

November 2018

RMA  
NOVEMBER 2018  
GENERAL MEETING  
IS ON THURSDAY,  
22ND NOVEMBER  
Special Guest Speaker  
(see Page 2 for  
details)

## Retired Members Association Christmas Lunch

12 pm, Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018

A reminder that the Retired Members Association's Christmas Lunch is just a few weeks away. **The Christmas Lunch is on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018.**

We gather for lunch around noon at the Petersham RSL.

It's a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends over a three-course lunch. **Petersham RSL (7 Regent Street) is just 200m from Petersham Railway Station.** As you reach the top of the stairs at Petersham Station, looking towards the City, turn right and walk to the pedestrian crossing, cross and take a few more steps and you will see Petersham RSL on your left.

Please note there is no lift at Petersham Station. If this is a problem, a bus may be the option, please see below for bus travel information.

**The cost of the lunch is \$45 per head and includes lucky**

Payment can be made at a General Meeting or you can post a cheque to the Secretary, (see page 2 of the newsletter) or use electronic payment.

**Credit Union Australia (CUA) BSB 814-282,  
eSaver Account No: 10642769**

**door prizes.** An electronic payment can be made (see details). Please also remember to email, text or call John Lane to advise you are coming to the lunch (contact information is on page 2 of the newsletter). If you have a special dietary requirement, please let me know.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Lunch,  
John Lane



### Buses from City to Petersham

Route: 412

11.26am  
11.46am

Museum Stn  
(Castlereagh Street)

11.32am  
11.52am

Central  
(George Street,  
Railway Square)

11.53am  
12.13pm

Petersham  
(Trafalgar Street)

The Trafalgar Street Bus stop is located close to both Petersham RSL and Station



## Retired Members Association

### Office Bearers:

**President** **Vince Haywood**  
☎ 02 9457 9828  
✉ vinceglen@gmail.com

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

**Treasurer** **Bob Hamblion**  
☎ 02 9502 2525

**Assistant Secretary** **Bruce Noake**  
✉ bnoake@bigpond.net.au

**Welfare Officer** **Peter Hack**  
☎ 0408 969 530  
✉ hackysnr@bigpond.net.au

**Social & Secretary** **John Lane**  
☎ 0417 238 687  
✉ a-lane@bigpond.com

**Website** **Bruce Coxall**  
☎ 02 9597 2224  
☎ 0418 414 658  
✉ webadmin@cwuretired.org

**Editor** **Paul Rewhorn**  
☎ 0418 626625  
✉ pdrewhorn@me.com

### 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.

## Retired Members Association

# November General Meeting

**Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019  
10.15am**

**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 prior  
general meeting.*

*It is a great opportunity to catch-up  
with former workmates.*



**Professor Ed Davis, President  
ABC Friends NSW and ACT is our  
special guest speaker.**

**It is timely, that Ed Davis is speaking at  
our general meeting, given the current  
threats to the ABC's independence and  
future. Budget cuts and overt political  
pressures on the organisation.**



## Last Newsletter for 2018

## Back in February 2019





**W**ELCOME TO YOUR NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER, THIS IS OUR LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2018. THE WEEK BEFORE THE MEETING, I DISCOVERED I HAD BROKEN ROOF TILES AND THEN OUR WASHING MACHINE AFTER YEARS OF SERVICE GAVE UP. THESE PROBLEMS PREVENTED ME FROM ATTENDING THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING. I THANK JOHN LANE FOR CHAIRING THE MEETING, AS HE HAS DONE SO WELL ON MANY OCCASIONS.

My disappointment of missing the meeting deepened when I learned that Jim McLachlan, Ross Keyes and Don Hamilton were at the meeting. Jim McLachlan and myself were branch councillors in the 1980s. Jim represented members who worked with the Installation Branches. Jim now lives in Western Australia. He always takes the opportunity to attend our general meeting when visiting the eastern States. Ross Keyes was there, he told the meeting a joke in his renowned style. Ross is about to embark on a course of medical treatment. I am sure all members will join me in wishing Ross a successful outcome. You will be in our thoughts, Ross. There was more good news to come when Jim Spencer joined members later over lunch. Jim is back after visiting family in Darwin.

### THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

This month's newsletter is full of notices for Christmas and reunions. This is a service that the *Retired Members Association* is proud to provide for members. I notice we have a trifecta of reunion notices for the Technician in Training intakes for 1957, 1958 and 1959.

I trust you enjoy once again meeting up with former workmates. Please tell them about our Association, it costs only \$20 for a lifetime of membership. A membership form can be found on our website.

### MOREE TRIP AWAY

Like a number of members, I am back from our trip away to Moree and its surrounding districts. This year's trip away was a great experience shared with a wonderful group of members. They say when you are having a good time, time flies fast. Before I knew, we were on the bus on the following Saturday returning to Sydney. Thanks must go to John Lane for organising the trip, not an easy task. Thanks, also to Bob Hamblion and Bruce Muirhead for managing the trip deposits. A special mention to Warren Morely and friend Kate who were already at the motel when we

## WELCOME TO YOUR NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Vince Haywood

arrived. They had our motel rooms assigned.

John has already booked our next trip away for 2019. The announcement is in this month's newsletter. Have a look inside.

### Thank You CWU, FSU and Committee

This is the last newsletter for 2018, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank many people who have contributed to the success of our Association during 2018. I take the opportunity to thank CWU Secretary Alex Jansen and the staff of the New South Wales Branch for their help throughout the year. A special mention has to go to Ivka for her help with the printing of the newsletter. Over the years, the CWU has provided a room for our committee meetings and printing of the newsletter. Alex is about to leave his Secretary position with the CWU. I thank Alex for his help over the past years. A Union Secretary's job is not an easy one these days with the relentless pressures placed upon the Union movement. Alex has met these challenges, and I wish him the best for future years. Alex already has become a member of our Association and we hope to see him at our general meetings and social functions in 2019.

The Financial Sector Union (FSU) is another Union that has been kind to us throughout the past year. The FSU provides us with a meeting room for our monthly general meetings. The meeting room is located in the centre of the Sydney CBD, this makes it easy for our members to attend a general meeting.

*Continued on Page 4*



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

Finally and not least, I thank our committee who have given so much of their time to our Association, making it another successful year.

### THE PAST YEAR

When it comes to the year's end, I like to look back to the previous newsletter for the same time of the year. Then our articles reported on rising power bills. Nothing has changed in twelve months. The federal government has continued to fail with this issue.

The federal government urged the opposition to pass their national energy guarantee legislation (NEG). The government claimed the NEG was essential to bring under control rising power prices. The NEG legislation ended up causing dissension within government ranks. The result was a change of prime minister and the withdrawal of the NEG legislation. Meanwhile, power prices will continue to increase around 20 per cent per annum.

A past article reported on the corruption in the bank and financial services industries. Since, we have had our royal commission to learn that the corruption was far worse than we imagined. Hopefully, 2019 will see the government take the legislation and regulatory action to deal with this corruption. This must be a no-go area for banking and financial services lobbyists.

Hopefully, we will see changes in aged care following a royal commission into that area. Telstra performance and NBN, a bridge too far, I regret to say.

### Helping your Family Financially.

Legal Aid, New South Wales has offered this advice to retirees who may wish to help their children financially: Some of the key points Legal Aid offers are:

As parent and grandparents, it can be both worrying and stressful to see their adult children have financial struggles. Someone in your family may be in this situation and you may want to help them. Before you decide to help you should be aware of the risks involved, especially if your home is all you have.

**Don't Risk Your Home** - Older people may be 'asset rich but income poor'. They may own their home, which may be worth a considerable amount, but their only income may be the pension. If you are in this position you need to think seriously before you use your home as security to help your children.

**Think before you sign** - If the bank doesn't consider your children a good credit risk neither should you.

**Get independent legal advice** - This will help you be confident that you understand what you are letting yourself in for. The cost of getting this advice may save you much more money in the long term if things went wrong.

**It's Ok to say No** - Not being able to help doesn't mean you don't love your children. You have a right to protect your own interests. Your children should understand that to risk losing your home when you are in the later stage of your life is particularly difficult. You don't have the same chance to start over as someone younger does.

**A loan or a gift?** - If you lend money to a family member it is important that you make it clear in writing whether you intend to give the money as a gift or whether you expect the money to be repaid at some time. The written agreement should be signed by both of you. Without anything in writing it can be hard to prove that the money was a loan, not a gift. A written agreement about whether the money is to be repaid, by when and whether interest is also to be paid, will help if there is any disagreement about this in the future.

**Think about your pension** - Helping your family financially may affect your pension entitlements. Centrelink has rules about how much of your assets you can 'gift' before your pension will be affected. If you lend money to a family member the loan will be assessed as part of your assets and could affect your pension entitlement. This includes if you take out a mortgage over your home and loan the money to family.

*Continued on Page 5*



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

A print copy of their brochure may be ordered at [www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications). This information is intended as a general guide to the law. It should not be relied on as legal advice and it is recommended that you talk to a lawyer about your particular situation. If you need more help, you can contact **LawAccess NSW on 1300 888 529**.

### November General Meeting

While we are close to the end of the year, I need to remind you two Association events in November. First, our **November General Meeting on Thursday, 22nd November 2018**.

### ABC Friends

**Professor Ed Davis, President of NSW and ACT Branches of ABC Friends will be our guest speaker.** The *Retired Members Association* is a member of ABC Friends.

Throughout the past year, members at our general meetings have expressed concern about the ABC's future. Over the past few years we have seen cuts to the ABC's budget of \$254 billion dollars in the 2014 budget and a further \$84 billion dollars in the last budget. The ABC will not be able to sustain this financial cuts of this magnitude and continue without a decline in services. Worse, the Murdoch Press and the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) continue

to argue for the privatisation of the ABC and they allege bias with the ABC organisation. The Liberal Party's National Council passed a motion for the sale of ABC in June of this year.

More recently we have seen the sacking and resignation of the ABC's CEO and chairman. At its centre was the chairman's eagerness not to offend the current federal government.

Professor Ed Harris presentation should be informative. I would encourage our members to attend our last feral meeting for the year.

### Christmas Party

Don't forget our **Christmas Lunch at the Petersham RSL on Thursday, 29th November 2018**. Details are in the newsletter.

Finally, during the year, some of our members have passed away, Christmas will be a difficult time for their families and friends. Our thoughts and best wishes are with them now

On behalf of our Executive and Committee, I extend to all members and their families, the compliments of the Season together with the hope for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2019.

Bye for now

Vince



*The Silly Season has rolled around again, and it is time to have a couple of drinks with some old workmates. This year the Country Installation Office Party will be conducted as follows:-*

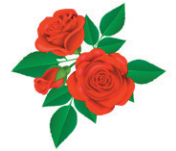
*Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year*

**Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018**  
**When:- 1200 for 1230 hrs**  
**Crystal Palace Hotel**





## Donald (Don) George Ainsworth



The *Retired Members Association* is sad to report that Donald George Ainsworth passed away on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The Association extends its condolences and deep sympathy to Don's family and former workmates.

John Davies a member and long-time friend of Don makes the following tribute.

It is with sadness that I have to tell you that Donald George Ainsworth passed away on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Armidale.

Don was aged 85, and a mere two months ago, he was diagnosed with Mesothelioma (Asbestosis).

Born in Kempsey, Don joined the PMG in 1949 as a Technician in Training and subsequently qualified as a Technician and Senior Technician. In the 1950's he worked on the Armidale conversion to automatic telephone exchange and its cutover. Don transferred from installation to the maintenance staff. In 1971 he was promoted to Moree as Supervising Technician and in 1974 he was appointed to the new position of Internal Plant Manager, Bathurst. Again, after some years there, he transferred to Kempsey and finally to Armidale, where he subsequently retired.

Don had a very good technical knowledge of the various switching and transmission systems that he worked on. As well, he always ran a very tight ship on stations he controlled and one of his guiding principles was to aim for the highest possible standard of customer service. The customer always came first with Don! And so, in the many conversations I've had with him since retirement, he has always expressed great pride that he was in a position of being able to deliver such top-quality service. But this expression of pride was always tempered by disappointment at the shoddy level of customer service currently provided by Telstra. And even more depressing, according to Don, is the demoralising impact on the current, well-meaning Telstra staff who have to deliver such shoddy service when they know they can do much better, given the chance.

Don was not a member of the RMA but I think there are many people who read the monthly newsletter would like to be informed of his passing.

Finally, Don's son Ian Ainsworth is a currently-serving Technical Officer with Telstra in Armidale. And yes, he is one of the frustrated field staff abovementioned.

John Davies

**To be held at the  
Burwood RSL, in the  
Sportmans Bar  
(downstairs).  
Drinks and food can be  
purchased at  
club prices**

**NDC**  
**PMG/TELECOM/TELSTRA**

**Everyone is  
welcome**

**Christmas Party**

**Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November,  
from 11am**



# Retired Members Association - **Special Early Announcement** **Annual Trip Away**

2015 - Broken Hill

2016 - Junee

2017 - Lithgow

2018 - Moree

**2019 - JINDABYNE**

## Upcoming Social Events

John Lane



**J**UST BACK FROM OUR TOUR OF THE MOREE DISTRICT, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE OUR TRIP AWAY FOR 2019 WILL BE A SNOWY MOUNTAINS TOUR. THE REASON FOR THE EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT IS BECAUSE BOOKINGS HAVE TO BE MADE MONTHS AHEAD. I MADE OUR BOOKING AT THE START OF YEAR.

The tour's name is "*The Life of Riley*". The tour

is over six days and five nights and is all-inclusive. We will stay at the Lake Jindabyne Hotel. The hotel has lakefront accommodation and is near the town centre. The tour cost is \$745 (I will confirm this price in early 2019) and as mentioned the tour is fully inclusive:

- There is no single supplement
- Includes tours of the Snowy Mountains area
- All meals
- Entrance fees
- Luxury 5 Star Coach return trip between Jindabyne and Sydney.

Early in the new year, our newsletter will publish the itinerary in detail. The sights will include Thredbo, Perisher, Adaminaby, Snowy Hydro Museum, Charlottes Pass, Dalgety, Berridale, Garden trout hatchery, Wild Brumby Distillery, Cooma Gaol and Bombala.

**The tour starts on Sunday, 27th October 2019, I would suggest you pencil in this date now. More details to follow.**

### Moree Trip Away

The Moree trip away was a great success, everyone enjoyed themselves (I received no complaints). We had a great bus driver, George and the motel host also called George made us most welcomed.

The day trips were both interesting and informative, at the end of the day we were able to soak in Moree's renowned mineral baths.

One of our day trips included a visit to the Moree TAFE where we were shown the making of aboriginal art (painting and sculptures). It was at the Moree TAFE, we met a lady named Denise Jenkins who happened to have been a telephonist for more than 30 years, she started her career in Tamworth and also a large part of her career was at Moree. It rekindled lots of old memories within our group. Denise told us there are some forty ex-telephonists around Moree. They get together every couple of months. Sounds just like us; keeping the culture alive.

We have one final social function for this year. ***This is our Christmas Lunch on the 29th November 2018.*** I would urge you come along and make our final function for the year an outstanding success. All the details are on the front page of the newsletter.

I hope to have our calendar for social functions in 2019 ready for publication in the February newsletter. If you have any suggestions, I would be pleased to hear from you.





# Trunk Service

Dalley Trunk Exchange - Haymarket ARM &  
Carrier Terminal - Pitt Street Carrier Terminal

## Christmas Party & Annual Reunion

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018,  
Midday

Combined Services Club,  
Barrack Street, Sydney

For further details contact  
Tod Mirgis - 02 99391935  
Warwick Brodsky 02 98103455  
0412729051

# 1958

## Technician in Training 61<sup>ST</sup> Annual Reunion

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

The Reunion is an informal  
get-together to be held  
at:

**Petersham RSL,  
7 Regent Street,  
Petersham**

Note: Change of Location  
due to renovation  
work at the  
Castlereagh Club

*1958 TIT's are cordially  
invited to attend our  
next reunion to celebrate  
61 years since  
the 1958 Technician In Training  
intake commenced their training  
at Alexandria and Strathfield  
training colleges*

We will gather from around 11am. If there are  
further inquiries, please contact John Loudon  
on 0409 030 911 or e-mail [johnl42@iprius.com.au](mailto:johnl42@iprius.com.au).

Wives, partners and friends of the 1958 trainees  
are most welcome to attend the function.

## Taree - Christmas Drinks 2018

Christmas 2018 get-together for interested ex PMG, Telecom and  
Telstra staff

**Where:** Taree West Bowling Club  
**Address:** 116 Edinburgh Drive, Taree  
**Date:** Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018  
**Time:** From 4 PM

The club has a restaurant with good meals at reasonable prices, a  
courtesy bus runs on the hour from 5 pm till closing, contact the club  
for details 02 6552 2094

Shaun Higgins 0419235488





## Early REMINDER

# 1957 TECHNICIAN IN TRAINING 62 Year Reunion

To be held at the West Port Bowling Club  
Buller Street, Port Macquarie.  
On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
10 am for 11 am Start

Further Information Bob Speer  
email [speer.r.65@gmail.com](mailto:speer.r.65@gmail.com)  
or mobile 0408863900



Photo from 2012 Reunion

*All trainees from the  
1959  
Technician in Training Intake are  
cordially invited to our  
60 Year Reunion.*

Wives and Partners are most welcomed

To be held at the Petersham RSL Club  
7 Regent Street, Petersham  
On Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
from 12 to 5pm

# 1959 TECHNICIAN IN TRAINING 60 Year Reunion

### Contacts:

Peter Begley	02 66283848
George Pearce	0427 091922
Fred Crowe	02 43095784

(Petersham RSL a 200m walk from Petersham Railway Station)  
Petersham is a short train ride from Central Station (about 10 minutes).  
Walk up the stairs and turn right, cross the road and then walk about 100 metres  
and you will see the Petersham RSL on your left.

NOTE THERE IS NO LIFT AT PETERSHAM STATION, IF THIS A PROBLEM YOU CAN CATCH A BUS FROM  
THE CITY TO PETERSHAM