



*The 1<sup>st</sup> tram (sets 015+016) is seen departing Town Hall Light Rail Station and travelling down George Street bound for Circular Quay in daylight.*



*Twelve minutes later, sets 015+015 are seen arriving at Circular Quay.*  
Private and confidential for Probus use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.

# *Epping and District Probus Club Inc.*



|                                                                                             |              |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| President                                                                                   | Ed Thurston  | 9868-5016 |
| Secretary                                                                                   | Ross Beattie | 9871-1838 |
| Welfare Officer                                                                             | Ray Palmer   | 9836-4516 |
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*40th Anniversary  
1979 - 2019*

## SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S PATTERN

Winners are Grinners! Last month I had a lot to grin about. Firstly, I was pleased with the Church's new sound system. Thanks to John Goodman and Frank Hanlon for joining me for the sound system training, at very short notice. Members are reminded that if their hearing aid has a Telecoil function to turn their device to 'T', to take advantage of the hearing loop facility built into the system. Another win was the Induction of James Bidgood and Keith Dixon. Hopefully, these new members will take on leadership roles over the next five years.

Our guest speaker, Andrew Fletcher, also put a grin on my face when he challenged the meeting with comments about the future of cars in cities. Anyone who has read the Parramatta City Council's Plans for Epping will appreciate where Andrew was coming from with his comments. A personal win was when I joined other Club members on a tour of Cochlear's Macquarie Park facility. I am looking forward to a tour of their Lane Cove plant and hope that their Research & Development remains in Australia. We had another win on the Other Activities front when Wal stepped up to the plate and organised the Club's first Dinner Group function, which will be at the Ambassador Restaurant this month. Hopefully other members will follow his lead.

You also have a winning Committee that is now planning for another exhilarating year in 2020. Vice President Mike is reviewing some of the outstanding issues raised in our 5-Year Plan. Ray Finch is bedding down the new activities of this year, so he can focus on expanding the range of activities that members can enjoy in 2020. Ken has already got a shortlist of interesting potential quest speakers for next year. Wal is looking for exciting overseas places to visit, that are not prone to be war zones. I am busy planning my tactical withdrawal. I have no intentions of being a Kevin Rudd or a Tony Abbott next year. The power of Probus is where the President builds on the strengths of the past and replaces weaknesses with new strengths. It is possible that in five years time our Club can become a Club of choice along with Bella Vista and Castle Hill, with a waiting list of potential members.

Hopefully, members will put a Grin of my face this month, by participating in the Survey of Member First Aid Certification.

## MEETINGS

### August

Andrew Fletcher was our guest speaker last month, when his topic was “Revitalising Newcastle—Graveyard to Global Hub”. Keolis Downer is the provider of public transport in Newcastle (light rail and bus). Keolis is a company based in France, while Downer is the current name for the well-known Clyde Engineering Company formerly based beside the Clyde Railway Station and made famous by its production of the 1<sup>st</sup> five 38 class stream locomotives and the GM type diesel-electric locomotives. The company also operates the Melbourne and Gold Coast Light Rails.

Newcastle was once referred to as “One Long Street—a grave yard at one end and gentlemen’s club at the other end”. Historically, from the 1830s it relied on coal production, manufacturing, ship building, smelting and munitions. The BHP Steelworks peak was in 1981 with 11,500 employees. It opened in 1915 and its centenary was commemorated with BHP constructing the walkway on Shepherds Hill above Bar Beach, from Strzelecki Lookout. The walkway also commemorates the centenary of the Anzacs and Gallipoli.

The heavy rail line into Newcastle Station divided the “One Long Street” from the Port of Newcastle. Its proposed removal divided the community. Other factors that came into play that greatly affected the growth of Newcastle were the 1989 Earthquake, the 1990 recession and the 1999 closure of the BHP Steelworks. This led to social dislocation and urban decay.

In December 2012 there was a new beginning with the introduction of an Urban Renewal Strategy. In the following June the State Government announced funding for the construction of a light rail basically along Hunter Street to replace the heavy rail. The Legislation was enacted in October 2015 and Keolis Downer was successful in its bid to operate it. Construction was completed in October 2018. It is a wireless system with each LRV being recharged at the Newcastle Beach Light Rail Station (see the March 2019 Probus Newsletter for a photo). It opened on 18 February 2019.

Coupled with this was the revamping of the bus and ferry networks together with the now unhindered access from Hunter Street to the Port of Newcastle, while retaining the historic Signal Box and Newcastle Station buildings. Keolis Downer has plans for the future extension of the light rail and are conducting an autonomous vehicle bus trial (i.e. no driver).

We very sincerely thank Andrew for coming and giving us an insight into the revitalisation of Newcastle.

### Eyre Peninsula—27 April–7 May 2020

A couple of places are still available on this 11-day/10-night tour with Bishops Adventure Tours. Highlights include: Xplorer train to Broken Hill, Broken Hill and Silverton, Peterborough and Port Augusta, villages and coastline of Eyre Peninsula, Streaky Bay and Port Lincoln, returning via the Clare Valley, Broken Hill and Dubbo.

The price is \$2,615 pp (+ \$505 single supplement). Brochures are available from Wal. Deposits of \$100 are payable now to confirm your place on the tour. Tour enquiries please to Wal Gallagher, phone 9868-7765.

*James Bidgood*



*Keith Dixon*



*All Saints Anglican Church, Ainslie, ACT on 10 August 2019. It was formerly the No. 1 Mortuary Station at Rookwood Cemetery*



## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome into our membership James Bidgood and Keith Dixon. James, a retired Financial Planner, resides with his wife Mary at 404/38 Victoria Street Epping, phone 0412-140-189. Keith, a retired Maintenance Worker, resides at 29/31-35 Carlingford Road Epping, phone 9867-3047.



## NOTICE

Wal Gallagher has a box of old club photos that he ‘inherited’ from the late Bill Creaser. He brought up the subject of archives and archival material at the last Committee Meeting and there doesn’t seem to be any interest by the current Committee. Therefore, Wal proposes to keep those photos of Committees and Committee Executives where they are identified, and which may be useful for our Golden Anniversary if we do another booklet. He will dispose of the rest (probably 95% of them).

Interested members are invited to take what they want before they go. Wal will keep them for another month and members can contact him if they want to look through them.

## CHAIR AND MORNING TEA ROSTER FOR OCTOBER

Rostered members capable of setting up chairs should be at the hall shortly after 8.30 am. If you are unable to be present as rostered, please arrange a swap with another member and inform the co-ordinator, Mark Gibbs, phone 9899-8545. \* Serving tea and coffee only.



Chris Staples  
Bill Thompson  
Lance Walker

Greg Stone\*  
Ray Thorpe\*



## TOUR NEWS

### Life of Riley Alpine Tour—27 October 27–1 November 2019

This tour is fully booked. Final payments are due at the September meeting. Pick up time will be advised in October.

## September

Dr Greg de Moore is our guest speaker today, when his topic will be “Lithium and Bi-Polar Disorder”. He will be talking about his second book—Finding Sanity, co-authored with Dr Ann Westmore.

This is the biography of the Australian John Cade whose experiences in the WW2 Changi prison camp suggested to him that the origin of some psychiatric disorders might lie within the body, in the presence or absence of something in the brain’s chemistry. It was a radical idea at the time. John began to treat a particularly manic patient by giving him doses of lithium and the patient’s sanity was soon restored. This was a profound breakthrough making his discovery of the powerful mood stabilising effects of lithium still the gold standard in the treatment of bipolar disorder and the story of Australia’s greatest mental health achievement.

Greg is a Consultant Psychiatrist at Sydney’s Westmead Hospital with a love of history and science. His career took a detour from medicine with a PhD in history and two books published in the last few years. The first was about Tom Wills, a colonial cricketer and champion AFL player—the First Wild Man of Australian Sport.

Greg was born in Melbourne of parents who migrated to Australia from Sri Lanka, but he has lived in Sydney for over 20 years.

## October

Mark Bundy will be our guest speaker next month on Monday, 14 October 2019, when his topic will be “The 150-year History of Rookwood Cemetery”. Mark is the Operations General Manager of Rookwood Cemetery and he also conducts historic talks and tours about the cemetery including Rookwood’s most historic and captivating areas, from its vast landscape and culturally specific gardens, through to its heritage buildings and memorials.

Rookwood Cemetery is the oldest and most multicultural working cemetery in Australia and also is the largest Victorian cemetery in the world. Established in 1867, this historic cemetery has evolved significantly over the years and today, with a total area of 290 hectares, Rookwood is intrinsically linked to our nation’s heritage. Whether it is to remember a loved one, conduct family history research, reflect and learn about our country, or admire the artistic value of the monuments, Rookwood will forever be a significant Australian icon.

He started working at Rookwood in 1992 and has held various roles within the business and is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to Rookwood’s many fascinating and quirky facts.

He tells the story behind its development and evolution, including its significant link to our nation's heritage. He conducts Historic Talks which include a screening of historic videos, which showcase Rookwood's 150-year history, notable and notorious characters interred within, and the story behind Rookwood's Mortuary Stations.

## DAY OUTINGS

### September

This month's outing is on Tuesday, 17 September 2019 and is our Annual Picnic Lake Parramatta Park. Lake Parramatta Reserve is a 73-hectare bushland and parkland located within 2 km of the central Parramatta CBD. It is recognised as one of the most significant and beautiful bushland remnants in Western Sydney. There are bushwalking tracks, Shelters and a Café on site.

It is intended that everyone will gather there at approximately 10.15–10.30 a.m. for morning tea with lunch to be served at about 12.15 p.m. Lunch will consist of barbecued sausages and rolls with a wide choice of salads. There is a charge for lunch of \$15 and access to the site is free. Bring your own drinks.

Access to the site is by car only and there are plenty of parking spaces available. The site is fairly level with very few steps to negotiate. The main entrance to the park is via Lackey Street off Bourke Street in North Parramatta.

In the event of inclement weather the picnic will be rescheduled to Wednesday, 25 September 2019. Please pay the lunch cost at the September meeting. Keep your eye on the weather forecast!

Members requiring a lift to the picnic please let me know at the September meeting. Please pay me the \$15 cost at the September meeting. Keep your eye on the weather forecast!

### October

Next month's outing is on Wednesday, 23 October 2019 and is a trip to Red Cow Farm at Sutton Forest. Red Cow Farm is a unique cool-climate garden set on 2 hectares of land in the picturesque rural village of Sutton Forest. Developed by the farm owners around their historic 1820 cottage, the garden is abundant and secretive. The garden features a stunning collection of rare and unusual perennials, woodland, old fashioned roses, clematis and a kitchen garden. A leisurely walk around the property will occupy about one hour.

Our travel there will be by a 48-seater bus with a group from the Eastwood Probus Club. The bus will leave from the Carlingford Bowling Club at 8.30

the Billarong Reserve is located on the right-hand side (if you reach the Pittwater Road junction you have gone approximately 1 km too far). We will be riding around the Lagoon.

Please contact Steve Drury prior to the day, on phone 9872-7447 or mobile 0487-785-444 if you wish to participate. A loan cycle and helmet may be available if required.

### Croquet and Movies

One member along with 10 from Oakhill Probus enjoyed croquet on Thursday, 15 August 2019. The next game is scheduled for Thursday, 19 September 2019.

Five members and four guests enjoyed the movie *Palm Beach* at the Event Cinema at Macquarie Centre followed by lunch at Chantilly café. The next movie is listed for Tuesday, 24 September 2019.

### Gilbert & Sullivan Opera

This year Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Sydney presents *The Mikado* at the Smith Auditorium Lyric Theatre, Shore School, William Street, North Sydney. *The Mikado*, or *The Town of Titipu*, is a comic operetta in two acts with music by Arthur Sullivan and words by W S Gilbert, the ninth and most famous of their fourteen operatic collaborations, and one of their most frequently performed. It opened in London in 1885 and the setting in Japan, an exotic location remote from Britain allowed Gilbert to soften his satire of British politics and institutions.

Set in the fictional town of Titipu, Act I takes place in Ko-Ko's Official Residence where the characters are introduced—Ko-Ko, formerly a cheap tailor, sentenced to death for flirting, but promoted to Lord High Executioner by the town officials on the basis that "he could not cut off another's head until he cut his own off", so no executions would occur; Nanki-Poo, a poor but handsome wandering minstrel but secretly the son of the Mikado; Yum-Yum, his beloved schoolgirl and ward of Ko-Ko; Pooh-Bah and Pish-Tush, Gentlemen of the Town; Peep-Bo and Pitti-Sing, two other wards of Ko-Ko; and Katisha, an elderly lady of the Mikado's court who has amorous desires for Nanki-Poo.

In Act II the Mikado and his entourage arrives in Titipu, looking for his lost son, and the usual G & S confusion occurs before the situation is resolved with the marriage of the young lovers and the wedding of Katisha to Ko-Ko.

We will attend the matinee performance on Sunday, 13 October 2019 at 2.00 p.m. Seats are still available for this performance at \$40 each, see Wal.

a.m. There is ample parking at the Club. Total cost for the day will be \$60 per head, inclusive of lunch at the Moss Vale RSL. Drinks at lunch will be extra. Following lunch the bus will return us to the Carlingford Bowling Club at about 4.00 p.m. We need to prepay for the day outing and I would ask that all attendees pay at the September meeting. To meet the cost of the day we will need at least 15 of our members to attend with the balance sourced from the Eastwood Probus Club.

Outings Co-ordinator: Michael Brinsden, phone 9868-4940

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

The following contains reports on Other Activities in August 2019 and those planned for September 2019 not covered elsewhere:

**Music Group**—12 people attended the July Music Group at the home of Andrew and Gillian. This month the group meets at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 9 September 2019 at the home of Ross and Sybil Beattie at 23 Honiton Avenue East, Carlingford. Please contact Bob Cruikshank for details.

**Coffee Club**—15 people met on 16 August 2019 at Carlingford Court near the Coffee Club outlet. The next meeting is on Friday, 13 September 2019.

**Movie Group.** Nine people attended the movie ‘Palm Beach’. The September movie will be on Tuesday 24 September. Details of next movie, cinema and lunch venue will be provided by Dennis Druce via email.

**Rambles**—No Ramble will be held in September. Future Rambles are dependent on a member coming forward who is prepared to organise a gentle walk (ramble), even on an occasional basis.

**Dining Group**—19 people had a pleasant lunch at Dooleys Waterview on 14 August 2019, arranged by John Mortimer. For September, Wal Gallagher has arranged dinner at the Ambassador Restaurant, Ryde TAFE, for the evening of Tuesday, 24 September 2019. We are still seeking more members who would be able to arrange at least one lunch or dinner each year. Greg Stone has offered to arrange a lunch in October at Eastwood Rugby Club on a Thursday (date t.b.a) to cater for those who cannot make Wednesdays.

## Computer Group

Courses coming up over the next month:

|              |                                         |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 26 September | Windows 10 for beginners                |
| 4 October    | Cyber Safety & Online Banking           |
| 11 October   | Managing Digital Assets                 |
| 17 October   | How to choose a NBN plan that suits you |
| 25 October   | Travel Apps                             |

Note: Tech Project Hour—every Friday from 11–12 noon—September to October. WhatsApp, how to send text and voice messages, pictures and make voice calls using your phone’s internet connection (details: Ed Thurston).

## By Opal Card

Ten members enjoyed travel by train and bus on 19 August 2019 to Toronto. Use your Opal Card for a train trip on Monday, 16 September 2019 to Macarthur. We will assemble at Epping Station at 8.45 a.m. to catch the interurban train on Platform 1 at 9.04 a.m., arriving at Strathfield Station on Platform 1 at 9.14 a.m. We will change to Platform 6 to catch the train at 9.18 a.m. for Parramatta, arriving there on Platform 2 at 9.30 a.m.

We will inspect the Waiting Room on Platform 3 before boarding the train at 9.54 a.m. for Glenfield, arriving there on Platform 3 at 10.25 a.m. We will cross to Platform 4 to board the train at 10.41 a.m. for Macarthur, arriving there at 11.02 a.m.

We will exit Macarthur Station to the concourse by the lift and walk east to Macarthur Square and choose a venue for refreshments. Coco Cubano is near the Theatre.

Our journey back to Epping commences from Platform 1. We will board a train to Central via the East Hills and Airport Line, staying on the train at Glenfield and continuing to Circular Quay, where we will alight to observe if there is a large ship in port or a LRV at the Circular Quay Light Rail Station. We will rejoin the train and proceed to Wynyard and again alight to go up to the North Shore Line platform to board the train and proceed to Chatswood where we will alight and transfer to the Metro.

## Cycle Group

There were 6 riders on Friday, 23 August 2019 for the Homebush/Parramatta Cycleway ride. We left from Mill Park Street, Rhodes and followed the southern side cycle path via Wentworth Point, past the Armoury and on to Silverwater Bridge where we crossed the river. We then continued on the Parramatta River cycle way to Meadowbank Wharf stopping for coffee at the Fork and Spoon café. After crossing the river again, we ventured into the Wetlands eventually finishing back at Mill Park Street. We rode a total distance of 21 km.

The next cycle ride will be on Friday, 20 September 2019. The meeting point is Billarong Reserve on Narrabeen Lagoon at 10.00 a.m. Coming from Chatswood, turn north off Warringah Road on to the Wakehurst Parkway, follow the Parkway almost to the end (past the Sydney Academy of Sport)—