

THE YEAR AHEAD WITH FINGERS CROSSED

John Lane

WELCOME TO YOUR FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER. WE ARE STARTING A NEW YEAR FOR OUR ASSOCIATION. LAST YEAR, WE ONLY SUCCEEDED TO HAVE THREE SOCIAL EVENTS TO WORK FOR US, DISAPPOINTING MANY MEMBERS. WE WILL TRY AGAIN THIS YEAR, AS THE HEALTH SITUATION REGARDING COVID-19 IS LOOKING BRIGHTER AND OF COURSE, WE DO NOT GIVE UP.

I have already prepared a social schedule for the coming year. The March 2021 newsletter will include a full social calendar. I will announce later in this article details of this year's trip away, I am keeping you in suspense a little longer.

Monthly General Meetings

I also hope that we get back to having regular general meetings at some stage where we can invite guest speakers and meet in person. Fingers crossed on all fronts. Last year, we adopted the Zoom application (video conferencing) for going ahead with our monthly general meetings. Our country members showed tremendous interest in attending our general meetings via Zoom. At its January 2021 Planning Meeting, the Committee decided to continue using Zoom at our general meetings throughout 2021.

It will not be possible to use Zoom at every general meeting, particularly when we have the general meeting on the Central Coast and at Emu Plains. We will advise members each month when Zoom will be in use at the general meeting. Zoom will be in use at the February Annual and General Meetings. I would ask members for their patience; our challenge is ensuring all members can take part whether they are attending via Zoom or physically present at the meeting. We need to solve audio and video issues. We will seek your feedback as we hold our meetings in this alternative way.

For our country members who may not have used Zoom in the past, the process is simple. You can use a personal computer with an inbuilt camera and microphone. You can also download the Zoom application from either the Google's Play Store or the Apple App store if you want to use your smartphone.

Even if you are without a personal computer or smartphone, you can use the humble home phone. Of course, you will only have audio. You will receive an email with a link that will take you directly into the meeting. Simply click on this link and you will have access to the meeting. If you have questions, please contact Paul Rewhorn (*his contact details are on page 2*).

Review of our Constitution

Throughout many months of 2020, the Committee embarked on the significant task of reviewing and updating the Association's Constitution. The aim of the changes is to address:

- *Filling casual vacancies when an Executive or Committee member resigns mid-term.*
- *The safeguarding finances when making charitable donations.*
- *The honorarium payment structure.*
- *Improved definition of the roles and responsibilities for Executive and Committee positions.*

Finally, we have improved the layout and readability of the Constitution document. I publicly thank Col McQueen and Warren Morley for their many hours of proofing reading repeated drafts. Thanks also go to Chris Cartledge for a final review of the document. Thanks also to Committee members who spent considerable time providing feedback.

The constitutional amendments will be put to members for their consideration at the February General Meeting. We emailed the draft Constitution to members a couple of weeks ago. **If you have not received a copy of the draft Constitution, please contact me, Col McQueen or Paul Rewhorn** (*their contact details are on page 2*). We will either email or post you a copy.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE****2021 ANNUAL MEETING**OF THE
RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATIONBoth the Annual and the Monthly General meetings
will be on**THURSDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY 2021 AT 10.15 AM****Annual Meeting Agenda:**

- Treasurer's Report: Bob Hamblion will present our 2020 Financial Report (a copy of the financial report is in this month's newsletter).
- Elections for all executive and committee positions.

Nominations for all executive and committee positions will remain open until just before the meeting; if you would like to stand for a position, please feel free to do so. Please contact our Secretary, Bruce Muirhead for a nomination form. A nomination form is included with this newsletter.



Due to the NSW Government's health regulations, the above meetings cannot be held in person. Instead, the annual and general meetings will take place via a Zoom Video Conference

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Office Bearers****PRESIDENT****John Lane**

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Retired Members Association

Notice of Motion

February 2021 General Meeting

The following notice of motion is listed for membership consideration at the Association's February 2021 General Meeting:

"Members of the Retired Members Association endorse amendments to the Retired Members Association constitution as proposed and recommended by the Association's Executive and Committee members on the 21st January 2021"

Proposed: Col McQueen Seconded: Warren Morley

A document showing the proposed amendments together with an explanation for proposed amendments was emailed to members on the 5th February 2021. Members who do not have an email address are welcome to make a request to receive both documents by regular mail. Please contact Bruce Noake (Assistant Secretary) on 0409 332 464. The documents have also been placed on the Associations website for the convenience of members (www.cwuretiredmembers.org)

Retired Members Association

February 2021 Annual/General Meeting

Members requesting attendance in Person

Due to COVID-19 health restrictions, attendance in person at the Annual/General Meetings is limited to twenty people only.

Should you wish to attend in person, you will need to contact Col McQueen to make a reservation. Contact details are: **colin.mcqueen@bigpond.com or mobile 0429 151 209**. Please make sure you have your reservation confirmed before attending. The meeting will be held at the Petersham RSL, 7 Regent Street, Petersham (located 200 metre from Petersham Railway Station).

The meeting will be held over ZOOM. Members will receive an email invitation on the Monday, prior to the meeting.



Wayne' Harry' Blake



The Association is sad to report the passing of member Wayne' Harry' Blake who passed away on Thursday, 21ST January 2021.

Harry had been a member of our Association for over fourteen years. Harry resided in Victoria and was a member of their Retired Members.. After the closure in Victorai, Harry joined our Association.

Harry's Daughter sent the following:

I am writing on behalf of my dad Wayne Harry Blake who sadly passed away on 21/01/21. I believe he was a past president of the Ballarat branch of CWU in the 1980's and was undoubtedly a member over his working career. He was a big advocate for Unionism and held strong beliefs in the rights of Workers.

The Association extends our condolences to Claire and the rest of the extended family.

The Retired Members Association thanks Claire for informing us his Dad's passing

THE YEAR AHEAD WITH FINGERS CROSSED (cont'd)

Annual Elections

A further reminder, we will have the annual election of office bearers for 2021. Over the past couple of years, fresh faces on our Executive and Committee have reinvigorated our Association. Therefore, if consider you would like to contribute, please nominate for a position. Uou will find yourself in good company and I assure you will have an enjoyable experience. This month's newsletter includes a nomination form which will also be on our website.

One more note about the February Annual and Monthly Meetings. **The meeting is on Thursday, 25TH February, commencing at 10.30 am.** We can accommodate a few members to attend in person. The meeting will be at the Petersham RSL. The number is limited to twenty persons on account of COVID-19 health regulations. **If you would like to attend, you must contact Col McQueen in advance (again, Col's contact details are on page 2 of the newsletter).** Col will confirm whether there is still an available place for you. Hopefully, it will not be much longer before we can all meet without restrictions.

As I mentioned earlier, we will publish the social calendar in the March 2021 newsletter. However, we have our first social function in March. We are having lunch at the Woolwich Hotel on Thursday, 18TH March 2021. The venue has excellent harbour views and is a quick trip via ferry from Circular Quay. I look forward to seeing you there.

Annual Trip Away

Finally, the trip away. The Committee considered several tours and locations for our annual trip away. **We decided on a tour of the Murray Darling region. The tour takes place over seven days and six nights and includes Wentworth, Mildura and the Riverland region in South Australia.** This will open us to a new experience and will be certainly a great adventure encompassing three states.

I found it necessary to make an early booking this year, as there is a heavy demand for domestic travel. I will leave it to you to read more about the tour in this month's newsletter where you will find the itinerary, dates, inclusions and cost. I will provide more details on bookings in the March newsletter.

Until then,
John Lane.



Retired Members Association Financial Balance Statement - 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Accumulated Funds	\$24,157.49	\$24,500.90
<u>Represented by</u>		
Current Assets		
C.U.Aust. Current Primary SaverA/C	\$52.24	\$100.04
E Saver A/C	\$1,193.80	\$1,854.56
Cash to be deposited		
Cash at Call	\$1,246.04	\$1,954.60
Investment A/C 1	\$11,635.97	\$11,441.45
Investment A/C 2	\$11,264.92	\$11,082.02
Term Deposits	\$22,900.89	\$22,523.47
Accrued Interest	\$8.56	\$22.83
Total Current Assets	\$24,157.49	\$24,500.90
<u>Unpresented cheques</u>		
Less Liabilities		
Add Fixed Assets		
Total Funds	\$24,157.49	\$24,500.90

Income & Expenditure Statement, For Year Ending 31st. Dec.

Income		
Newsletter mailout	\$670.00	\$645.00
Badges	\$45.00	\$135.00
Donations	\$174.00	\$246.00
Dues	\$150.00	\$320.00
Investment Income	\$408.68	\$643.19
Social Outings	\$8,100.00	\$9,140.00
Total Income	\$9,547.68	\$11,129.19
Expenditure		
Holiday Magic Crescent Head. Deposits	\$7,050.00	
Lake Jindabyne Hotel Deposits		\$2,800.00
Stationery	\$181.25	\$295.48
Postage	\$589.20	\$80.00
Hard Drive, Printer & Thermometer	\$334.02	
Posting and Packaging	\$30.27	
ZOOM Meeting Subscriptions	\$92.36	
CRUMA Affiliation Fees	\$100.00	\$100.00
CPSA Membership	\$50.00	\$50.00
COTA Membership	\$100.00	\$100.00
Badges	\$66.99	\$65.34
Alzheimers Aust.		\$250.00
Garvin Institute		\$250.00
Gift Ivka Antoni / Floral Tribute		\$100.00
CWU for Postage		\$610.83
Repayments / Refunds	\$1,050.00	\$765.00
Secretary Allowance	\$50.00	\$50.00
Socials		\$5,904.00
www.Domaine Hosting, Bulkmailer	\$120.00	\$120.00
Welfare Expenses	\$75.00	\$75.00
Social Research + Davistown EFT		\$150.00
Total Expenditure	\$9,889.09	\$11,765.65
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$341.41)	(\$636.46)

R.W Hamblion Treasurer

This is to certify that I have checked the books of the CWU, RMA and found them in order. A.R.Fairbairn.

Equity

Opening balance (1 January)	\$24,500.90	\$25,137.66
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$341.41)	(\$636.46)
Closing balance (31 December)	\$24,157.49	\$24,500.90



Don Hamilton



John Lane writes the following tribute to Don Hamilton

I first met Don in 1997, when we received appointments to a joint union/management PABX maintenance working party. I was representing the Union and Don management. We both had similar background knowledge: I had worked several years in PABX maintenance in the Redfern District, and Don was the CSIRM (Customer Services Installation & Maintenance Manager) in the Newtown District. It's easy to understand that we both agreed on what we had to do. I found it a most harmonious working party.

Anyway, the main point; it was the start of a fine friendship. Don and I never actually worked together, but we would be in touch from time to time because of our initial contact from our working party involvement. As I was just starting my management career, I would listen to Don's advice because he had a more unique approach than other managers that I had experienced within the job, and I liked what he was saying.

We lost touch after he retired until about four years ago when we met up at a Christmas lunch at the City of Sydney RSL. I surprised him when I reminded him of some simple things that he passed onto me, and I had employed throughout my career. At the same luncheon, I also recall he enthusiastically told me about his recently installed solar system, complete with battery. When he told me the price, I sarcastically asked him how he would ever realise a return on investment. He gave me a curious look, and that is when I chimed in with, «you're 82, mate!». It was then he informed me it was much more than cutting energy costs: «It's about making my contribution to the environment». I like to think this epitomises Don. Within a week, he had posted me a very comprehensive explanation of how the entire system worked. He then rang me up to make sure I had read it, and of course, to give me the verbal version. His solar system engrossed him, and it influenced my thinking when I went solar.

It was mid last year when I rang him to wish him well on some significant surgery. I informed Don I had just signed up to get my solar system, minus the battery.

Anyway, it was at the same RSL lunch; I whipped out a RMA membership form from my pocket, and it delighted Don to complete the form and hand over \$20. The very first social gathering we had the following year, Don was there. He also attended a couple of General Meetings and offered to be a guest speaker. The subject was his experience as Chairman of the Appeals Board. He received this appointment after his retirement. He was probably going to rope Tod Mirgis in on that one. Don was hooked, and I looked forward to seeing lots of Don at our socials and meetings. Unbeknown to me, Don was going to suffer many health problems that interrupted our renewed acquaintance and friendship.

Don's ideals changed little over the years since I first met him. Still an active member of the Labor Party, which he found frustrating as he lived in a blue ribbon Liberal Federal seat. He was also a firm supporter of the Union movement. He also spoke fondly of Ian McLean, a mutual friend whom he regularly stayed in touch. Ian had left NSW for Queensland many years ago and became the ATEA State Secretary and the Queensland State President of the Labor Party, so you can imagine how they enjoyed their many conversations over the years. I am sure Don would have liked me to mention Ian in my little story.

I met Don's wife, Margaret, on a few social occasions many years ago. We spoke on the phone on a few recent occasions when Don was receiving hospital treatment. I felt privileged when Margaret included me in the list of people to contact on the day; she lost Don. She thanked me for being his friend. It is easy to stay friends with someone you share similar ideals and principles. I will miss him, as will many others.

Vale Don Hamilton.



Brian William Shepard



The *Retired Members Association* is sad to report that member Brian Shepard passed away on Saturday, 23RD January 2021. A private funeral service for Brian was held on Wednesday, 3RD February 2021

Brian was aged 77 years. Brian served as a technician at Ashfield Exchange and later as a Testing Officer in the Burwood District. Brian transferred to the Campbelltown District in the late 1980's and worked as a testing officer. Later he went on to install Pair Gain systems.

Brian was married my sister (John Moore), Patricia, who passed away just eleven weeks prior. Brian was the father of Tania, Deanna and Cristy and had four grandchildren.

The *Retired Members Association* on behalf of members extends its condolences and sympathy to Brian's family and his former workmates and his many friends

The Association thanks John Moore, a member and brother-in-law of Brian, for informing us of his passing.



Welfare News

Peter Hack

While helping a neighbour, a black dog bit **Vince Haywood**. The bite resulted in a visit to the doctor for a tetanus injection and an antibiotic. A good thing the dog did not have distemper. Vince is doing fine.

Both **Kath Hickey** and **Peggy Trompf** have commenced infusion treatment this month. **John Loudon** has had a fracture to his upper femur. He will soon need a hip operation. Until the fracture completely heals, John will be using a walker.

Bruce Noake is recovering from knee replacement. **Tom Watson** recovering from ankle surgery. **Colin Wilson** has had two falls. Fortunately, nothing appears to have broken. **Adrian Magill** received good news about his treatment. **Sam Caltabiano** continues to recover from surgery and still doing his exercises.

Ron Milosh is feeding the wildlife at his house where the white ants have demolished his shed.

Jim McLachlan is now the "**Emperor Penguin**" in the ocean swimming group on the Margaret River where they do not wear wet suits during winter.





Retired Members Association

Woolwich Pier Hotel: Lunch

2 GALE STREET, WOOLWICH

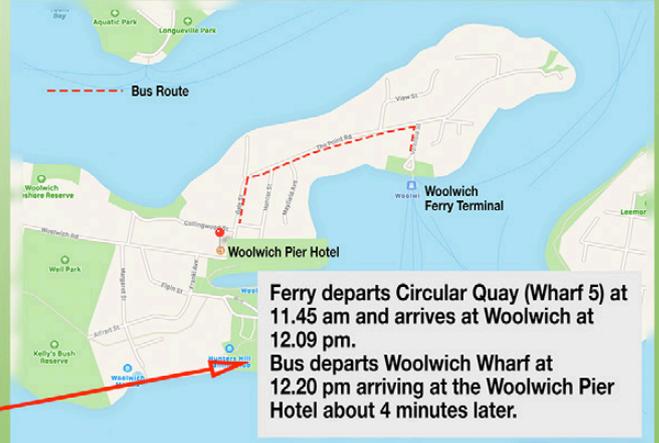
Our first social
function in
12 Months



Thursday, 18TH March 2021

Lunch commences about 12.30 pm

Map Insert has Ferry and Bus Times





64TH Year Reunion

TECHNICIANS IN TRAINING
CLASS of 1957



Wednesday 10th March 2021

10 am for 11 am Start

**West Port Bowling Club
Buller Street, Port Macquarie**

Further Information Bob Speer
email speer.r.65@gmail.com
or mobile 0408863900
RSVP by 27th February

Retired Members Association

2021 TripAway



MURRAY DARLING
Wentworth - Mildura - Riverland

Tour Includes

Accommodation Twin Share
Two Course Dinner each night
Daily Cooked Breakfast
All admissions as per itinerary
Bus Charter
One Light Lunch

10th to 16th October 2021

\$950 per Person

7 Days/6 Nights

Bookings open in March, deposit (\$100 per person); a full itinerary is on the next page of the newsletter.



Retired Members Association

2021 TripAway



MURRAY DARLING

Wentworth - Mildura - Riverland

Day One

We leave Sydney and make our way towards Wentworth with Morning and Afternoon Tea and Lunch stops along the way.

Day Two

After breakfast, we continue along our way to Wentworth with a stop along the way for Morning Tea.

We arrive at Wentworth for lunch at the Wentworth Bowling Club.

After lunch, we visit the Historic Gaol and Rotary Pioneer Museum.

Next, we have a thorough tour of Wentworth. We visit the Perry Sandhills, the Junction of the Murray and Darling Rivers, taking in all the sites.

We book into your Motel to relax prior to Dinner.

Day Three

After a cooked breakfast, we make our way to Orange World near Buronga for a Train Tour which includes the Packing Shed, Displays and Tastings. Purchases can also be made here.

Next stop is the Woodsies Gem Shop in Mildura where we will see jewellery making, gem cutting and a huge range of items available for purchase. Lunch stop is free time in the Mildura Mall area.

After lunch we board the Paddle Steamer "Melbourne" at the Wharf and enjoy the cruise and the experience of navigating a lock,

Day Four

After a cooked breakfast, we leave for South Australia's exciting "Riverland". The first stop is the Historical Village in the town of Loxton. There, we take a trip back in time and see how district settlers lived in the early 1900's. We will have morning tea there.

We reboard the coach and make our way to Berri for a lunch stop.

After lunch, we visit the Almond Hut on the outskirts of Renmark, we can make purchases if we wish.

Next stop is to Angove Winery prior to reboarding the coach and continuing on into Renmark for a quick look around before making your way back to Wentworth and the Motel.

We relax and freshen up for Dinner.

Day Five

After breakfast, we depart the Motel and make our way to the new Wentworth Military Museum and Rubys Cargo. Next stop is to Red Cliffs to visit "Big Lizzy". Lunch stop is in Mildura at the Plaza.

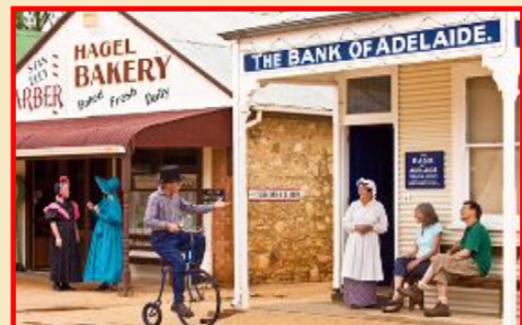
After lunch, we make our way out to Varapodio Estate to hear about the Olives and the Olive Oil. We can enjoy some tastings and some shopping there.

Then we return to our Motel for some relaxation prior to going to Dinner and an evening cruise aboard either the PS Mundoo or Rothbury on the Murray river.

Day Six

After another cooked breakfast, we board coach and depart for Narrandera for an overnight stay and Dinner, enroute for home.

There will be Morning and Afternoon Tea and Lunch stops along the way.



Day Seven

We depart the Motel and continue our journey home with stops for Morning Tea and Lunch.





CWU RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

NSW TELECOMMUNICATION AND SERVICES BRANCH

Nomination Form Executive and Committee Positions for 2021

NOTE TO CANDIDATES AND NOMINATORS – GENERAL INFORMATION

- » The Candidate and the two Nominators must be members of the Retired Members Association.
- » The Candidate must be nominated by members of the Retired Members Association.
- » The Candidate must agree to the nomination by signing this form
- » The election applies for ALL positions on the Management Committee.
- » A separate nomination form is required for candidates who are applying for election to multiple positions.
- » The completed form must be lodged with the nominated Returning Officer prior to the Retired Members Associations's Annual Meeting for 2021 to be held on Thursday, 25th February 2021, commencing 10.30 am or via post or email to the Secretary

Position Nominated For:

*Vacant Positions are: President, Vice President (2 positions)
Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and
Committee (15 positions)*

Nominee Full Name

I Accept the nomination (sign above)

I nominate the above member
First Nominator

Print Full Name

(sign above)

I nominate the above member
Second Nominator

Print Full Name

(sign above)

Please complete and print the form mail or email a copy to:

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