

WELCOME TO THE RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION'S MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER. FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT ON OUR 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM). THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) HAS TWO ESSENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS. THE PRESENTATION OF THE TREASURERS REPORT AND THE ELECTION OF THE ASSOCIATION'S NEW EXECUTIVE AND A COMMITTEE FOR 2019.

Treasurer Bob Hamblion presented the Financial Statement for 2018. Financially, our Association is in sound shape. We continue to manage our finances in a low-interest environment which may deteriorate further in 2019. A challenge as the Association relies on dividends to meet our operating expenses

I thank Bob for his dedicated work in the past year. Bob processes the incoming receipts for the annual trip away. Then there are the newsletter subscriptions, postage and print costs for members who receive their newsletter via post. I must not forget to thank our auditor, Allan Fairbairn for his hard work reviewing the financial statement. A reminder that a copy of the 2018 financial report is in the February newsletter.

The next agenda item was the election of the executive and committee for 2019. John Loudon was elected as the Returning Officer and did his usual efficient job of running the election of officers for 2019. My thanks to both the outgoing and incoming executive and committee. The election results for 2019 are shown on page 2 of the newsletter.

Bruce Muirhead: Life Membership Award

Following the closure of the annual meeting, we commenced our February General Meeting. I was pleased to move a motion that Secretary, Bruce Muirhead be made a Life Member. Bob Hamblion seconded and spoke to the motion which was carried unanimously.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Vince Haywood

As I reminded the meeting; Bruce took up the Secretary's position five years ago. When we were looking for a replacement for Peter Hack who had moved to Temora. Bruce was the then Assistant Secretary. He willingly took on the role.

Bruce has since taken the added workload of archiving all the *Retired Members Association's* records. The records go back to the Association's formation in 1980; a big job that will preserve our history.

**March
2019**

PASSING OF MEMBERS

Sadly, over the break and in recent weeks, the Association lost many members. There was the passing of Peter Perrin, Ron Denmeade, Ken Curll, Ron Brown, Kevin Cullen and Greg Doepell. At the general meeting, members made personal tributes to all of these former members. A minute's silence was held in their honour. On behalf of all members, I wish to extend our sincere sympathy and condolences to their family members. There are tributes to all these members in this month's newsletter.

The Case for a Federal Anti-Corruption Commission

Opinion polls continue to show that our politicians are held in very low regard. Politicians appear to serve their own personal interests rather than the electorate at large. People rightfully question the access that lobbyists have to politicians. The flow of monetary donations and gifts; how this largesse plays out in the development of government decisions. We often see contracts granted bypassing the public tender process. When there is an open tender; details such as the business case and the terms and conditions for the decision to award a contract go undisclosed using the well worn "Commercial in Confidence" excuse.

Continued on Page 3



Retired Members Association

**The March General Meeting
will be held on:**

**Thursday, 28th March 2019
at 10.15 am.**

Notice Of Motion

*The RMA make a donation of
\$250 to Alzheimer's Australia.*

Moved: *John Lane* **Seconded:** *Bob Hamblion*

Meeting Venue:
Financial Sector Union (FSU)
Level 2, 321 Pitt Street,
Sydney

**Retired Members Association
Office Bearers**

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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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

Take the recent case of *Finance Minister, Senator Corman* and *HelloWorld*; a company that makes large donations to the senator's own political party. The Senator books his personal air travel directly with the CEO of *HelloWorld*. It is over twelve months before the Senator is made aware that his credit card was not billed for his personal airfares. It took a newspaper article to inform the senator of this. I would love to be in the financial position of not noticing or budgeting for a \$3000-dollar item pending on my credit card. It gets worse for the Senator when we learn the company has been lobbying for government business. The company asked *Ambassador Hockey*, a million dollar shareholder in *HelloWorld* to arrange a meeting in Australia's embassy in Washington without the ambassador prior declaration of his financial interest in *HelloWorld*.

The current Federal Government has just appointed nine Liberal-linked former MPs and staffers to the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal*; a tribunal that reviews the government's administrative decisions. Members in these positions are paid up to \$244,529 a year and up to \$384,250 for senior members.

I could have given you more recent examples where corrupt could flourish or exist. We need to take the investigation of possible corrupt activities within the government and the higher levels of the public service away from our politicians. Just for the record, I am talking about all political parties.

At some State government levels, the problem of possible corruption through gifts and other inducements has been overcome to some extent by independent anti-corruption commissions such as **ICAC** (*Independent Commission Against Corruption*) in New South Wales. The Federal Government has resisted attempts to establish a federal anti-corruption commission. However, their resistance is now coming under pressure by both the federal opposition and independents in federal parliament.

The Coalition is now showing belated and half-hearted responses to calls for a *federal anti-corruption commission*. Their proposals for an *anti-corruption commission* seem to be that of a toothless tiger; their proposed commission that

would have no power to conduct public hearings except through its law enforcement division and no ability to make findings of corruption public in the public sector division. The proposed federal government's model has been slammed by retired judges and the legal profession.

This is a far more limited jurisdiction compared to its equivalent State Government counterparts, such as ICAC in New South Wales, which can conduct public hearings and make findings of corruption in the public sector.

The current federal government while in opposition voiced strong opposition to the Gillard Government's establishment of a *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*. The Coalition was dragged kicking and screaming into the *Banking Royal Commission*. **Let us hope that anti-corruption commission supporters' calls for an effective and transparent federal anti-corruption commission prevail.**

Now before I say goodbye for this month, let me tell you bit more about this month's newsletter. John Lane has prepared a calendar for the social functions we will have in 2019. I know John is still hard at work finalising more functions; watch out for these in a future newsletter. The first social function for the year is lunch at the Sydney Rowers Club on Thursday, 21st March (*full details are in this newsletter*).

I mentioned before we have lost members over the Christmas and New Year period, this newsletter tributes for all these members.

Finally, members who receive their newsletter via post will see a reminder of their subscription. **We have kept the cost of \$10 per year despite the rising cost of postage and printing. If you have recently got an email address, please let us know.** I assure the newsletter is much better in colour. Regardless of how you receive the newsletter, we are pleased to have you as readers.

Bye for now,

Vince

Retired Members Association

The May General Meeting will be held on the Central Coast at the Woy Woy Leagues Club

More details including Train timetables will be in the April 2019 Newsletter

**Thursday, 23rd May 2019;
Meeting starts at 10.30 am**

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

REMINDER



SINCE MY PREVIOUS SOCIAL FUNCTION NEWS UPDATE IN THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER, I HAVE MANAGED TO FINALISE THE TRIP-AWAY DETAILS WITH THE LAKE JINDABYNE HOTEL. THE HOTEL WHERE WE STAY IS ALSO THE ORGANISER FOR THE "LIFE OF RILEY" TOUR OF THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS.

You will find a full page spread in this month's newsletter, the spread has full details of the trip-away such as dates, cost, itinerary and inclusions. There is also information as to the terms and conditions mainly as they apply to deposits. Therefore, I will not go into more detail here.

Already, I have had over twenty members who indicate they plan to go on the tour. *If you wish to come along or have questions, please email, text or call me (my contact details are on page 2).* **I am confident that work on Snowy Mountains Hydro 2 will disrupt our tour.**

You will also see in this month's newsletter details for some of the planned social functions for 2019. I am still in the process of arranging more functions and guest speakers for our general meetings. As soon as I can confirm these functions and speakers; I will update you. Please watch this space in future newsletters.

For members who receive their newsletter via post, I advised that our first social function would be at the *Mosman Rowers Club*. However, when I tried to make the booking, I discovered the club is undergoing renovations and will remain closed until the renovations are complete. **Therefore, we have had to move our first social function lunch on Sydney Harbour to the Sydney Rowers Club at Abbotsfort.** The *Sydney Rowers* has proved to be very popular among members, therefore I would urge you to join us. You will find details (next page) including ferry timetable in this month's newsletter. We still plan to have lunch at the *Mosman Rowers Club* later this year.

Upcoming Social Events



John Lane

RAY REDDEN: RECEIVES OBE AWARD

Bob Hamblion



The *Retired Members Association* is pleased to announce that Ray Redden has received the Association's **OBE (Over Bloody Eighty)** Award.

I had the pleasure and honour of presenting our award to Ray on Saturday, 12th January 2019 at his *Bardwell Valley Golf Club*. The Association may have inadvertently embarrassed Ray by giving him an award for attaining eighty years at his local golf club. Fellow members had been under the impression that Ray was seventy-five. Looking at the adjacent photo of Ray, we can understand why this was the case.

Ray worked in the PMG/Telecom/Telstra as an instructor and then went onto to work in the Newtown area. After retirement from Telstra, Ray worked as a driver on the Sydney Monorail. Ray played Rugby League for the Newtown Club.

I am sure members will join me in congratulating Ray on receiving his OBE (*Over Bloody Eighty*) Award.





RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

Sydney Rowers Club: Lunch

Thursday, 21st March 2019

Lunch commences about 12 pm

The Sydney Rowers Club is on the Parramatta River. There is a Sydney Ferry service from Circular Quay to the club. When you arrive at the Abbotsfort Wharf, The Sydney Rowers Club is just 150 metres from the wharf (613 Great North Road, Abbotsfort Point).

The ferry service uses the Opal Card and the concession fare for seniors and pensioners applies. The club is a very popular weekday lunch venue. We have reserved a table, therefore please e-mail or phone John Lane (0417 238 687) if you like to join us for lunch.



<i>Ferries from Circular Quay</i>		<i>Return from Abbotsfort</i>
<i>Dep 11.07 am</i>	<i>Arr 11.44am</i>	<i>1.57 pm, 2.27 pm & 2.57 pm</i>
<i>11.37 am</i>	<i>Arr 12.14 pm</i>	<i>(37 min trip)</i>

2019 SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

March
Thursday
21

Lunch at the Sydney Rowers Club

Our lunch at the Sydney Rowers Club starts the trilogy of our harbourside dining for 2019. For our members coming by train, there is a 30 minute Rivercat service from Circular Quay to Abbotsfort. The club is just 100m from the wharf.

Starts around 12 noon (see this months notice)

MAY
Thursday
16

Autumn Falls Lunch at the Springwood Sports Club

The Autumn Falls lunch has a long tradition for the Retired Members Association. This lunch gives our members in west of Sydney and Blue Mountains to catchup over drinks and a meal. For Sydney members there is the fast train service from Central Station and along the rail line to Springwood Station. The venue is the Springwood Sports Club.

The April Newsletter will have a reminder along with train timetable information.

AUGUST
Thursday
15

Lunch at the Mosman Rowers Club

This popular lunch will be held in early Spring at the Mosman Rowers Club situated on the Sydney Harbour foreshore and just a short walk to and from Ferry Services.

JUNE
Thursday
20

Lunch at the Manly 16ft Sailing Club

This lunch was very popular last year. We had at the last minute to book extra tables. The day starts with ferry trip from Circular Quay to Manly.

Starts around 12 noon

OUR TRIP AWAY TO JINDABYNE IS IN NOVEMBER
See full details in this month's Newsletter

Additional Social Functions and News

There are other social functions being planned for this year and will be announced in future newsletter issues. The Retired Members will be having its Christmas Party lunch on Thursday, 21st November 2019 at the Petersham RSL. The Association will be having its May and July monthly general meetings at Woy Woy and Emu Plains respectively. Like all general meetings, they will be held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Meeting notices will be published at least a month prior in the newsletter.



Retired Members Association

2019 Annual Trip Away 10th to 16th November 2019

Taking
Bookings
Now

Day One and Six

Sunday - Travel from Sydney to Jindabyne

Saturday - Return travel from Jindabyne to Sydney

Day Two

Travel to Thredbo, experience a chair lift ride or walk around the village.

Travel to Bullocks Flat to look at the Skitube Alpine Railway.

Scenic drive through the mountains via Smiggin Holes and Perisher. After lunch at Charlotte Pass, experience views of Mt Kosciuszko.

Day Three

Begins with a visit to the Snowy Hydro System. You will see the historical side and the fundamentals of how the systems works.

Adaminaby, Shannons Flat, Eucumbene Dam wall and the the Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre.

Day Four

A day to take in the local attractions around Jindabyne.

Snowy Region Visitor Centre
Gaden Trout Hatchery
Wildbrumby Distillery

Day Five

Take in the historical sites around the area. Visit historical sites at Dalgety, Bombaka, Burnima Homestead, Nimmitabel and Cooma Goal.

The Life Of Riley Tour of the Snowy Mountains

SIX DAYS / FIVE NIGHTS
\$ 745

**Stay at the Lake Jindabyne Hotel
on the foreshore of the
Lake Jindabyne.**

**Includes Return Bus Travel between
Sydney and Jindabyne, All Meals,
Accommodation, Tours and their
entry fees**

More Information

I am now taking bookings for trip. The hotel will require a deposit of \$50 per person.

All payments made for Life of Riley tours are fully refundable to the day of departure.

All lunches are provided as part of our tour which are usually a picnic/packed lunch, ie. sandwiches, fruit etc

All the hotel rooms are configured with a queen and/or a single or bunk bed.

There is no single supplement for single travellers.



Ron Brown

The *Retired Members Association* is sad to report that Ron Brown passed away on the 2nd of November 2018. A funeral service was held for Ron on the 14th November 2018 at Rookwood Crematorium's West Chapel.

Ron was aged 85 and had been a member of the *Retired Members Association* for over twenty years.

Ron joined the PMG as a Technician in Training in 1949. Ron worked at the Overseas Radio Terminal located within the Sydney GPO. Ron was responsible for the maintenance of the "Speaking Clock" (known as George). There was an era that when a person needed to set their watch accurately; their go-to source was the Speaking Clock.

Later the "Speaking Clock" was added to by expanding range of recorded announcements services, i.e. weather, news and stock exchanges updates to name just a few. This expansion led to the formation of the Recorded Announcement Service Centre (RASC) located in the City South Exchange building. Ron was the RASC's manager.

Ron retired as a PTT02 in February 1991.

The *Retired Members Association* extends its sincere sympathy and condolences to Ron's wife Jill, Paul Brown nephew and fellow RMA member, other family members and his many workmates and friends.



Greg Doepel

The *Retired Members Association* is sad to belatedly report that Greg Doepel passed away on Monday, 8th October 2018. A funeral service for Greg was held at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, Gloucester on Friday, 12th October 2018.

Greg was aged 85 years.

Greg had been a member of the *Retired Members Association* since November 2014. Greg joined the PMG in 1950 as a technician in Training. Greg worked most of his career around the Quirindi area. He last worked at Gunnedah Customer Service.

Outside of work, Greg authored and published articles for the Maitland Newcastle Catholic News.

The *Retired Members Association* extends its sincere sympathy and condolences to Greg's wife Barbara, his children and grandchildren and his many friends.



Ken Curll

The *Retired Members Association* is sad to report that Ken Curll passed away on the 26th December 2018. A funeral service for Ken was on Thursday, 3rd January 2019 at the Magnolia Chapel, Macquarie Park.

Ken was 76 years and had been a member of our Association for close on twenty years.

Ken commenced his career with the PMG in 1959, as a Technician in Training. He worked on Metropolitan Exchange Installation for the majority of his career.

The Association extends its sincere sympathy and condolences to Ken's wife, Marilyn and daughters Janine and Katrina.



Ron Denmeade

The *Retired Members Association* is sad to report that Ron Denmeade passed away on the 16th December 2018.

On the 24th December 2018, there was a Funeral Mass for Ron in the Mary Mother of Mercy Chapel at the Rookwood Catholic Crematorium.

Ron was 81 years of age and was a member of the *Retired Members Association* for over twenty-one years.

Ron joined the PMG as a Technician in Training in 1953. Ron worked in the Redfern district for most of his career. He served as the Second-in-Charge at Redfern Exchange for many years, a significant amount of time as the Officer-in-Charge (OIC). Later Ron became the OIC of the Redfern DSC (District Support Centre). He finished his career as part of the ARE11 support group.

In later years Ron remained in constant contact with his former Redfern workmates over regular lunches. His former workmates include Bruce Coxall and John Lane. Bruce recalls that Ron loved nothing more than finding the cause for the most obscure and intermittent exchange faults. He always discovered the reason for the fault and loved to tell everyone how he discovered it.

The *Retired Members Association* extends its sincere sympathy and condolences to Ron's wife Marie, sons Craig and Paul, daughters in law Wendy and Carol, his grandchildren and many workmates and friends.



Kevin Phillip Cullen



The *Retired Members Association* is sad to inform members that Kevin Cullen passed away on Thursday 14th February 2019. Kevin's funeral service was at Our Lady of the Sea Catholic Church, Narooma on Friday, 22nd February 2019.

Kevin was aged 70 years.

Kevin commenced with the PMG in 1965 as a Technician in Training. Kevin moved to the west of New South Wales to complete his training. He was promoted to Yass from Cowra during the 1980s and held various positions in maintenance organisations.

Kevin transitioned from a Government enterprise (PMG) to Government Commission (Telecom) and finally a public transitioning to a privately-owned

company (Telstra).

During the latter part of his career, Kevin had to adapt and keep pace with the constant organisation changes taking place in Telstra. As a result, he filled many management roles and positions.

Kevin accepted redundancy while with Mobiles in mid-2008.

The Association extends its sincere sympathy and condolences to Kevin's wife Marion, his daughter Amanda, son-in-law Steve, grandchildren Lachlan and Danae and former workmates and friends.

The Association would like to thank and acknowledge member Bob Speer's assistance with the above tribute.

O N SATURDAY, 12TH JANUARY 2019, THE 1959 TECHNICIANS IN TRAINING HELD THEIR 60TH YEAR REUNION AT THE PETERSHAM RSL. IT WAS SIXTY YEARS TO THE DATE THAT THESE YOUNG TRAINEES COMMENCED THEIR TRAINING WITH THE PMG.

1958 TECHNICIAN IN TRAINING - 60 YEAR REUNION

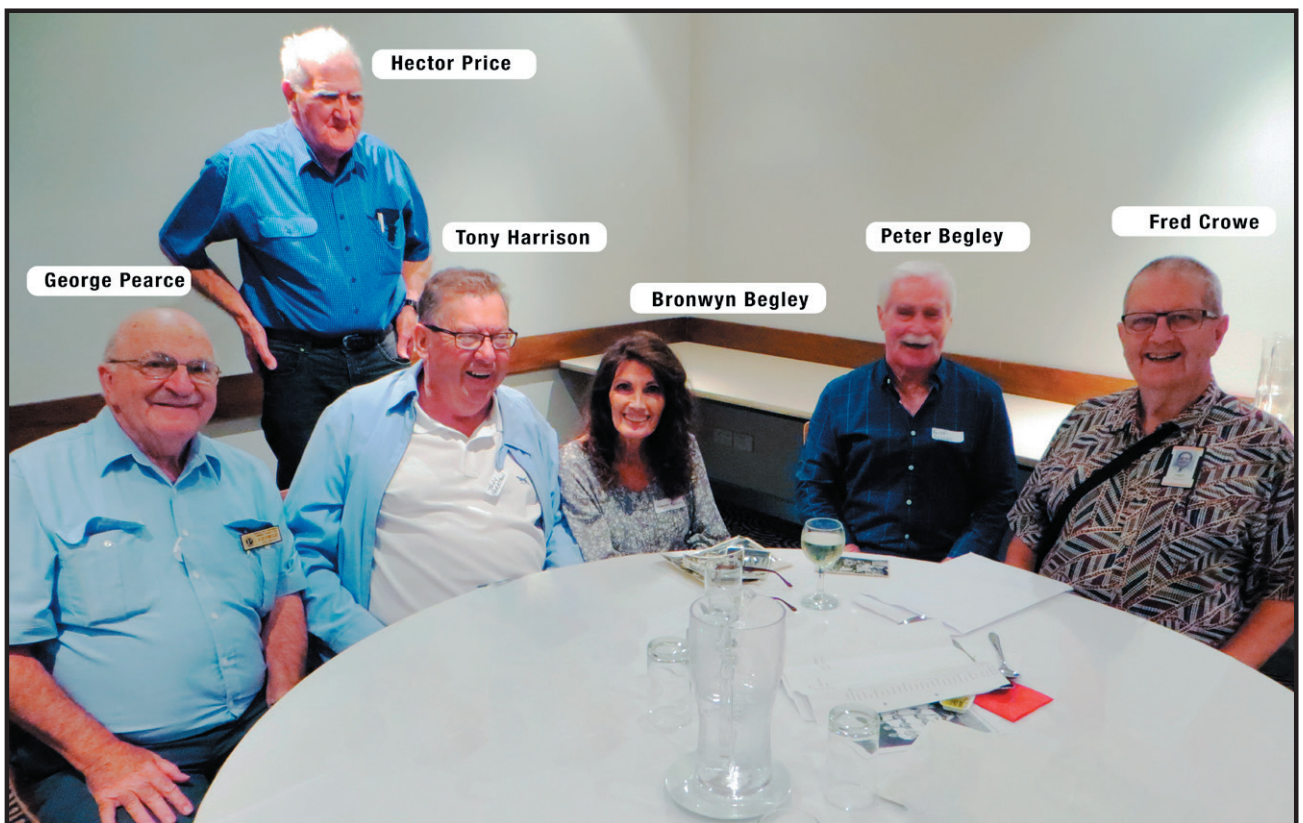
GEORGE PEARCE

For years, Ian O'Reilly had organised the 1959-year reunions until his sad passing on January 2016. With the sixty-year reunion looming, Peter Begley aided by his wife Bronwyn decided to arrange the reunion. Peter and Bronwyn received help from George Pearce and Fred Crowe.

Seventy people, trainees and partners attended the celebration. They came from all parts of the State to participate. A good time was had by all. Many brought photographs to the celebration, bringing back many happy memories.

A moment of reflection was observed for Ian O'Reilly and those Officers that had passed away.

Many thanks to Petersham RSL for hosting and helping with our 1959 reunion celebration.





JOYCE OVERTON: OBN AWARD

Vince Haywood



I had a distinct pleasure and the honour of presenting **Joyce Overton** with the *Retired Members Association's* OBN Award (*Over Bloody Ninety*). I made the award presentation during our Christmas Party at the *Petersham RSL* on the 28th November 2018.

Joyce and husband *Adrian* who sadly passed away in December 2012 were committed members of the *Retired Members Association*. Adrian regularly attended our general meetings, and Joyce accompanied Adrian at many of our social functions and in particular our annual trips away. In fact, Joyce continued to join us on our yearly trips away until 2016. However, Joyce understandably began to find the rigours of travel difficult.

While Joyce has had some recent medical problems, the adjacent photo shows Joyce in good health. Joyce still does community work for her local hospital. It was great to have Joyce at the Christmas Party and our recent lunch at the Sydney Rowers Club.

I am sure members will join me in congratulating Joyce on her OBN award. The award honours Joyce not just for her attainment of ninety years but also for the wonderful company she has been over the years.



PETER LYGOE: RECEIVES OBE AWARD

Paul Rewhorn



Peter and Kay Lygoe

The *Retired Members Association* is pleased to announce that **Peter Lygoe** has received the Association's **OBE** (*Over Bloody Eighty*) Award. Peter received the OBE Award at a dinner group that included his wife Kay together with friends and workmates.

Peter became eighty in August of last year. Peter is a 1956 trainee and has been a member of the *Retired Members Association* for close on sixteen years.

Members, in particular, those on the mid-north coast may know that each year Peter organises a reunion and get-together in August for current and former employees of PMG/Telecom/Telstra who worked or now live on the mid-north coast. Peter promotes the gathering to give people the opportunity to renew old friendships.

The main reason the *Retired Members Association* exists is to allow friendships formed during our working lives to continue to thrive well into retirement. We thank Peter and others on the mid-north coast for fostering this spirit. I am sure members will join me in congratulating Peter on receiving his OBE award. Now Peter, onward to receiving your OBN (*Over Bloody Ninety*) Award.



Peter with work mates (left to right)
Grahame Ellis, John Parsons, Warren Blanch, Shaun Higgins



ONE LIFE, MANY STORIES

Barry Robinson

This month, the newsletter introduces Barry Robinson, a new contributor who has a story to tell about his experiences working in the PMG, Telecom and Telstra. Barry would be well known to members of the Retired Members Association. Barry regularly attends our monthly general meetings.

I am confident that members will enjoy Barry's recount of his time in the PMG, Telecom and Telstra. It will remind members of what it was like to work during the 1960s through to 1980s. In hindsight, a great time to work in telecommunications; lifetime friendships were formed and remain today.

We built and maintained an excellent communications network without relying on personal development plans. While OICs may have been prepared to you a bit of slack, if your work performance displeased them; you were told in no uncertain terms to change your ways.

This month, we have two stories from Barry's past. Over future newsletter issues, we will return to Barry's stories, not necessarily in chronological order. I assure you, they only get better.

Enjoy

Starting Work in 1957

In the mid 1950's, I was a delivery boy for the local grocery store. In those days there were grocery stores in every suburb, in fact, there were three within two blocks of mum and dad's home. The one I worked for was owned by Mrs Livsey who had a daughter who was the best looker in Croydon Park.

The last year of school had us applying for jobs with the **Post Master General's Department (PMG)** and the Railway. We had to sit for entrance exams to be selected for a position. I passed both exams but chose the PMG Department which I think was the better choice. I always believed it was better to work for a company that made a profit. The PMG made a profit while the railways made a loss, as they still do today.

Six hundred and fifty of us passed the PMG exam. I was in the top 200 out of the 650, not bad for a Croydon Park Junior Technical School leaver.

I commenced work over Christmas 1957 as an assistant technician at Ashfield Telephone Exchange which was in the Post Office building in *Hercules Street*. It has recently been decommissioned. I then commenced my Technician in Training course at the *PMG Training College* in Albert Road, Strathfield opposite Strathfield Girls High School. I was with half of the 650 *Technician in Training* intake, the remainder went to the Alexandria Training School.

Training School - 1958

The first year of training was full time; the subjects taught included soldering, identifying telephone cable wire colours, wiring telephones, electrical theory, and once again metal work, including drilling, tapping and filing. The same as I had the year before at school. I showed the guys in the class the easiest way to file a piece of metal flat. Place the file in the vice and rub the metal along the length of your file. It worked perfectly unless the instructor caught you at it.

1958 was a great year meeting new friends from all over NSW, *Bob Cantwell* was from Cobar, *Len Lamont* from Leeton, *Gary Alcorn* from Murwillumbah and *Don Hay* from Griffith, plus many more.

I have kept in contact with many of the *Technicians in Training* that I met in 1958. One is *Bob Cantwell* from Cobar. I later became best man at his wedding and I have kept in contact ever since. Bob passed away in 2014. *Len Lamont* from Leeton was another of the 1958 *Technicians in Training*. Len also asked me to be best man at his wedding.

We have our reunions every five years with all the guys who commenced training in 1958. The next one at the time of writing will be held at Port Macquarie in May 2018, our 60-year reunion. We have been getting near ninety plus wives at each function. The guys who live near Sydney have a get together each year close to our actual commencement date (13th January) at the *Catholic Club* in the city.

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**ONE LIFE, MANY STORIES** CONT'D**My Pushbike**

I used to ride my pushbike to work at Strathfield and during Easter, that year *Bob (Arab) Young* and myself rode our bikes from Sydney to the *Jenolan Caves* complete with camping gear and food. Going down Mount Victoria, I thought that I was not going to make the tight right turn at the bottom, my front wheel was about 50mm off the gravel, I don't know how fast I was going and the brakes were not doing much to slow me down.

On the way back about halfway up the mountain from the caves, we stopped for a rest. It is worth noting that our bikes had no gears just a fixed wheel (a 52-tooth chain gear and a 14-tooth sprocket). A flat top truck was coming up the hill and offered us a lift back to our camp that we had set up at the Cox's River.

The next day we rode back home after crossing the Blue Mountains again, even though we had to walk up Mount Victoria.

Each afternoon riding home from the Training School via Albert Road, we had to stop at Homebush Road for the traffic and then it was a drag race down to the station. I was always in front of the bunch going down the hill. On one occasion I pulled into the curb



to give *Col Phillips* a double to the station.

Unbeknown to me, *Bob Cantwell* was coming up on my inside and collected me. The

impact caused my front wheel to collapse, causing Bob and myself, together with the two bikes to fly through the air and land in a pile of gravel. This did not do the body and bikes much good. A chemist at Strathfield patched us up, Dad came in the car to collect us. Later that day, I straightened up the rim and re-spoke the wheel so that I could ride to work the next day.

ABC Studios and Transmitters

Work at York Exchange was becoming boring, an opportunity came along to transfer to the Radio/Television Section. Len and I finished our training course in telephony in 1961 and we went back to Annandale in 1962 to complete the Radio/Television course with twenty-two other trainees.

In 1962 during our Radio/Television training, I was sent to the ABC broadcast studios up at Kings Cross. At this time, the ABC studios and transmitters were installed and maintained by the PMG Radio technicians. During

the year we were given the opportunity to transfer permanently to the ABC Studios, when the ABC and PMG separated; I elected to stay with the PMG.

I also spent time at the ABC's broadcast transmitter near Liverpool. One of my main duties was to replace the navigation lights atop of the 750-foot tall mast. It had a steel ladder up to the top and was fed by 2 x 50 kw (kilowatts) AM transmitters, so when I was standing on the top of the mast, my body was also transmitting. I received RF burns to the back of my hands when I brushed against the top of the mast. Getting on and off the mast was achieved by detuning the two transmitters to 10 kws, placing a wooden ladder against the mast and grabbing the mast very quickly. Getting off was achieved by holding the mast tightly, stepping onto the ladder and the quick release of my hand, even then a considerable arc would jump from the mast to your hand in the process. On another occasion, I had to climb the *ABC Channel 2's* 500 feet television tower at Gore Hill in Sydney to repair the emergency phone, as the radio technicians had no telephony experience.

Getting off was achieved by holding the mast tightly, stepping onto the ladder and the quick release of my hand, even then a considerable arc would jump from the mast to your hand