



John Oliver, one of the trio of members who rode the shuttle driverless electric bus at Olympic Park during the November train outing.



The driverless electric shuttle bus at Olympic Park

Private and confidential for Probus use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.

Epping and District Probus Club Inc.



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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S PATTERN

I trust that everyone managed to spend quality time with their families over the Christmas/New Year and Australia Day holidays. I also hope that the bush fires and the resulting hazardous smoke did not have too much impact on you and your families.

Since Julius Caesar ruled that the New Year began on January 1st. 46BC and urged subjects to commit to personal improvement, resolutions have been synonymous with the year's turn. Caesar also knew that the only way his people could achieve their resolutions was with the help of others.

If you have overindulged over Christmas and want to cut down on food and drink I recommend that you restrict your over indulgence to the Probus monthly lunch/dinner activity. If you are committed to more exercise, the Probus rambling and cycling groups are eagerly waiting for your company.

Hopefully, all members made a resolution to do at least one thing for the Club, over the next 12 months. Last year members took turns to organise a lunch or dinner, which worked very well. This year, have you thought about organising one outing for the Club? This will be most appreciated by whoever takes over as the Office Bearer for Outings. If you like to learn and try new things then I recommend aiming for the Club's new Vice President. As Vice President you get to test your ideas with other Committee members and as President you get to implement them. This ensures that the Club has a constant flow of fresh ideas.

If your New Year's resolution is to pursue a hobby or interest not currently undertaken by the Club, please don't hesitate to have an informal chat with Ray Finch, before going outside of the Club. There may be other Club members with the same interest. Obviously the more activities we can offer potential new members, the more people will want to join the Club. Let's have more Fun, Friendship and Fellowship in 2020 than we did in 2019.

MEETINGS

February

Patrick Dodd is our guest speaker today, when his topic will be “The Governor’s Travels—touring the colony with Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie”. He will tell us the impressive achievements of Lachlan Macquarie during his tenure as Governor of the Colony. Come and join Patrick as he walks in the Governor’s footsteps down the original Cox’s Road from Emu Plains to the top of Mount York and across country to Glenroy Crossing. The Governor was constantly on the move between the Illawarra, Lake George, Bathurst, Port Macquarie and Tasmania. We meet some of the fascinating people who went with him on his journeys.

Patrick had five decades of experience in education, training and tourism with numerous organisations. In 1980 he started his own training and development company, Mindworks International which consulted to many companies in 14 countries. He has the Australian Sports Medal for services to sport, being a manager of Australia’s Winter Olympic Teams in Canada and Norway.

In retirement he was Founder and President of the Macquarie Society; a Volunteer Guide at the State Library of NSW; a Public Speaker and in 2012 was awarded NSW Volunteer of the Year for Cultural Heritage Interpretation.

This year, he and his wife Gillian will celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary. She was a history teacher and passionate gardener who is a Volunteer Guide at the Royal Botanic Gardens. They enjoy the company of their eight grandchildren.

March

Dilini Manthilaka will be our guest speaker next month on Monday, 9 March, 2020, when her topic will be “Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD)”. Dilini works for the Macular Disease Foundation Australia (MDFA) and is coming to tell us more about AMD and show how to try and preserve our sight. Over the age of 50, 1/7 of the population are diagnosed with AMD and 1/3 over the age of 80.

The Macular Disease Foundation Australia can show how to try and preserve one’s sight through some very simple techniques and lifestyle changes. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about AMD, its symptoms, risk factors and treatment options and management. The main focus of our presentation is to encourage positive lifestyle changes. MDFA provides free information kits with a wealth of resources for every attendee as well as a home monitoring tool.

A stopover in KL on the return journey is available for \$400 twin share (\$715 single) and includes three nights in the Parkroyal Hotel, airport transfers and a half day city tour. See Wal for brochures.

Expressions of Interest—Short Self-Drive Tours

Suggestions have been made in the press and elsewhere for people to do self-drive tours in NSW to support towns affected by drought and/or bushfires. This could involve 3- or 4-day trips to such locations for example as the Blue Mountains/Lithgow, Mudgee, Bathurst/Orange, Riverina, South Coast. This would take some planning do it as a group activity. If there is any interest, please speak to Wal.



The Interpretation signage at the junction of Lowes Mount Road and Cox’s Line of Road (Carlwood Road). It provides a brief history of Cox’s Road.



The Epping Probus Train Outing on the now closed Carlingford Line in November 2019

Nominations are needed for the following positions: Vice President, Day Outings and Speaker Co-ordinators, but are also welcome for other positions.

Nominations Forms will be distributed by email to all members with email addresses, while printed copies will be available at the sign-in desk at the February G.M. Completed Nomination Forms should be returned to the Secretary (Ross Beattie, rnbeattie@gmail.com) at the February G.M. but late nominations may be accepted.

If there are no nominations for a particular position, a nomination can be made from the floor at the A.G.M., provided all parties are present and agree. The elected Committee has the ability to appoint a member to fill any vacancy at any time.

CHAIR AND MORNING TEA ROSTER FOR MARCH

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.



Yew Cheah Robert Chow
Javerchand Christie Rick Collins
John Connell (serving tea/coffee only)



TOUR NEWS

Eyre Peninsula—27 April–7 May 2020

This tour is fully booked. Outstanding balances will be payable at the March meeting.

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 from Delhi to Agra (Taj Mahal and Agra Fort), then by modern coach to Ranthambhore National Park (Project Tiger conservation programme) and Jaipur (ancient forts and palaces).

Flying Malaysia Airlines via Kuala Lumpur the tour is priced at \$3290 per person twin share (\$4040 single); the tour is all inclusive except for lunches. Business class fares are available on request.

Dilini graduated with a Bachelor of Science at the University of NSW, majoring in Vision Science, and then graduated with a Master of Public Health from the University of Sydney. She was working at the Cancer Council NSW, offering training and support, before joining MDFA as an education officer, providing all the non-clinical support that a patient, family member or carer might require.

DAY OUTINGS

February

This month's outing is on Wednesday, 19 February 2020 and is a conducted tour of one of Sydney's most famous landmarks, St Mary's Cathedral, which is located next to Hyde Park in the CBD. Our tour will last approximately one and a half hours and will be conducted by a member of the Church Volunteer Staff. It will include a visit to most of the church alcoves, the Crypt and a look at part of the basement. The Church's history and unique features will be explained by our guide.

We will assemble at Epping Station Concourse at 9.15a.m. to catch the 9.35a.m. train on platform 1, arriving at Central on platform 9 at 9.59 a.m. This will allow a 5-minute walk to platform 20 to catch the train to St James Station at 10.06 a.m. There is a 10-minute walk from the station to the Cathedral, arriving at approximately 10.20 a.m. After registration the tour is due to commence at 10.30 a.m.

Following our tour, there is a casual walk to David Jones (currently under threat of closure), where a table has been reserved for a 12.15 p.m. lunch in the Food Hall at the Market Street store. The menu is anything available from the various bars located in the basement area near the restaurant including oysters and the prices are reasonable. For example main dishes are between \$15 and \$20 and drinks are available for purchase with your order.

Following lunch, there is a casual walk down Market Street to Town Hall Station for the journey home.

March

Next month's outing is on Wednesday, 11 March 2020 and is a visit to Camden Valley Inn. This outing is a Bus tour, hopefully with another Club, to the Camden Valley Inn for a St Patrick's Irish Luncheon Package. The venue offers a welcome drink, a 2-course Irish Lunch and live entertainment in a themed dining room. The total cost of lunch and the bus is expected to be approximately \$65 per head with additional drinks available at extra cost.

Our bus will leave from Epping Station (Cambridge Street) at 10.00 a.m. and will return to the same location at approximately 4.30 p.m. This is a package outing and payment will be requested in advance at the March general meeting. We have been to one of these outings in 2017 and it proved to be very enjoyable on that occasion.

Please advise me at the February meeting if you wish to attend as a final booking has to be confirmed by Thursday, 20 February 2020.

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

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Music Group will hold its first meeting for the year at the home of Bob and Margaret Cruikshank, 1 Mason Drive, Cheltenham at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 10 February 2020.

The Coffee Club held a meeting on Friday, 6 December 2019, attended by 15 people—11 members and 4 non-members. The first get-together for this year will be at 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 14 February 2020 at Carlingford Court.

Theatre—Ten people attended a “Brilliant” concert performed by EUCMS at Eastwood Uniting Hall on Friday, 31 January 2020. This concert was in aid of bushfire relief. At present there are no theatre activities planned until a Chester Street performance in April. Details will be provided later.

Dining—The first dining event for the year has been arranged by Ray Palmer, OAM. It will be a lunch at West Pennant Hills Sports Club on Thursday, 20 February 2020 at mid-day. The Club is located at 103 New Line Road, Cherrybrook, not far from Thompson’s Corner. Dining is casual, ambience is pleasant and the food good and reasonably priced. There is plenty of parking. Please book with Ray. We are still seeking more members who would be able to arrange at least one lunch or dinner each year.

Ramble—At present there is no Ramble planned for February.

Cycle Group

The first cycle ride for this year will be on Friday, 21 February 2020, meeting at Mill Park Street, Rhodes at 10.00 a.m. We will ride on the Parramatta River cycleway, past the Armoury, crossing Silverwater Bridge and on to Parramatta Park for coffee.

The return journey will be on the cycleway to Meadowbank, crossing the railway bridge back to Rhodes. You will all be able to show off the new bikes you got for Christmas!!!!!! Hoping for a comfortable temperature.

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.

By Opal Card

RKeith Robinson organised two ‘train’ journeys since our last meeting; one in December attended by 15 (9 members and 6 guests) for a trip on the recently completed light rail to Randwick and the other a trip by train and ferry to Manly attended by nine (8 members and a guest) on 20 January 2020.

Use your Opal Card for a train trip on Monday, 17 February 2020 to Leura. We will assemble at Epping Station at 8.45 a.m. to catch the train from platform 1 at 9.04 a.m., arriving at Strathfield Station on platform 5 at 9.14 a.m. We will go to platform 3 to catch the Blue Mountains train at 9.31 a.m. to Leura, arriving there at 11.16 a.m.

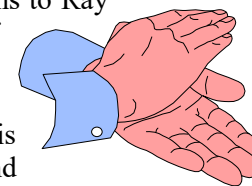
After inspecting the waiting room, we will walk or take a taxi (phone 4782-1311) to Bygone Beautys (aka The Teapot Place), 20–22 Grose Street, where we will have lunch. After lunch we will walk or catch a taxi back to Leura Station to join the train departing at 2.24 p.m. and arriving at Strathfield Station at 4.07 p.m. on platform 2. Our train home leaves at 4.18 p.m., arriving at Epping Station at 4.29 p.m.

Movies

Nine members and six guests enjoyed the movie *A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood* starring Tom Hanks at the Event cinema Macquarie shopping centre on Tuesday, 28 January 2020. Lunch was at Chantilly Café.

CONGRATULATIONS

The members extend their very sincere congratulations to Ray Palmer on his receipt of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2020 Australia Day Honours. Ray has been a member of the Club since 2003 and Welfare Officer since 2009. This is in addition to his volunteer activities with the Epping Baptist Church and his 40-year commitment to Marsfield Chauffeur Limousines Services.



SECRETARY’S REPORT

The dates of our General Meetings during 2020 are: 10 February, 9 March (AGM), 6 April, 11 May, 1 June, 6 July, 10 August, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, December (t.b.a.). Please note that the April, June and July meetings are a week earlier than usual (due to Easter, Queen’s Birthday P.H. and school holiday events within the Epping Presbyterian Church Hall).

The A.G.M. will be held at the end of the March General Meeting. All Committee positions will be declared vacant and re-filled at that meeting.