



Welcome to your March 2022 Newsletter.

John Lane

Social Calendar for 2022

I must commence with an apology for not having ready the publication our social function itinerary for 2022. Unfortunately, I have had to invest considerable time finalising our trip away to the Southern Highlands. In the past two weeks, the heavy rains have seen several cancellations to where we planned a visit. I have had to seek to find alternates. Not an easy task given the whole of the Southern Highlands seems awash. Despite the uncertainty due to the rain and COVID19 outbreaks, only a few members had to withdraw for reasons unrelated to the rain and COVID19.

When I return from the trip away, I will finalise our social calendar. However, I can now inform you that our first social function will be on Thursday, 21st April 2022, with lunch at the Woolwich Hotel. More information, including ferry times between Woolwich and Circular Quay, will be inside this month's newsletter.

Senior Rights Service

The committee is working on having guest speakers attend our General Meetings through 2022. The first is a presentation from **Seniors Rights Service** at our April 2022 General Meeting. The presentation will cover the following topics:

- ◆ Seniors Rights Service – who they are and what they do
- ◆ Planning (wills, power of attorney, guardianship and advance care directives)
- ◆ General legal issues affecting older people – know your rights

Annual and General Meetings

In February, the Association held its Annual and General Meetings. First, there was our election of the executive and committee for 2022. I will come to the new appointments later. The members attending the February General Meeting approved two significant changes to our constitution:

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**KNOW A FORMER
WORKMATE WHO IS NOT
YET A MEMBER
OF OUR ASSOCIATION?**

**WHY NOT EMAIL
HIM/HER OUR
NEWSLETTER?**



**INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER,
THEY WILL FIND!**

A PRINT COPY OF THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM – THEY CAN POST TO US.

THE EMAIL THAT DELIVERED YOUR NEWSLETTER HAS AN ATTACHED PDF VERSION OF THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM. SEND THEM THE PDF FILE WHICH THEY CAN COMPLETE FROM THEIR PC AND RETURN VIA EMAIL BACK TO US.

**REMIND THEM THERE IS JUST A ONCE ONLY
PAYMENT OF \$20 ON JOINING.
- NO ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE -**



RETIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2022 - GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday, 24th March 2022,
commences at 10.30am**

The General Meeting will be a hybrid meeting. Members can either attend in person at Petersham RSL Club or via Zoom Video Conference.

If you are attending in person, please advise Colin McQueen preferably by text or email.

(see page 2 under Office Bearers for contact information).



*A reminder email about the General Meeting will be sent to members on the Monday prior to meeting. **The email will include a link (with Meeting ID and passcode) to access the Zoom Video Conference.** A click on the link in the email will take you directly into the meeting. Zoom will be available 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time.*

For first time Zoom users, the email will also provide information on how to use Zoom

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Victor Raymond Anthony (Ray) Reynolds



Member Bob Speer makes the following tribute to Ray Reynolds

I would like to record the passing of Victor Raymond Anthony (Ray) Reynolds on Saturday, 5th March 2022.

Ray received a diagnosis of Cancerous Polyps about six weeks ago. He had a bowel resection on Wednesday, 2nd March; his progress following the operation was routine. However, later he passed away following a seizure, unable to be resuscitated on Saturday, 5th March 2022.

Ray was a 1957 Technician in Training. During training and following the completion of training, he worked at City South Carrier and the Long Line Equipment repair centre. He advanced as a Supervising Technician and Senior Telecommunications Technical Officer in Trunk Service, providing technical support to Transmission Engineers.

After a career in the PMG/Telecom, Ray sought employment with Optus, where he was Manager Network Services; his management sphere included their satellite earth stations. He travelled worldwide with Optus as he developed their transmission network. Following some health issues, Ray retired from Optus in 1994. Ray joined the ABC when his health returned, where he managed the Host Broadcaster network for the Sydney Olympic Games. Ray retired in the early 2000s. He often declared that he had a wonderful career in telecommunications.

Ray was the state president of the St. Vincent DePaul Society, where he volunteered in many capacities over many years. His other interests included IT volunteer with the Bankstown Police. In addition, he enjoyed transporting Senior Citizens with Community Transport. His enduring hobby was his home IT setup, where his Flight Simulator occupied many hours.

Ray is survived by his wife of 60 years, Maria and children Cathy, Margaret and Paul; there were five grandchildren Amy, Justin, Jessie, Milly and Nick. His only great-grandchild Zachary was presented to him two months ago.

There will be a funeral service for Ray at St. Luke's Catholic Church, 1 Beaconsfield Street, Revesby, on Friday, 18th March, commencing at 1 pm. A gathering will follow at the Revesby Workers Club; all are invited.

Vale Ray Reynolds.



Alan Barbour



The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association is sad to report the passing of a member; Alan Barbour passed away suddenly on 28th October 2021. A funeral service was held for Alan at the Wagga Crematorium on 10th November 2021.

Alan was born in Clydebank, Scotland, on 20th December 1947.

Alan was a member of our Association for over 22 years.

Alan Immigrated to Australia in 1953 to Russell Vale (near Wollongong). He joined the PMG on 20th January 1964 as a Technician in Training at Strathfield. After the first year of training, Alan went to work in Canberra with Country Installation.

During his work career, Alan travelled overseas. On one occasion with his father and another with his sister, Ann. While away, he researched his family history and for workmates.

On retirement, Alan was based at Wagga with Country Installation. After retirement, Alan enjoyed more trips, both overseas and within Australia. In Wagga, he was an active philatelic club member (he probably brought more stamps than he sold). Alan was also a local family genealogy group member, always willing to help others. He was also an approved volunteer who helped disadvantaged people complete their tax returns each year.

The Association extends its condolences and sympathy to Alan's partner Robyn, family, former workmates and friends.



Welcome to your March 2022 Newsletter (cont'd)

A broaden eligibility to join our Association and second a name change. The new name for our Association is "*Retired Telecommunication Employees Association*". The abbreviation is RTEA.

Our new name is much briefer than our original name, which reflected the NSW technical division of the Communications Workers Union. While there is no longer a reference to the Union movement within our name, I wish to remind members we remain proud of our Union Association.

Members of the Australian Telecommunications Employees Association (ATEA) formed our Association back in the early 1980s. The Union supported us during our formative years, underwriting our newsletter distribution paying for printing and postage up to a few years ago and provided accommodation for our committee and general membership meetings, for which we will always be grateful.

Coinciding with our name change has been the broadening of our membership eligibility. Persons who have worked in telecommunications, not just with the PMG, Telecom and Telstra, are now eligible to join us.

I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank Col McQueen who has amended our constitution to reflect the amendments passed at the February 2022 General Meeting. The amended constitution will be placed on our website shortly.

The newsletter now reflects our new name. We still need to make changes our website, on application forms, and stationery to reflect our new name. It is a big job ahead and therefore please be patient with us.

Finally, we held our annual elections for an executive committee for 2022. I welcome Alan Bassman as our new treasurer and Barry Robinson onto our new committee.

New Members

We have five new members who have joined. I am sure all members will join me in welcoming the following new members.

John Raymond Auckett. On was a 1974 Trainee. Jack worked with 10C Exchange Installation, Telegraphs and Data at Railway Square and NDC Wireless Installation.

Aris Apergis. Aris last worked at the Workshops.

Ted Golding. Ted was the Network Operations Manager with NSW Country and Metropolitan.

Roger Bromwich. Roger was a 1956 Technician in Training. After completing his training, Roger received appointments with installation divisions (both Exchange and Customer installation. He worked on customer installation in the Pennant Hills and Epping areas. He worked as an instructor at the Rhodes Training School and finally at the Balgowlah Subscriber Installation Depot and retired in November 2000.

Joe Vardanega. Joe worked in Customer Installation at Concord, the Mini Districts and on Projects.

March 2022 General Meeting

I would like to remind you that our March General meeting will be on 24th March 2024, commencing at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held at Petersham RSL and via zoom video conference. You are most welcomed to attend.



Retired Members Association

Woolwich Pier Hotel: Lunch

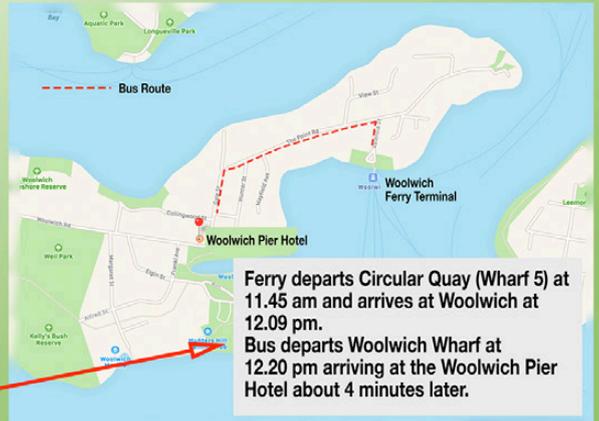
2 GALE STREET, WOOLWICH



Thursday, 21ST April 2022

Lunch commences about 12.30 pm

Map Insert has Ferry and Bus Times



Worked at the Redfern Mail Exchange? *Perhaps you can assist a Researcher*

Marc Jennison has approached our Association for assistance with his research of the Sydney Mail Exchange at Redfern. Marc is a postal history collector and researcher. Marc would like to talk with any of our members who worked at Redfern.

Marc has been accumulating envelopes processed through the Sydney Mail Exchange at Redfern for 30 years. He has also collected much-written history about the Redfern letter sorting system. His particular interest is the computer-controlled sorting systems in operation at the Redfern Mail Exchange between 1966 and 1985. The changes to the sorting systems over the life of the mail centre.

Marc has been able to determine the sorting codes for various NSW and interstate destinations over the life of the mail exchange. These codes changed over the years as the machine sorting programs with modifications to suit mail quantities and distribution within NSW and interstate. However, Marc has come up against obstacles to understanding the sorting changes in the mid-1970s. He has not been able to resolve these issues by reference to his accumulated written history.



Redfern Mail Exchange (Circa Mid1970s)

As mentioned, Marc is seeking help from our members who worked at Redfern Mail Exchange. You can contact Marc Jennison by phone at 0411 895360 or by email: rocket3@internode.on.net.



Information session



Seniors Rights Service



April General Meeting

Thursday, 28th April 2022

The information session will discuss:

- **About Seniors Rights** (Who we are and what we do)
- **Planning Ahead**
- **Documents for the future**
- **Wills, Power of Attorney, Guardianship, Advanced Care Directives**



The meeting will be available via Zoom. The speaker from Seniors Rights will present via Zoom. There will be a large screen projector for members attending the General Meeting at Petersham RSL.



Online - Identity Safety

PROBABLY WELL BEFORE THE COVID LOCKDOWNS, WE WERE USING THE INTERNET MORE FOR OUR SHOPPING, BANKING AND PAYING OUR BILLS AND FOR SOCIALISING. DURING PERIODS OF LOCKDOWN, WE RELIED ON MORE ONLINE FOR AN INCREASING RANGE OF TRANSACTIONS SUCH AS GROCERY PURCHASES, GP CONSULTATIONS. ALL THESE ONLINE ACTIVITIES WERE CONVENIENT AND SAVE US VALUABLE TIME. HOWEVER, ONLINE ACTIVITY DOES COME WITH SIGNIFICANT RISKS SECURING OUR IDENTITY AND BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS.

Many members would have experienced scam attempts either online, via a mobile call or a text message. Often, we will quickly identify a scam attempt; however, we need to be always on guard, mainly when we find ourselves busy or pre-occupied with other matters



I could list many scam examples; they all have just one objective: to gain access to your bank account details and steal your identity. An example of how big a problem and the money going into the pockets of scammers is the romance scams. **For just one month of December 2021, Australians lost \$9m to dating and romance scams through social networking or mobile applications.**

It is simply not practical to “never go online”. Although, if large amounts of money are involved, perhaps it is better to deal in person. The remainder of this article has some tips for a safer online experience.

1. Look for HTTPS in the URL address. HTTPS is the abbreviation for Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure. When purchasing or typing your details, look for https (*the letter ‘s’ is important*) in the URL address. HTTPS sites use encryption to avoid interception by a third party.

2. Be careful of what you share on social media.

3. Use Multiple Identities online. Perhaps you operate from just a single email address, which gives scammers one point of failure to attack. For example, they can access most of your other accounts that send confirmation codes to your address if they are able to compromise your lone email account. Apple and other software companies make it easier to have multiple email accounts. Multiple email accounts are easy to manage from within a single inbox. For example, have an email account for banking and government services, use separate emails for your various online purchase transactions and another for social activities. Also, with multiple emails, you will have an email account backup if you suffer an email attack.

4. Always think before you click. You may receive an SMS or email telling you that your bank account has comprised, and you need to re-verify to avoid having your entire banking account frozen. There will be a link and even a bank logo. It will appear to be legitimate until closer inspection. Don't panic even if the scammer has guessed your bank's name. Call your bank directly, and don't use the phone number in the email to call the bank. What the scammer is trying to do here is to get you to enter your bank details, including your password.

5. Use Password Protection. These days we have accounts for online purchases and loyalty programmes. You have the potential to rely on multiple passwords that we cannot possibly remember. To overcome this problem, we resort to using just a couple of passwords. Unfortunately, this will create a problem for you. Now scammers have access to many of your accounts with just a single comprised password.

You need a password management application such as Apple's keychain or 1Password, or LastPass. You use a single password (you securely store or remember) to access your password application which stores many complex passwords for your accounts.



RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION: APPLICATION FORM

Step 1 - Application		
First Name	Last Name	
Spouse/Partner Name <i>(the Retired Members Association has regular social functions to which Spouses and Partners are welcomed).</i>	Date of Birth (Optional). <i>You may wish to only provide year and/or month of your birth details.</i>	
Address (First Line)	Suburb/Town/City	
Address (Second Line)	Postcode	State
Contact Phone Number	Monthly Newsletter Preference (Except December and January)	
Email Address	Email <input type="checkbox"/>	Post <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to purchase a name badge at \$15 (includes postage). Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Name on Badge	

Step 2 – Work History

Brief Description of your work history in Telecommunications Industry

Step 3 – Payment

A membership payment together with postal edition of the newsletter and badge payments (only if later two items are applicable) can be made by posting a cheque to the Secretary, or via electronic transfer.

Cheque payments are payable to CWU Retired Members Association and post to:

Secretary, CWU Retired Members Association
22 Cameron Avenue,
Baulkham Hills
NSW 2153

Bank Transfers (electronic payments)

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

Payments preferences are:

- Membership plus free Newsletter via email \$20**
(Note this is a once only membership payment)
- Membership plus the current year's Newsletter via Post \$35**
- Membership plus Name Badge \$35**
- Membership plus Name Badge plus the current year's Newsletter \$50**

I wish to apply for membership of the Retired Members Association. I understand that by completing this application form and making payment, I agree to abide by the constitution of the Association. Please tick if you agree.

You can read and download (pdf) the Retired Members Association's constitution at:
<http://www.cwuretired.org/docs/CONSTITUTION.pdf>

Retired Members' New Member Application Form - Issue 1: 25 October 2021