre", outdoor rooftop learning terraces and two "vertical connection pods".

Cranbrook plan a \$75 million a new aquatic recreation centre, a drama theatre, "teaching terraces" and a new academic and liberal arts facility. **SCEGGS at Darlinghurst's has a \$48.7 million plan for a new six-storey "multi-purpose building", possibly with new swimming facilities.**

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Retired Members Association

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Retired Members Association

April General Meeting

The March General Meeting will be held on
Thursday, 26th April 2018 at 10.15 am.

**The venue for the annual meeting is the
Financial Sector Union (FSU), Level 2,
321 Pitt Street, Sydney.**

*Members are most welcomed to attend,
especially members who may not have
attended a general meeting.
It is great opportunity to catch-up with former
workmates.*

Retired Members Association

IMPORTANT NOTICE

May 2018 General Meeting held on the Central Coast, Woy Woy Leagues Club

*A warm invitation is extended to our Central Coast and Newcastle
members to attend a Retired Members Association's
General Meeting.*

*Our Sydney members are most welcomed to attend.
This is a great opportunity for former workmates to catch-up after
the meeting over lunch and drinks.*

*Train timetables and map for the Woy Woy Leagues Club location
(5 min walk from the rail station) will be in the May Newsletter*

**Woy Woy Leagues Club
82 Blackwall Rd,
Woy Woy**

**Thursday, 24th May 2018;
Meeting starts at 10.30 am**



John York



The *Retired Members Association* is sad to inform members that John York passed away on Friday, 23rd March 2018.

John was a much-respected member of the Training School Service Section. Many of our members from the Training School Section would have known John at the training school in the 1960s.

John had been a member of the *Retired Members Association* for just over twenty years (membership number: 398).

The Association extends its deep sympathy and condolences to John's family, his former workmates in the training school establishment and friends.

Refund: Compulsory Third Party (CTP)

Some pleasant news for a change, Members will be pleased to know that due to a reform of the Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance scheme last year, the majority of New South Wales motorists are eligible for a partial refund.

The most a private motorist may receive is somewhere between \$10 and \$125. The actual amount will depend on when your green slip was renewed. If your renewal date was early in 2017, you'll get a smaller refund. If it was closer to 1 December 2017, you'll get a higher refund.

There will, of course, be a \$10 administration fee deducted and you need to apply for the refund by September of this year, otherwise the money will revert to the government.

Members are advised to check on line at <https://my.service.nsw.gov.au/MyServiceNSW/CTPRefund>, or phone 137788 (be prepared for a wait on hold) or go to your nearest motor registry (now known as Service, New South Wales). Checking this website, it seems you can only claim online between 7.00pm and 7.00am Monday to Saturday and all-day Sunday.

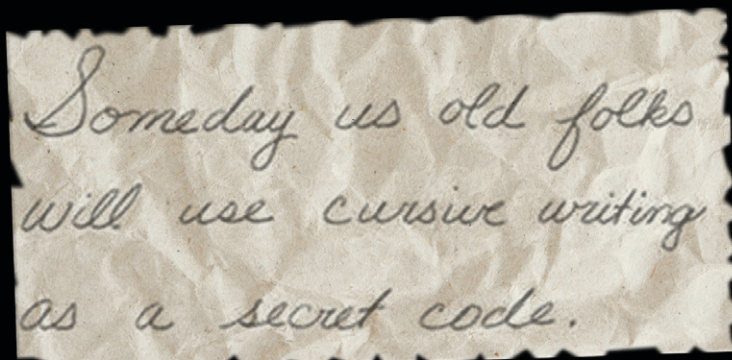
When you use online form to submit your claim, you will need to use a Service NSW account. If you do not have a account, you can create one online and immediately after make your refund claim. The refund process will require you submit your banking details and you will be asked enter proof of identity document reference such as a driver licence number. The process is estimated to take five business days.

A state-wide advertising campaign will commence in late April to ensure all motorists are aware of their entitlement to claim a CTP refund.

Muirhead's Corner



Everyday Ancient Egyptians used to understand the above.



Today, no person under 16 years of age understands the above cursive text, in a hundred years only gifted academics will be able to decipher. Some may have spent a lifetime determining the start and end of a particular letter.



A Message from the President (cont'd)

Education Funding Distribution (cont'd)

Contrast the elite private schools' capital works spending with the ABC's recent report that **the New South Wales Education Department has managed to reduce their outstanding maintenance program backlog to \$570 million.**

At the risk of being accused of "*the politics of envy*", I doubt if these facilities at the elite private schools are being financed by local P&C cake stalls. I will go further and say we should question taxpayer subsidies going to elite private schools who have the funds for the fore-mentioned expenditure items.

Governments of both political persuasions Labor and Coalition have shown a reluctance to take on vested interests when comes to elite private school funding. The Gillard government altered the Gonski model to assure funding for elite private schools. Perhaps then, Labor was mindful how perilous is this issue, remembering their 2004 election defeat in part because of their then stance on the funding of private schools.

The current government's own data shows that 150 private schools receive more funding than they are entitled to under the *School Resourcing Standard*, some at almost three times the correct level. **By comparison, there is not a single public school in New South Wales funded at its recommended level.**

Australia like other developed countries faces significant challenges in maintaining its standard of living in face of technology and globalisation. A highly educated population is key to confronting these challenges. However, we are not advancing, back in 2000, OECD's *Program for International Student Assessment* (PISA) scores comparing the performance of different countries, Australia ranked fourth for reading, sixth for maths and eighth for science. By 2012, the country ranked 13th, 19th and 16th in those respective categories.

Pete Goss, school education program director at Grattan Institute, underlines the point.

"Money has to flow to where it's needed, and Australia has been pretty uniquely bad at doing that,"

Corporate Tax

Having just mentioned education funding, it is appropriate to discuss the corporate tax issue; the reduction of the company tax rate from 30 to 25 percent. This year, the federal government has renewed their effort to have the Senate pass the legislation. However, federal government has had to shelve their plan to have tax-cut legislated in the Senate until the parliament resumes in May. Two members of the Senate crossbench together with Labor and the Greens continue to oppose the legislation.

The Business Council of Australia (BCA) has joined the government in their campaign to reduce the company tax rate. The BCA's president and ten company CEOs made a "**Commitment to the Senate**" that if the Senate passes the tax cut, the CEOs will: *commit to investing more in Australia which will lead to employing more Australians and therefore stronger wage growth as the tax cut takes effect.* The media reported the CEOs' commitment as an undertaking to boost job creation and wages. However, notice, the "commitment" is actually just a commitment to "invest more", the assumption is that job creation and wages will follow. There are no specific details in their commitment as to how much money the ten companies will invest.

This is relevant because the BCA has 132-member CEOs, of whom only ten were prepared to make the "Commitment". Of the ten CEOs who made the commitment, just five CEOs were responsible for a company that paid company tax in the last tax year, the other five companies who paid no company tax, four of their number also did not pay the tax in the year earlier.

The total company tax paid by all ten companies as a percentage of their taxable income was just 12.35 percent.

Matters became worse for the BCA's campaign when the Australian Financial Review published the results of a secret BCA internal survey of its members in which more than **80 percent** of executives said they would either use the proceeds of a tax cut to boost returns to shareholders or invest in the company, **less than one in five would hire more or offer wage rises.**

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A Message from the President (cont'd)

The BCA is a self interested organisation with a history in under-minding the conditions of wage earners, the BCA spearheaded the penalty rate reduction campaign and two of the three persons who authored the disastrous *2014 Tax Audit* were BCA members. I would find all this amusing if it was not such an important issue that the BCA would have the Australian public believe their campaign is motivated not by their own self interest instead their concern and media campaign is being done for the everyday wage earner. Let us hope when this issue is over, the BCA has wasted just their money and not deprived Australians of revenue for education, health and infrastructure.

Trip Away, Social Functions and May Day March

Well, I will come down to earth to mention that last month that John Lane announced details of our trip away in October to Moree and surrounding districts. Already, we have had a good response. However, I know that John will not rest until he has forty people on the trip if this occurs the price will drop from \$890 to \$820 per person. I would recommend you have a read of the March newsletter where you will find full details. This month's newsletter has details on how to book and pay a deposit for the trip. I am certainly looking forward to the trip.

I have received an email from Lee Walkington who is voluntary Assistant Secretary of the Communications Workers Association and a member of the *Retired Members Association* stating that **the annual May Day march will be held on Sunday 6th of May**. Retired members are invited to attend, more details are available in this newsletter.

An earlier reminder to our members on the Central Coast and Newcastle, we will have our general meeting at the **Woy Woy Leagues Club on Thursday, 24th May 2018**. Again, you will find details in this month's newsletter.

Our next general meeting is on 26th April 2018 at the Financial Sector Union (FSU), Level 2, 321 Pitt Street, Sydney. If you are a new member or simply not attended a general meeting before, I would encourage you to come along. You will be made most welcome.





Retired Members Association
Trip-away
Moree and Surrounding Districts

Bus Coach Tour:
Sunday, 14th October to Saturday, 20th October 2018



The trip away includes coach travel, accommodation, tours and meals (except during traveling to and from Moree).

* The cost is \$890 per person.

The Trip's itinerary and other details are in the March Newsletter.
You can contact John Lane *(contact details on page 2)*, if you need further information.



* There is an opportunity to reduce the cost down to \$820 per person, if our group has forty or more people.



A \$100 deposit can be made at a General Meeting or by cheque *(please make the cheque payable to the Retired Members Association)* and post to Bruce Muihead Secretary *(contact details on page 2)*, or you can make an electronic payment:
Credit Union Australia (CUA)
BSB 814-282, eSaver Account No: 10642769.



Ross Keys and Warren Morley: Thank You

Bruce Muirhead
Secretary,
Retired members Association

A MASSIVE "THANK YOU" FROM THE RING-IN (AKA WARREN MORLEY)

While 2007 was not a year that started very well for me, it was soon to become the first year of an incredibly enriching period of my life.

Thanks to the Late and Great Ralph Britten, Christine Berle and Ross Keys (what a PHONEY he has turned out to be!), I was invited to two of the Retired Members Association's social outings that year.

At the second of those, while we were having a drink or two at Davistown RSL, I was invited to become a member of the RMA. My new friends were asking me what exchange or area I had worked in. Somewhat sheepishly, I explained that I had never worked for the PMG, Telecom or Telstra. I was then asked if I had been a unionist. Indeed I had (being with the ACOA whilst working for Defence & the ATO; and the PSA with the NSW Government Printing Office & the State Super Board). Being told I was eligible under the RMA's Constitution, and before anybody could object, I handed over \$20 for my "dues". What a bargain I thought: 20 bucks a year to be a member of an organisation full of the friendliest like-minded people!

Initially I didn't believe the person who told me the \$20 was for lifetime membership. INCREDIBLE! Metaphorically, I get that \$20 back every time I meet up with the members and their wonderful partners.

To have recently been awarded "The Grand Order of The Golden Butt" has capped off ten years of great memories and true happiness. Mind you, the qualifying test wasn't easy; even President Heywood didn't seem to know the answers without referring to his notes.

To have also been elected onto the Management Committee for a third year is also an honour for me.

Thanks to all of you for your genuine camaraderie. I wish you and your loved ones many years of good health, happiness and success in all your endeavours.

{PS: I don't have a computer, but I have now managed to work out my mobile phone; the lack of a rotary dial confused me for a while. Fortunately, there are always experts on hand to help me.}

Cheers from Warren

Bruce Muirhead
Secretary,
Retired members Association

A lot has been written

About Ralph Britten

But you may not know it was he

Who invited Christine and me

To our first social do

With the lot of you

Ten years since

And I'm not going to mince

My words.

We've never felt closer to a bunch of people.

You took us in, treated us as one of you

from the kickoff (it was at the Comalco

Aluminium plant at Yennora).

My ten year membership certificate has pride
of place in my study.

From Christine and I, thank you all for your
Friendship over the years. Looking forward the
next ten – and the ten after that

Ross (Ring-in) Keys

Ross and Warren, two nervous candidates
being tested on their telecommunications
general knowledge prior to been awarded
"The Grand Order of the Golden Butt".





Royal Australian Navy Heritage Centre on Garden Island



Ferry Departures for Circular Quay are at 12.31pm, 1.29 pm, 2.05 pm and 2.29 pm. We need to leave the Island by 3 pm

Thursday, 19th April 2018

Ferry Leaves Circular Quay (Wharf 2) at 9.57 am for Garden Island (7 min trip). There is a later ferry at 10.57 am. An entry fee of \$5 per person applies.

The RAN Heritage Centre at Garden Island gives members an opportunity to explore and experience the story of the Australian Navy from colonial times to the present day within the north side of Garden Island against a backdrop of beautiful harbour views.

The Heritage Centre has over 3000 artefacts from the history of the Navy. Displays include a range of large weapon systems to sailor's personal items.

The Heritage Centre has a café where you can purchase sandwiches, tea or coffee for lunch. The Centre has asked us to advise them on numbers, it would be appreciated if you could e-mail John Lane (a-lane@bigpond.com) if you plan on coming.

May Day March Sunday, 6th May 2018

The CWU Branch will have contingent in the upcoming May Day March (Sunday, 6th May). The CWU has invited Retired Members to be part of the march under their banner.

The rally starts at 11am in Hyde Park North (access from Town Hall or St James station) and goes to Prince Alfred Park (behind Central Station) where there will be a picnic atmosphere with plenty of food stalls and free rides for the children.

The event will launch the ACTU campaign to "Change the Rules".

Unions want the right to bargain fairly. The system is broken and Unions and working people are constrained while there are few rules governing companies. Witness wage stagnation, enterprise agreements terminated unilaterally by employers and penalty rates reduced or abolished.

Retired Members Association Autumn Leaves Lunch

Springwood Bowling Club
81 Macquarie Road,
Springwood

Thursday, 17th May 2018

Meet between 12 and 12.30pm



**May Newsletter
will have train timetables & map
for Springwood**

