



NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2023



Vince Haywood Awarded OBE

At the May General Meeting, there was the opportunity to present Vince Haywood with our Association's OBE (Over Bloody Eighty) award. Vince had just celebrated his eighth birthday a week earlier.

Our current President, John Lane, had the privilege of presenting the OBE award to Vince. John and Vince have known each other for nearly fifty years, dating back to when they became involved with our Union. They both established sub-branches for their respective work locations. Vince founded the Burwood Sub-branch and John Lane the PABX Sub-branch.

Both were very active and led the opposition among the rank and file to prevent privatisation. Customer installation and maintenance were the initial targets for privatisation from overseas telcos and within elements of Telecom management. Their commitment held off privatisation far longer than any observer of privatisation would have predicted.

Vince remained involved with the Union, the Australian Telecommunications Employees Association (ATEA), becoming Vice President.

After retirement, Vince joined the retired members, today known as the Retired Telecommunications Employees Association (RTEA). Vince became our Association's longest-term President. During his time as President, our Association has continued to prosper and grow – not an easy feat given the age demographic of our Association..





Woy Woy May General Meeting

The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association had its May General's Meeting at Woy Woy. The RTEA has held its May General at Woy Woy for many years. Our members from Newcastle and on the Central Coast have shown their support by turning out in large numbers, and this year was no exception. We thank our members for their continued support. Also, we thank members who took the time to travel from Sydney to attend. Also, thank you to the members who joined the meeting via Zoom.

A special mention goes to two members, Peter Clark and John Craig, who live in the Blue Mountains. They attended the Woy Woy General Meeting, despite what must have been a long travel time from the Mountains to Woy Woy.

Member Mary Kovac has donated bottles of scotch to RTEA to hold raffles to raise funds for the Alzheimer Foundation. We are pleased to announce that local member Laurie Fenton won the bottle of scotch.

This year, we held our meeting at the Woy Woy Hotel for the first time. The staff were tremendously helpful, particularly with arranging tables and chairs for the meeting. After the meeting, members had lunch and gave good feedback on the food quality.



Alan Bassman presenting raffle prize (a bottle of scotch) to Laurie Fenton. Laurie is with former technical instructor Barry Robinson and John McAuliffe

RETIRIED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION Office Bearers

PRESIDENT

John Lane
0417 238 687
a-lane
@bigpond.com

WELFARE OFFICER

Peter Hack
0408 969 530
hackysnr
@bigpond.net.au

SECRETARY

Bruce Muirhead
02 9639 0990
muirhead
@bigpond.com
22 Cameron Avenue
Baulkham Hills, 2153

VICE PRESIDENT

Colin McQueen
0429 151 209
colin.mcqueen
@bigpond.com

TREASURER

Alan Bassman
alanbassman53
@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Bruce Coxall
WEBSITE
0418 414 658
02 9597 2224
webadmin
@cwuretired.org

SECRETARY

Bruce Noake
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
0409 332 464
bnoake
@bigpond.net.au

EDITOR

Paul Rewhorn
0418 626 625
pdrewhorn
@me.com

Committee

Trevor Anderson, John Bryce, Allan Fairbairn, Steve Flynn, Bob Hamblion, Vince Haywood, Terry Livingstone, John McAuliffe, Arthur McCarroll, Paul Rewhorn, Barry Robinson, Ron Milosh, Warren Morley.



RETIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2023 GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY - 22ND JUNE

The June 2023 General Meeting will be held at the Petersham RSL Club (301 Trafalgar Street, Petersham, an easy 150m walk from Petersham Station).

While the General Meeting will have Zoom Video coverage, you are encouraged to join with us at the Petersham RSL, we get together over lunch after the meeting.

Note the new start time for the AGM is 11.05 am. The later start time allows additional time needed to setup the Zoom Video Conference.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Peggy Trompf will be our guest speaker at our June 2023 General Meeting. Peggy will speak about dementia and its many forms. Peggy belongs to a support group and is on a Sydney University dementia committee for research. Her presentation will cover understanding people with dementia and how to assist and care for them.



Members who have an email address, will receive email (early in the week of the meeting) with the necessary details to allow you to join the General meeting via Zoom Video Conference.



Peter Charles Brewer Hurst



The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association is sad to report that Peter Charles Brewer Hurst passed away on 20TH April 2023, aged 96, his beloved wife Joan predeceasing him.

Peter worked for PMG/Telecom/Telstra for over 60 years. He was a member of the RTEA for 24 years, joining in 2009. Peter served in the Illawarra as an Officer In-charge (OIC) in the latter part of his working career. First, he was the OIC of Warilla, then Kiama Technician's Districts, where he was known for his customer service focus. Peter would go above and beyond the normal call to provide subscribers with the service he considered they deserved. In his final years on the job, he headed up the Wollongong Special Projects Group as a STTO2.

Peter Hurst was a member of the Dapto Rotary Club for over 50 years. In 2021 he was made an Honorary Member.

The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association extends its condolences and sympathy to Peter's children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other family members. A private funeral service has been held for Peter.

Retired Telecommunications Employees Association

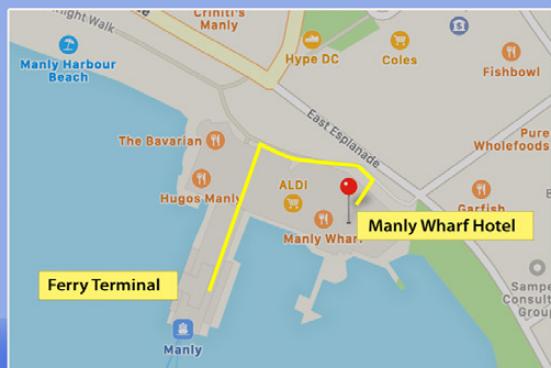
MANLY WHARF HOTEL LUNCHEON

The Retired Members Association will be having a lunch for members and their friends at the **MANLY WHARF HOTEL** on

THURSDAY, 15TH JUNE COMMENCING AROUND 12 NOON.

The hotel is located close to the Manly Wharf on the **EAST ESPLANADE, MANLY** (see accompanying map).

The hotel is a short walk from the Manly Ferry wharf. The ferry for Manly leaves Circular Quay at **11.30 AM** and arrives at **11.52 AM**. There is a later ferry at **11.40 AM**.





Welfare News

Peter Hack

I want to start this month's report by congratulating **Vince Haywood** on becoming eighty. I understand Vince will receive an OBE ("Over Bloody Eighty") award at the May General Meeting.

Carol Hamblion had a cataract operation on the 25th of May. Cataract operations are pretty routine these days. Notwithstanding, I wish Carol a speedy recovery. **Irene Clifford** has just returned from a holiday in the Sunshine State.

Alan Gilkes has had a recent stay in Nepean Hospital. He now has bunkered down in his caravan in Queensland for winter.

Christine Keys tells me she is swamped writing her thesis for her doctorate. Likewise, **Mary Kovacs** is still busy with her volunteer work.

Sam Caltibiano is waiting for a biopsy on a lump in his chest; found after a pet scan, they found he had two cracked ribs and a lump requiring further investigation.

Mick Byron is taking a break down the NSW coast. **Eddie Parrot** had a trip to the hospital and is now back home. **Dick and Betty Orchard** are enjoying life in the Sunshine State. They send their regards to everyone.

Garry Masman has had chronic back pain for more than a year. Until recently, medical staff have been unable to find the exact cause of the severe pain. More recent tests identified the precise cause of the pain. Garry underwent an operation at the end of May. The operation was successful, and Garry is now free of pain. He has already had a short walk out of bed with a walker. There is still the possibility of a second operation. I am sure members will join me in wishing Garry a continued recovery.

Bruce Muirhead is still recovering from his fall. He says it is hard to type with just one hand. So, I corrected him by telling him it was with one finger. **Jim Spencer** sends his regards to everyone. **Julia Morgan** continues to recover from a broken shoulder.

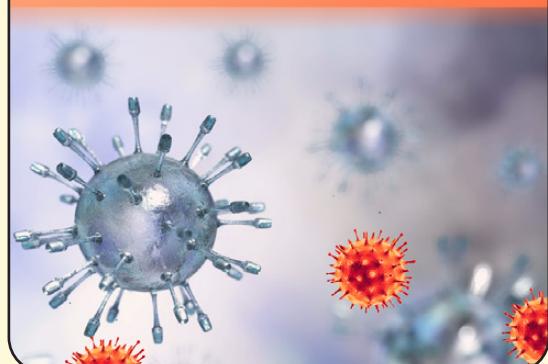
Myself: I am freezing in Temora; the temperature has been between -1 and -4 degrees in the last week. However, the days are sunny.

A reminder, you should consider having your Flu & COVID vaccinations, as winter approaches

This month's reminder does not show a syringe. Instead, just a simple reminder that the flu season is soon upon us and COVID still infects tens of thousands each week.

No need for two visits to the doctor. You can have both injections at the same time.

Reservations! Discuss them with your doctor.





Major Allan Crouch OAM RFD (Retd)

Arthur Carroll has brought to our Association of an award to Allan Crouch. Allan was honoured with one of only four national “2023 ANZAC of the Year” awards.

Allan has been a member of our Association for the past twenty-five years.

Allan is a 1958 Technician in Training, attending Strathfield Training School in Section 13. He was great mates with John Loudon and the late Neville Darcy. Allan and Darcy received appointments to Hamilton Exchange after completing their first year of training.

Allan’s early career was at Grafton. He trained in ARF and AXE technologies and work-on the cutovers at Grafton. Later, Allan became the Customer Service Manager for the Grafton District. Alan attended the 65th Annual Reunion the “Class of 1958 Technician in Training” at Port Macquarie last March.

The following is from article in the local newspaper “News Of The Area” written by Andrea Ferrari

MAJOR Allan Crouch OAM RFD (Retd), a long-time Woolgoolga resident, has been honoured with one of only four national 2023 ANZAC of the Year awards.

Described by friends as a great Woolgoolga citizen, mentor and sportsman, Allan is the Vice President of the local RSL sub-Branch.

ANZAC of the Year Awards are presented each year to recognise the efforts and achievements of up to seven Australians who have given service to their fellow Australians and to the community in a positive, selfless, and compassionate manner. **This year four were presented and Allan is proud to be one of the recipients.**

Woolgoolga RSL sub-Branch Secretary, Christopher Chayko told *News Of The Area*,

“Allan has completed over 60 years of service to our nation and people, beginning with a full career in the Army Reserve, in addition to his civilian employment and family responsibilities, and then decades of work and leadership in community service organisations including Lions, Meals on Wheels, the RSL and many others”.

“He remains a masters hockey player; and many have benefitted from his coaching and example on and off the field. Allan exemplifies the aims of the award to those who have ‘given service to their fellow Australians and to the community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner’”, Christopher said.

Allan shared his drive to help others with “*News Of The Area*”.

“I think it is an attitude that I was born with because of my parents’ caring nature towards their fellow man,” he said.



Major Allan Crouch OAM RFD

“Mum and Dad were battling share farmers, who right from my earliest memory helped our neighbours who were doing it even tougher than us, particularly with providing food for children”.

“I can remember Italian prisoners of war (POW) working where we lived between Lismore and Kyogle, and how my parents looked after them, as well through friendship and material assistance”.

“After WW2 many of those POWs settled in that district, after bringing their families to Australia to live”.

“Both of my sisters also gave much of their time to various charities around the Lismore and Kyogle districts, so I guess that helping others is in our blood,” he said.

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Major Allan Crouch OAM RFD (Retd) cont'd

For Allan the greatest high point in helping others is in assisting serving and ex-serving ADF members with welfare, while volunteering with the RSL, particularly the Woolgoolga RSL sub-Branch.

"This includes arranging RSL funerals for the families who request that service and then conducting the RSL services either in a church, hall, chapel or at a graveside.

"I also offered assistance to families of the deceased members by way of helping with compilation of documentation for various agencies such as DVA, and by companionship, when needed."

Another high point for Allan is training and coaching young people.

"Particularly training civilians through recruit training/initial employment training to be soldiers on many occasions in the Army Reserve, over many years," he said.

"In most cases the end results surprised even those recruits with what they achieved and developed into.

"The same applied with coaching boys, girls, men, and women in my chosen sport of field hockey.

"It was great to turn rank beginners into premiership winners, and now as a very senior master's hockey player, see those young players still competing in their 40s, 50s and near 60s."

Allan is thankful for his choices in helping others, citing the satisfaction of working hard with the Lions Club of Woolgoolga to donate over \$150,000 worth of equipment to the various wards of Coffs Harbour Health Campus.

"To see the expressions of appreciation from those hard-working nurses and other staff makes it all worthwhile.

"My advice to others is to donate as much of your time as you can.

"It keeps you active and healthy and helps the community to survive," he closed.

I am sure all Retired Telecommunications Employees Association member will join in congratulating Alanon his receiving such a prestigious award.



MERIMBULA TRIP AWAY OCTOBER 8TH TO 13TH

This year, our trip away is to Merimbula and the beautiful Sapphire Coast of NSW. The trip away is for six days and five nights.

Inclusions

Return transfers between Central Station and Merimbula

Accommodation at South Seas Motel, Merimbula

Whale-watching Cruise on Twofold Bay

Tour of the Killer Whale Museum.

Merimbula - Sight-seeing

Guided tour of historic Bombala

Visits to Tathra, Bermagui, and the historic towns of Tilba Tilba, Boydtown and Cobargo.

Visit to an Animal Sanctuary which includes lunch and a train ride

Poolside BBQ dinner on one evening at our motel

Visit to Historic Car Club

A visit to the Tilba Valley Winery and Ale House for lunch while we enjoy the magnificent views

**Cost \$ 860
Single Room \$1,180
Exclusions - Dinner on four nights and lunch on two occasions**

We are now taking bookings - \$100 per person. Our payment preference is for a Bank Transfer (details below). If you want to pay by cheque, please make payable to the Retired Telecommunications Employees Association, and post to the Treasurer: Alan Bassman - 46 Lyle Street, Girraween NSW 2145

Bank Transfers (electronic payments)

**Great Southern Bank BSB 814-282, eSaver Account No: 10642769.
Please include your surname on the electronic payment reference.**

For further information - Contact John Lane, email and phone information is on page 2 of the newsletter



Merimbula Trip Away - Itinerary

Sunday, 8th October to Friday, 13th October 2023



Monday, 9TH

- **8.30 am:** Depart Motel to travel to Boyds Tower in Eden.
- **9.15 am:** Visit the historic township of Boydton and the famous Seahorse Inn.
- **11.45 am to 2.15 pm.** Whale watching Cruise in Twofold Bay - includes a light lunch
- **2.15 pm:** Visit Killer Whale Museum. Visit Rotary Park for views of Twofold Bay.
- **4.30 pm:** Return to Motel.

Tuesday, 10TH

- **8.30 am** Depart Motel for local sight-seeing: Short Point and Bar Beach.
- **9.50 am** Depart Merimbula Bar Beach
- **10.15 am:** Arrive at Potoroo Palace to board train at 10.30 am
- **1.30 pm** Depart Potoroo Palace for trip to Historic Vehicle Club. A light lunch included.
- **4.30 pm:** Return to Motel.



Sunday, 8TH

- Bus Departure from Central Station
(Departure time to be confirmed)

Wednesday, 11TH

- **8.45 am:** Depart Motel. Bombala Swimming Pool for comfort stop. **10 am:** Travel to Bombala Railway Station meet tour guide.
- **12 noon:** Includes lunch at Club Bombala
- **4 pm:** Depart Bombala
- **4.45 pm** arrive back at Motel.

Thursday, 12TH

- **8.30 am:** Depart Motel travel to Tathra and then to Bermagui and a stop for morning tea.
- **10.30 am:** Leave Bermagui and head for Tilba Tilba and Central Tilba. A heritage listed town. Tour around town.
- **12.30 pm** Tilba Valley Winery & Ale House and lunch.
- **2.00 pm:** travel to Cobargo to visit this historic town and enjoy a beer in the pub.
- **4 pm:** Travel back for the motel.
- **4.30 pm** arrive at motel. Prepare for poolside BBQ.

Friday, 13TH

- **8.00 am:** Bus Departure for Central Station and home



Hawkesbury River: History and Heritage - Guided Tour



The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association has a marvellous turnout for the “*History and Heritage*” guided tour of the Hawkesbury River in April. About forty-five members turned out for the tour. It was both pleasing and encouraging to see so many members come along; it made our work on the committee worthwhile. It also tells the committee that our members like functions where they can learn, particularly our early history.

While the ferry “*Sorrento*” took members around the Hawkesbury River and its points of interest, they heard about the river’s early history, its two bridges (the first an engineering failure) and Australia’s early navy history.

The company that conducted the above tour also has other tours in the area; there is one on Broken Bay. The committee will investigate a similar tour on the water when the weather becomes warmer, likely early next year.

Coooooo