

AUGUST 2018

WELCOME TO YOUR AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER. I WOULD LIKE TO START MY ARTICLE THIS MONTH REPORTING ON OUR JULY GENERAL MEETING AT EMU PLAINS. THE MEETING WAS OUR THIRD YEAR AT EMU PLAINS. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR MEMBERS IN SYDNEY'S OUTER WEST AND BLUE MOUNTAINS TO ATTEND A GENERAL MEETING.

At this year's meeting at Emu Plains, we were fortunate to have Senator Doug Cameron address our meeting. Senator Doug Cameron (*please call me Doug*) is a senator whom working people can relate. He emigrated to Australia at the age of 22 in 1973. He worked first at Garden Island and then at the Liddell Power Station.

When John Lane introduced Doug to the meeting, he joked the senator that he must have done excellent job while there, for the federal government to continue to call for the Liddell Power Station to remain open. Doug responded that when he worked there in 1970s, the power station had never run at full capacity and needed constant maintenance.

After Liddell, Doug first became a Union organiser for the Hunter Valley and New England regions. He then went onto become the Assistant State Secretary of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, then National Assistant Secretary and National Secretary before being elected to the Senate in 2007. He is the current shadow minister for two portfolios *Skills, TAFE and Apprenticeships* and *Housing and Homelessness*.

Doug was particularly passionate in his criticism of the Turnbull Government's cuts to TAFE. There have been cuts of more than \$3 billion dollars from TAFE, apprenticeships and vocational education (including \$270 million in this year's budget). He mentioned that since the current government came to power, Australia

had lost 140,000 apprenticeship places.

**Welcome to your
August 2018 Newsletter**

Vince Haywood

He advised that Labor if returned to power at the next election would guarantee TAFE funding, waive upfront fees for one hundred thousand TAFE students. Further, one in ten employees on government infrastructure projects would have to be an apprenticeship position. There would be a crack down on the abuse of 457 visas and Labor would ensure jobs are first advertised in Australia before an application for 457 visa could be made.

Senator Cameron mentioned that rules governing Unions under Fair Work Act have to change to allow Unions a fairer bargaining position. Otherwise, a country that once stood for the "fair-go" would continue to have increasing inequality.

Sadly, Doug will retire at the next election, we can only hope his replacement will be as forthright in their advocacy for working Australians. The meeting moved that the Retired Members present a Certificate of Gratitude to Senator Doug Cameron.

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August General Meeting Thursday, 23rd August at 10.15 am

**The venue for the General 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

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COMMITTEE

**John McAuliffe, Trevor Anderson,
John Bryce, Allan Fairbairn, Steve Flynn,
Terry Livingstone, Col McQueen,
Paul Rewhorn, Jim Spencer, Ron Milosh,
Warren Morley, Alan Stevens.**

Notice of Motions

August General Meeting Thursday, 23rd August 2018

**The following motions will be presented
for the consideration of members at
the August 2018 General Meeting.**

Commonwealth Senior Health Card Holders to be included in the exemption groups along with Part & full Pensioners & allowance payment recipients from the proposed changes to the Tax Dividend Imputation system from Labor, so they can still claim Franking Credits as a cash refund & not just as a Tax offset.

Proposed: Paul Brown **Seconded:** Max Hackett

The *Retired Members Association* becomes a member of the "Friends of the ABC" at the membership cost of \$150 for a three-year period.

Proposed: Warren Morley **Seconded:** Paul Rewhorn



Chris Hughes and John Craig Receive OBE Award

Vince Haywood



At the July General Meeting, I had the privilege of presenting two members the Association's Over Bloody Eighty (OBE) award. The members Chris Hughes (left) and John Craig (right) are residents of the Blue Mountains.

No doubt, judging by their healthy appearance both Chris and John have benefited from the Blue Mountains environment.

The Association presents members with an OBE award when they turn eighty. We then encourage members with an OBE to aspire to our OBN (Over bloody ninety) award.

I am sure all members will join me in congratulating Chris and John on their OBE award and wish them future good health.

Retired Members Association

Tour of the Sydney Bus Museum

Wednesday, 19th September 2018

The tour of the museum starts at 10 am.

After the tour, the museum will take us on a bus to
Petersham RSL for lunch.

Cost is \$10 per Person

**25 Derbyshire Road
Leichhardt**

Note, this
function is
on a Wednesday.
Timetables and
map will be in
the September
Newsletter



James Percival Loveridge

The Association is sad to report the passing of Jim Loveridge on Saturday, 21st July 2018. A funeral service for Jim was held on Friday, 27th July 2018 at Memorial Park, Sutherland.

Jim was aged 92 years. He had been a member of the *Retired Members Association* for over nineteen years.

Many members who would have passed through the training school would no doubt remember Jim Loveridge.

The Association extends its deep sympathy and condolences to Jim's wife Pat and family members Kerry, Ron, Nancy, Ian, Jan and Rick.

I would like to add some words regarding my dear friend Jimmy Loveridge. Jim was a valued mentor to me when I began at the Alexandria Training school starting way back in 1966.

Jim had joined the PMG in 1942, and I believe worked until 1981 upon reaching 65 years of age.

Jim was the backbone of most new syllabus creations during his years as the second in-charge in Primary Training. He was best 2 OIC boss that I ever had.

Many a time we shared a drink at his favourite water hole at Oatley Pub. I was sad to hear of Jimmies' passing.

Tony Toomey



Gerard (Gerry) Mergan

The Association is sad to report the passing of Gerard (Gerry) Mergan on the morning of Friday, 27th July 2018. A funeral service for Gerry was held on Thursday, 2nd August 2018 at Lennox Head, Holy Family Church.

Gerry was a member of the *Retired Members Association* for thirteen years. Gerry had been the Internal Plant Manager for Northern Rivers District.

Gerry was a popular member and organiser of the North Coast Telstra group. The group meet at the Ballina RSL on the last Friday of every month. The group had just enjoyed a *Christmas in July* celebration.

The Association extends its deep sympathy and condolences to Gerry's family and his many former workmates and friends on the North Coast.



Kevin Francis Murphy

The Association is sad to report the passing of Kevin Murphy on Monday, 23rd July 2018. A funeral service for Kevin was held on Friday, 27th July 2018 at Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church, Chatswood.

Kevin had been a member of the *Retired Members Association* for over fourteen years. Kevin was aged 88 years.

Kevin worked in the training school and later as a Field Training Officer located at Armidale. He commenced with the Postmaster General Department as a Technician in Training in 1946.

The Association extends its deep sympathy and condolences to Kevin's wife Geraldine, family members Laurie and Kerry, Jan, Suanne and his grand and great grandchildren.



Leslie Henry Brigden

The Association is sad to report that member Les Brigden passed away on Tuesday, 17th July 2018.

A funeral service for Les was held on Monday, 23rd July 2018. A number of Retired Members attended the service.

Les was a member of the *Retired Members Association* for over eighteen years. Les was a close friend of the late Jim Hall, President of our Union (formerly known as the ATEA).

Our thoughts and sympathy are with Les' family and friends during this sad and difficult time.

The following are tributes to Les Brigden from Perc Mallard and Roger Bamber.

Leslie Henry Brigden AKA (Briggy) – commenced with the PMG in 1957 as a Technician in Training (TIT) and in his second year, Les was assigned to Penrith Telephone Exchange. I remember in my first year (1959) at Strathfield Training school and when the Instructors found out I lived at Penrith, they would ask me if I knew a Les Brigden – even as a first year TIT, Les had gained a reputation for being an outstanding technical person.

I first met Les in 1961, during my third year as a Technician in Training. I was also fortunate in getting a transfer to Penrith Exchange where confirmation of the instructors' opinion became obvious that Les (Briggy) had a special gift; while he was still in his fifth year of training, Les was a technical mainstay of the exchange. Penrith was then a multi-functional district with the traditional switching network, Long Line equipment as well as area PABX's etc. Sure, there were staff there who had been Technicians and Senior Technicians for some years, but when something technical really 'hit the fan' then 'Briggy' was the man they would call upon.

During his working life Les became the Supervising Technician in charge of the switching network at Penrith Exchange; he had oversight of the transition from *Step x Step* to the *Crossbar* exchange technology together with the massive technical growth in the Penrith region during the 1980's. Les finished his technical career as the Officer in Charge of Glenbrook exchange.

Les was not a seeker of fame, nor was he the type of person to push himself forward. But these things happened anyway.

Rest in peace my friend.

Perc Mallard Friend and colleague.



When I was a young class 2 Engineer I had the pleasure of working with Les at Penrith after a newly installed crossbar extension in 1972/73. Several memories remain of Les' Technical excellence.

I remember first walking into the crossbar after a warm greeting from Jim Hall "he's our new shiny arse Engineer" to which I said to Jim "you can go and get..." or words to that effect. Les was listening intently to the crossbar and finally blocked out some faulty equipment. He could and regularly did detect faults just by listening to the sounds. A rare talent.

The new crossbar installation was cut over without any direct circuits to the metropolitan exchanges, as a consequence the place was in severe congestion. Les identified a couple of solutions which we put into place without any authorisation. As a result, Customers could call Liverpool without any delay and most other metropolitan exchanges were also accessible. This lasted for many months until the normal processes were able to deliver circuits to the metropolitan areas. At the same time Les covered for Jim Hall on the Area exchanges when Jim was frequently absent on Union Business without any extra remuneration or reward. I have fond memories of working very closely with Les solving issues so that Customers got the Service that they paid for in spite of the failings of the formal processes of the PMG. I also enjoyed many a Schooner at the Australian Arms with Les and Jim, usually after work.

Les was one of the best Technicians that I had the pleasure of working closely with over 41.5 years. Vale old Mate

Roger Bamber



Ryde Epping District Annual Reunion

Thursday 6th September 2018
Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club,
117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde
(Willandra Room)

Technical, Lines (maintenance & install), Exchange, Area and Sales
from the Ryde and Epping Area are cordially invited to the
"Ryde Epping District Annual Reunion".
The luncheon commences from noon till 3:00 pm.



It is important to either email or phone Bob Mills, so we will have a firm idea of numbers.
Bob Mills Tel: 02 4754 1161 email: bobjomills@bigpond.com
Mark Hutchison Tel: 02 9871 4146 email: mphutchison@mail.com (Mark will be away during most
of September and October)

Mid North Coast Annual Get-together

Wednesday, 22nd August 2018

All former or current
PMG/Telecom/Telstra employees
are welcomed at our annual
get together at Port Macquarie.


We usually gather from 10 am onwards.
For any further information please contact
Peter Lygoe : Phone: (02) 6551 0500
email : petekayl@bigpond.com

**West Port Macquarie Bowling
Club in Buller Street.**

The get-together is absolutely informal, there is no business
agenda. Just come along and renew old friendships,
everyone is very welcome. Please spread the word to those
who may be interested.



Social Functions for August and September 2018



Retired Members Association Sydney Rowers Club Lunch

Thursday, 16th August 2018
Meet between 12 pm and 12.30 pm



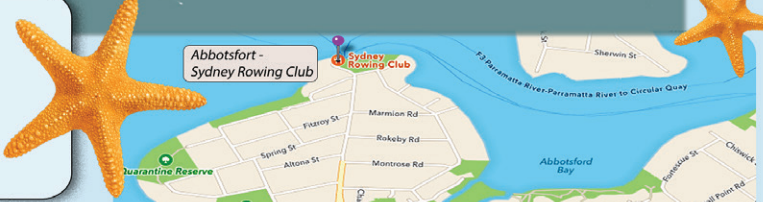
*The Sydney Rowers Club is 150 metres from the Abbotsford Wharf (613 Great North Road), Abbotsford Point.
The Sydney Rowers Club is on the Parramatta River .
Sydney Ferries service the wharf from Circular Quay. The \$2.50 concession fare for seniors and pensioners applies. The club is a very popular lunch venue for weekday lunches. We have reserved a table, therefore please e-mail or phone John Lane (0417 238 687) if you like to join us for lunch.*

Our most popular Harbourside Lunch Event returns for 2018

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Ferries from Circular Quay
Dep 11.07 am Arr 11.44 am
11.37 am 12.14 pm

Return from Abbotsford
1.57 pm, 2.27 pm 2.57 pm
(37 min trip)





Retired Members Association

Trip-away

Moree and Surrounding Districts

Bus Coach Tour: 6 Days

14th October (Sunday) to 20th October 2018

The cost of the trip is \$ 890 per person. The cost includes coach travel, motel accommodation and all meals (the exception is for meals while travelling to and from Moree).

The trip's itinerary can be found in the March 2018 newsletter

We are just short by just two people to obtain a group concession, reducing the price to \$ 820 person. If you would like to join us on the trip, please call or email John Lane (contact details are on page 2 of this month's newsletter).



A Message from the President *(cont'd)*

Thanks, have to John Lane for organising Senator Cameron's attendance at our meeting.



Drought Relief

Remember, a few years ago, the federal government and the NSW State Government were warning of a looming debt crisis. The Federal government called it a budget emergency. There were calls to broaden the GST to include food and a plan introduce a State income tax.

Now, it seems the NSW and federal governments are awash with money. The Berejiklian government plans to start next year a rebuild two football stadiums. One the stadium at Homebush is just over twenty years old. As well, the State Government is to spend \$ 0.5 million dollars as prize money for a greyhound race. When I first heard of the \$2.5 billion dollars for stadium rebuilds, I thought this is great news, given the money the government is able to spend, there should be no more concern about school or hospital funding. Now, the reality is beginning to set-in for the NSW government. The drought is intensifying across the State. Farmers and people in regions need urgent relief. Farmer representative groups have described State government current financial offers of help as tokenism.

The Berejiklian government is now beginning to realise farmers will need further help. I hope farmers and regional areas affected by drought get a timely and the correct level of government assistance. The lesson for State and federal governments, bumper revenues do not last forever. They also need to think before they play politics around the issue of government debt.

National Anti-Corruption Commission

I have mentioned in the past, the need for a Federal ICAC. There has been renewed public calls for a federal anti-corruption agency. A Sydney Morning Herald article by no less a person than a former Liberal opposition leader Dr John Hewson has called upon Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to introduce a national anti-corruption and integrity commission.

Dr Hewson highlighted a number of issues that are now in the headlines.

The award of \$444 million dollar grant to a little-known group, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. This group can use 10 percent of this grant (\$40m) to seek donations from private backers to fund reef repair. All this was done without a public tender process.

Michaelia Cash's office tip-offs about AWU raids is now believed to be a crime. The Federal Police have referred the matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions for a legal opinion.

The prosecutions against a former Australian spy and his lawyer for going public that our country bugged the offices of East Timor government. The purpose was to gain an advantage during negotiations over gas resources bordering East Timor and Australia.

The government for not acting sooner on the shonky VET FEE-HELP scheme. Shonky colleges have costed taxpayers billions of dollars? While our TAFE colleges collapse.

Finally, Dr Hewson mentioned the frequent public vilification by senior public officials of charities, community groups and democratic institutions who hold the government to account.

Our next general meeting is on Thursday, 23rd August 2018. We are back at the FSU for the remainder of the year.

I would like to end by wishing Happy Birthday to Peter Lygoe who turns 80 years on the 18th of this month.

Peter is popular member on Mid North Coast. A wonderful individual and great bloke. I sure all members particularly his friends and workmates on the mid north coast will join me in wishing Peter a Happy Birthday.

Bye for now,
Vince



Social Function News

John Lane

This month, I have a brief report on up-coming social function news. Our August function is a lunch at the Sydney Rowers Club. Warren Morley has secured the dining room area for us at the club. The dining room has excellent views of harbour surrounding the club. The preferred method most members use to travel to the club is via a rivercat ferry. On the notice for this function, you will find ferry times from Circular Quay. The food is excellent and based on current weather trends we look like have a warm and sunny day. I hope to see you there.

In September we have something different, a tour of the Sydney Bus Museum. Please note, this tour is on Wednesday, 19th September 2018 and starts at 10 am. Next month, we have will have bus timetables from Railway Square to the museum. After the tour, we take a bus ride to the Petersham RSL for lunch. Lunches at the club are inexpensive and the food quality is excellent.

You will also see an adjacent notice about our trip-away to Moree. While we have had an excellent response this year, unfortunately there was a few cancellations, we are just short of forty, the number we need to obtain a \$70 group discount. So, if you have been sitting on the fence, now is the time to act. Give me call or email (my contact details are on page 2 of the newsletter). I am sure you will have an enjoyable experience.

For our members on the mid-north coast, Peter Lygoe has arranged a get-together on Wednesday, 22nd August at the West Port Macquarie Club. Why not come along and join Peter and other PMG/Telecom/Telstra former workmates. You will find full details in this month's newsletter.