

TOUR NEWS

The Life of Riley Alpine Tour to Jindabyne was successful with 25 enjoying a packed itinerary with guided tours of the Mt Kosciuszko area (still plenty of snow); the Snowy Hydro Scheme, Eucumbene Dam and Adaminaby; and the Cooma, Bombala and Dalgety area. Highlights of the tour were the visit (again) to the 1896 Burnima Homestead and the visit to the Museum at Cooma Gaol.

The proposed tours of either New Zealand, Egypt or South Korea in 2020 have all been abandoned for lack of support. We are still working closely with South Creek St Marys Club and will be offering two tours next year, Norfolk Island and India.

Norfolk Island—24 February–2 March 2020

This 8-day/7-night package includes return airfares with Air New Zealand, and airport taxes, airport transfers on Norfolk, 7 nights accommodation in a superior room, all breakfasts and 6 dinners as well as tours on the island.

The cost is \$2,300 per person twin share (\$2890 single supplement). This tour has been booked at short notice and deposits are required by the end of November to confirm a place on the tour. See Wal for brochures and booking forms.

Eyre Peninsula—27 April–7 May 2020

This tour is fully booked but you can place your name on the waiting list in case of a cancellation. The price is \$2,615 per person twin share (\$505 single supplement). Brochures are available from Wal.

India's Golden Triangle & Tiger—31 August–8 Sept. 2020

This is an 8-day tour with highlights in Delhi (significant historical architecture), a train trip to Agra (Taj Mahal and Agra Fort), Ranthambhore National Park (Project Tiger conservation programme) and Jaipur (ancient forts and palaces).

Flying Malaysia Airlines via Kuala Lumpur the tour is priced at \$3,290 per person twin share (\$4040 single), the tour is all-inclusive save for lunches.

A 3-day stopover in KL on the return journey is available, price and suggested itinerary tba. See Wal for brochures.

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Epping and District Probus Club Inc.



President	Ed Thurston	9868-5016
Secretary	Ross Beattie	9871-1838
Welfare Officer	Ray Palmer	9836-4516
Website: www4.tpg.com.au/users/keithrob		
Postal Address: PO Box 855, Epping NSW 1710		

40th Anniversary
1979 - 2019



Kokoda Day
3 November 1942



NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENTS PATTERN

It is now that time of the year that members need to think about their contributions to the Club in 2020. There are three levels of volunteering that need to be covered to ensure the Club's sustainability—Office Bearers, Activity Leaders and Club Support.

Office Bearer positions include President, normally filled by the Vice President (in our case Michael Brinsden, so a new Vice President is required for 2020); Day Outings (now also undertaken by Michael Brinsden); Secretary; Treasurer; Speakers; Tours; Other Activities and Welfare. Except for the President, the positions are typically for a three-year period. Frequently, when jobs such as Welfare and Tours are not contested at the Annual General Meeting, they are regularly filled by the existing incumbent. All members are encouraged to nominate for an Office Bearer's position.

Activity Leader positions are non-Committee roles and are usually led by members with a particular passion. The most popular groups include Theatre, Dining, Train Journeys, Music Appreciation, Cycling and Movies. These groups are represented on the Club's Committee by the "Other Activities" role, at this time held by Ray Finch. If you have a passion that you would like to share with other club members in 2020, have an informal chat with Ray.

Club Support positions are the non high profile roles that if not undertaken, would severely impact the smooth running of the Club. The Security role, for example, is responsible for opening and closing the hall during our monthly meetings. This task is normally carried out by a Club member who is also connected to the Presbyterian Church. John Goodman

presently undertakes this role. Without the leadership of Mark Gibbs there would be no chairs to sit on and there would be no morning teas. Another unsung hero is Gordon Crombie who mans the front desk and welcomes both members and visitors to our General Meetings. Last but by no means least, is the Editor and Printer of the Club's Newsletter, at this point Col Short. If you feel that you have got a lot out of Probus and have a flair for Marketing, Communications or Journalism why not share this experience with non members by way of communicating the Club's activities in the media.

Remember everyone listed above either has to attend medical appointments, take a well deserved holiday or attend to things like jury duty. They may have to retire from the role for health and other reasons at short notice. If you are unable to devote your time to a role full time or perhaps you may want to try before making a firm commitment, then you can be an "Assistant-To". The best way to achieve Fun, Friendship and Fellowship is to help out a mate.

MEETINGS

October

Mark Bundy was our guest speaker last month, when his topic was "The 150-year History of Rookwood Cemetery". He is the Operations General Manager of Rookwood Cemetery and 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. He had some interesting funny stories & facts about the serious business of what to do with Grand ma/pa/loved one's remains.

Col Jones was given his first opportunity, as the "Club Reporter", to write our Newsletter's lead article while the Club's Star Reporter Col Short took a holiday. Guess what, he stuffed it up. He forgot to take his reporter's note pad to record the occasion. So he presents this from a fading memory. You will have to visit the cemetery and buy his book to get all the facts—Editor. Advertising is not allowed.

Not being a native of Sydney, much of the heritage and background of this site was unknown to me. It was just a big Sydney cemetery. What an eye opener!

Rookwood Cemetery is the oldest and most multicultural working cemetery in Australia and is also the largest Victorian cemetery in the world. Established in 1867 with land initially purchased in 1862, it now totals an area of 290 hectares.

Mark told us how the growing city with numerous small local council or church managed cemeteries were running out of space and how two of the largest cemeteries in the then south-western fringe of the city around

A short walk from the Station gives us a choice of venues for an early lunch. After lunch we will board a Route 526 bus from near the Station Entrance at 12.37 p.m. to Rhodes Station, arriving at 1.08 p.m. There is a train to Epping from Rhodes at 1.23 p.m., arriving at Epping at 1.34 p.m.

Cycle Group

There were 6 riders on Friday, 25 October 2019 for the ride through Prospect Reservoir/Parklands. We left from Andrew Campbell Reserve, following the reservoir before veering off towards the Western Sydney Parklands. With the temperature at 33°C, coffee in the Parklands was a welcome break. Our return journey was via the same route, yielding a total distance of 19 km.

The next cycle ride will be on Friday, 22 November 2019. The meeting point is Mill Park Street, Rhodes at 10.00 a.m. The ride will be along the Parramatta Cycleway to Parramatta Ferry wharf and on to Parramatta Park where we will have coffee. We will return via Silverwater Bridge to Rhodes, a total distance of approximately 28 km.

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

Movies

Four members and five guests enjoyed the movie *Ride like a girl* at event Cinema Macquarie Centre on Tuesday, 22 October 2019. An excellent movie about the first female jockey to win the Melbourne cup. Lunch at Chantilly café where as usual we were well looked after. Next movie is on Tuesday, 26 November 2019.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The final Old Codgers' Music Group meets at John and Pam Peters' house, 81a Cheltenham Road, Cheltenham, at 2.30 p.m. on Monday. 11 November 2019, for Christmas-themed music selected by attendees.

The Dining Group is inviting members and guests to a lunch at the Fork & Spoon Café, Bowden Street, Meadowbank (opposite the wharf), at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday. 14 November 2019. Come by bus (Route 513 from Carlingford via Wet Ryde), train (moderate walk from Meadowbank or Rhodes), ferry, or drive (limited street parking but if you want to shop at Shepherds Bay Village Plaza, there is 3 hours free parking at its P1 and P2 parking stations in Bay Drive, a short walk from the Fork & Spoon).

Ramble—Col Jones will lead an easy walk on Thursday, 21 November 2019, from Tempe Station to Wolli Creek along the banks of the Cooks River. Meet at Epping Station at 8.50 a.m. Contact Col for full details.

Computer Group

Courses coming up over the next month:

8 November	Social Media & Photo Sharing
11 November	myGov Workshop
14 November	Cloud Storage Options for Photos
15 November	NSW Seniors Card & Travel Apps
22 November	iPads & Tablets
28 November	Android Basics—getting to know your device

Notes: Tech Bar last session will be on Friday, 13 December 2019 and first meeting next year will be on 7 February 2020. Also on 7 February, Chatswood library will be having a ‘Seniors Technology Open Day’ from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be demonstrations on how to use chrome cast to stream movies, use Bluetooth to listen to music and use voice assistance to help finding information on the internet. This will also include a morning tea.

By Opal Card

Nine members and 2 wives enjoyed travel by train on 21 October to Kiama with lunch at the Stonewall Café. Use your Opal Card for a train trip on Monday, 18 November 2019 on the soon to be replaced Carlingford Railway Line by light rail. The Clyde to Carlingford Line opened in 1888 as a private railway and will close on Sunday, 5 January 2020 to make way for the construction of part of the first stage of the Parramatta Light Rail.

We will assemble at Epping Station Concourse at 9.05 a.m. and proceed to Bus Stand D on the western side of Beecroft Road and north of the lift and board the Route 550 Parramatta bus at 9.21 a.m. We will alight from the bus at the Lloyd Avenue stop on Pennant Hills Road at Carlingford. We will utilize the Pedestrian Crossing at Lloyd Avenue to cross Pennant Hills Road and proceed to Carlingford Railway Station, where we will board the 9.45 a.m. train to Clyde.

Upon alighting from the train at 9.59 a.m. at Clyde on Platform 1, we will proceed to Platform 4 to catch the 10.12 a.m. train to Lidcombe (there is no lift at Clyde but there is stair lifts to all platforms).

At Lidcombe we will either use the lifts at the Auburn end of the station or the stairs at the Flemington end to go to Platform 1 and walk under the road bridge to Platform 0, where we will board the train to Olympic Park that departs at 10.34 a.m., arriving at Olympic Park Station at 10.39 a.m.

Lidcombe were combined to provide more burial space for the whole of the Sydney region. To avoid conflict between the surrounding communities whose land was resumed, the new title Rookwood was adopted. Quite a story there but you will have to research it yourself.

We were also told about the cemetery train that ran regularly to carry coffins and mourners from Central city mortuaries to the cemetery, stopping at intermediate stations along the way. This service remained open until 1948; by then road corteges and motor hearses took over. Since then the various railway buildings have deteriorated and been removed. The Mortuary No. 1 Station’s roof was destroyed by a fire and the building became derelict. However, it came back to life when it was bought by the Ainslie Parish of the Anglican Church, disassembled stone by stone and re-erected as the All Saints Church in the Canberra suburb of Ainslie (see photo in the September Newsletter taken by our Star Reporter when he attended a funeral there in August).

Did you know the fear of being buried alive at that time led to the custom of having a string from inside the coffin run to the surface so that the “Graveyard shift/watch” could watch for any signs of life?

Mark also made us aware that cemeteries have grown into very large businesses catering for the needs of our diversified cultures and customs. There is fierce competition between sites around Sydney. Rookwood respects the beliefs and customs of all and is developing more amenities for the visitors with coffee shops and children’s play areas in each of the many dedicated cultural areas. The aim is to become more a recreational area where, in its former glory days, families took the train out to Grand-ma/pa’s grave and made a picnic day outing while visiting departed friends & relatives.

But burial space is again running out and while they have space for a few more years they are already investigating purchase of land for Rookwood 2. Mark says “Watch this space”

We very sincerely thank Mark for coming and enlightening us about Rookwood Cemetery or as it is often known as the “Dead Centre of Sydney”.

November

Judy Tenzing is our guest speaker today, when her topic will be “A Tail of the Himalaya”. Judy is an adventurer, tour leader, author and lecturer on the history and culture of India and the Himalaya. After a decade spent living and working there, she returned to Australia with her then new husband Tashi Tenzing, grandson of Everest’s first summiter Tenzing Norgay. They established a small travel agency in Sydney specialising in India and the Himalaya, which Judy runs to this day.

Having lived and worked as an administrator and tour operator for over 30 years she has gained a knowledge of and love for the region that permeates

all aspects of her life. With an academic background in South Asian history, Judy has lectured on the history and cultures of this region.

She is the author, with her former husband Tashi Tenzing, of the definitive book on Sherpa mountaineering history *Tenzing and the Sherpas of Everest*, which has been translated into seven languages and was published worldwide. She is now working on a new book on India and World War II.

Judy combines her life as a dedicated Indophile with her role as mother to her son Pasang and daughter Dechen. She travels frequently to India, Bhutan and Nepal and maintains close ties with their wonderful people.

DAY OUTINGS

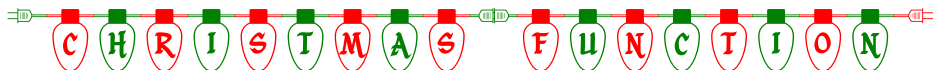
November

This month's outing is on Wednesday, 20 November 2019 and is a trip on the Nepean Belle Paddlewheeler. This cruise on the Nepean River at Penrith will occupy 2½ hours and will take us up the Nepean River Gorge through very scenic surrounds. The boat is well equipped with a Bar and lunch table facilities. Please note that drinks can only be purchased with cash while on board the boat. A delicious lunch will be served while we cruise the river and we will be entertained by the Captain's commentary as we pass the river sights.

Access to the Tench Reserve Jetty, where the cruise begins, is from Mulgoa Road exit off the M4. Drive toward Penrith and take the left turn when you see the sign to the Nepean River near the new bridge construction. Departure from the dock will be at 12.00 noon and guests are asked to be present ready to board at least 30 minutes before departure. The cost is \$48 per person for the cruise and lunch and registration/payment is required at the November general meeting. Toilet facilities are on the upper deck and there is no lift.

Numbers are limited to a maximum of 20 due to accommodation limitations but I strongly recommend this outing as it is a very enjoyable cruise topped off with a very good lunch.

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



Our Christmas Function this year will be held on Tuesday, 3 December 2019 at The Grand Pittwater: North Ryde Community Club. Our function is timed to commence at 11.15 a.m. Drinks will be served at the lunchroom entrance from approximately 11.20 a.m. and lunch will commence at 12 noon.

The Menu will consist of three courses with an entrée, a main course and dessert. There will be two dishes per course and they will be served

alternately to each person at each table. Gluten-free meals can be requested. Self-serve coffee and tea is available after sweets. Drinks (apart from those taken when entering the lunchroom) during lunch will be at individual cost and can be ordered from the Bar.

Seating is at round tables seating 10 and the table settings will be white linen with Christmas decorations. Guests are encouraged to circulate between tables during the meal. There will be a short address from our President after the main course to mark the completion of our 40th year. A public address system will be in operation during the day.

The cost is per head is \$55 (not including any additional drinks ordered at the Bar) and this will be confirmed at the November General Meeting. Members must register and pay at the November Meeting as we are required to inform the Club of the number attending.

This is our premier outing of the year and members are encouraged to participate as it is an excellent venue as witnessed during the past two years.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The following contains reports on Other Activities in October 2019 and those planned for November 2019 not reported elsewhere:

Music Group—Ten (7/3) people attended the October Music Group at the home of Hugh Knight. This month the group meets at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 11 November 2019, at the home of John and Pam Peters, 81A Cheltenham Rd., Cheltenham. Contact Bob Cruikshank for details.

Coffee Club—17 people met on 18 October 2019 at Carlingford Court near the Coffee Club outlet. The next meeting is on Friday, 15 November 2019. No booking required, just turn up between 10.00 a.m. and midday.

Croquet—The next game is scheduled for Thursday, 21 November 2019. Contact Dennis Druce for details.

Theatre—Nine people attended the *Mikado* on 13 October 2019. Ten attended *Me and My Girl* on Friday, 8 November 2019. Also, in November, Wal is taking bookings for *Doubt—a Parable*, a play set in a school in New York, exploring the issues arising when a Catholic Nun accuses a young priest of improper relations with a male student. This Pulitzer Prize winner will be at The Chester Street Theatre at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 20 November 2019. Tickets are \$22.50 per head.

Dining Group—23 (14/9) people had an enjoyable lunch, arranged by Greg Stone, on Thursday, 10 October 2019 at Eastwood Rugby Club. Ross Beattie has organised a booking for lunch at The Fork & Spoon restaurant, near Meadowbank Wharf, for 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 14 November 2019. Please book with Ross. We are still seeking more members who would be able to arrange at least one lunch or dinner each year.