

## TOUR NEWS

### Short Self-Drive Tours—Bushfire and/or Drought Relief

Several people have expressed an interest in a short self-drive tour in NSW to support towns affected by drought and/or bushfires. Please register your name and suggested destination with Wal. It may be that several tours could be made with different people to different locations. Suggestion are, for example, the Blue Mountains/Lithgow, Mudgee, Bathurst/Orange, Riverina, South Coast.

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

Outstanding balances \$2,515 per person (plus \$505 single supplement) for this tour are 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.

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. Completed booking forms and deposits are due now.



*Our latest New Members—Brian Logan, Russell Gough and Martin Maguire*  
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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## MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S PATTERN

It is now that time of the year that my day in the sun as your Club President comes to an end. Over the past 12 months I have learnt a lot about my own strengths and weaknesses. I have also learned a lot about our leadership teams including Office Bearers, Activity Leaders and Club Support volunteers. Although we did not agree on all Club issues, I firmly believe that everyone had the Club's best interests at heart. It is only by challenging one another that we can bring out the very best in each other and prepare the Club for the next five years. Some special people I would like to thank for their contributions over the last 12 months are as follows:

Firstly, your Club's Office Bearers, including incoming President Michael Brinsden, who also continued in his role as Outings Officer. Hopefully, our incoming Outings person will continue to organise technical type tours such as Choice Laboratories and Cochlear plant tours. Ray Finch who started the year with a blank piece of paper has got our Other Activities program off to a flying start. I think with 3 new activities introduced each year, in 5 years time we can become a Club of Choice like Bella Vista and Castle Hill Probus clubs. Your Club Secretary, Ross, has also done a splendid job keeping us all organised and well informed. Hopefully, down the track many of the membership functions done by the Secretary can be handed over to a Membership Officer. We are one of a few Probus clubs without this role. The quality of the data provided by our Treasurer Leo has been excellent. I am also pleased to report that Godfrey Abel has agreed to be an Assistant to Leo this year, (our 2<sup>nd</sup> "Assistant to" position) with the view of replacing Leo at the end of his 3-year stint. Ken has also done an impressive job this year co-ordinating our interesting range of guest speakers. Unfortunately, Ken has to stand down to have surgery on his back. We wish him a speedy recovery. Ken has been training Keith Dixon (our first "Assistant to" position) who will be taking over his role. Hopefully, going forward, all Office Bearers will have an "Assistant To" who can step into the role at short notice. Wal as usual, has continued to organise exciting tours around Australia and promote local theatre productions. Who could forget Ray Palmer OAM, and his dedication

to our not so well members. I also thank our Immediate Past President Col who has reminded me of previous Club protocols and helped me on numerous occasions with our temperamental sound system.

Our Activity Leaders have also done an outstanding job this year. Thank you to Keith, Steve, Dennis, Jack plus all those who offered their homes for the Music Group and those who organised the dining venues throughout the year. I would also like to thank to our Club Support members including John, Mark, Gordon, Col and Dr Doug. Without their support behind the scenes our meetings would not run as smoothly and we would have no Newsletter.

Lastly, I would like to thank the partners for their assistance to our members in leadership roles. I know it is a lot more than just organising morning tea for our Committee Meetings and acting as Personal Assistants. Most importantly I thank YOU, the members, who, without your attendance at club functions, there would be no Fun, Friendship and Fellowship. I wish Mike and his incoming team every success in 2020.

## MEETINGS

### February

Patrick Dodd was our guest speaker last month, when his topic was “The Governor’s Travels—touring the colony with Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie”. Patrick described Lachlan and his wife as “the Dynamic Duo”. Lachlan became the Governor of NSW by accident. In 1809, following Bligh’s removal along with the Rum Corp, Brigadier-General Miles Nightingall was appointed the Governor and the Black Watch Regiment, of which Major Lachlan Macquarie was the Commanding Officer, was sent to NSW to maintain order. Nightingall fell ill before departure and Macquarie was named as his replacement.

Within 3 months of his arrival Macquarie established the “Fair Go” principle, whereby everybody, irrespective of being free settler or convict, were treated equally. He laid out the street pattern of Sydney and the houses were numbered (although this did not occur until the 1920s in most suburbs—being given names instead. The Editor’s home in Eastwood was not numbered until about 1925).

Macquarie rebuilt Parramatta Road and it became a Toll road. A picnic day was held at Government House and in 1810 the markets were moved from Circular Quay to the present Queen Victoria Building site.

From 6 November to 13 December 1810 Macquarie made the first inspection of the Interior of the Colony, travelling to the Cowpastures and the Hawkesbury. He went to Van Diemen’s Land from 4 November 1811 to 6 January 1812 and followed this by a visit to the “Newly Discovered Country”

The next cycle ride will be on Friday, 20 March 2020, meeting at the Billarong playground on the Wakehurst Parkway, Narrabeen Lake, at 10.00 a.m. The ride will be clockwise around the Lake, having coffee at the lakeside café, a total distance of 18 km (no bumps).

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

### By Opal Card

Nine travellers enjoyed a trip by train (and coach) on Monday, 17 February 2020 to Leura with lunch at the Bygone Beauties. The next train (and tram) trip is on Monday, 16 March 2020 to the Kingsford South’s Juniors Club. We will assemble at Epping Station at 9.20 a.m. to catch the train to Central from Platform 1 at 9.35 a.m. We will alight at Central at 9.59 a.m. and proceed to the tram stop in Chalmers Street between Eddy Avenue and Devonshire Street to board the L3 Kingsford Tram, alighting at the terminus at Kingsford Juniors and proceed to the Club across the road for a meal.

After lunch we will proceed to the Anzac Parade bus stop and board a Route 393 bus to Little Bay. We will catch the bus back from there to Central. Here we will proceed to Platform 18 and board a train to Epping.

### Movies

The movie on Tuesday, 25 February 2020 was *Bombshell* about the downfall of Fox News founder Roger Alles. Three members and two guests attended at Event cinema Macquarie shopping centre. Only two stayed for lunch at Chantilly café. The next movie is on Tuesday, 24 March 2020.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome into our membership Brian Logan, who resides with his wife Lynette at 22A Maher Close Beecroft, phone 9871-1528.

## SECRETARY’S REPORT

The Club’s Annual General Meeting follows the conclusion of the General Meeting on Monday, 9 March 2020.

## CHAIR AND MORNING TEA ROSTER FOR APRIL

Rostered members capable of setting up chairs should be at the hall shortly after 8.30 a.m. 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.



Joseph Corte

Bruce Cunningham

Andrew Davidson

Bob Cruikshank

Bernard Cupitt



the water, where a table will be reserved for a 2 p.m. late lunch. The food is Greek—mostly home-looking by “Mama”. Wraps and salads are also available for \$10–\$20.

Following lunch we will catch a Route 311 bus from Hickson Road to the Queen Victoria building and journey home from the Town Hall Station.

Outings Co-ordinators: Michael Brinsden, phone 9868-4940 & Russell Gough

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

The following contains reports on Other Activities in February 2020 and those planned for March 2020:

Music Group—13 music lovers attended the February Music Group at the home of Bob and Margaret Cruikshank. This month the group meets at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 9 March, at the home of John and Pam Peters, 81A Cheltenham Rd., Cheltenham. Contact Bob Cruikshank for details.

Coffee Club—22 people met on 14 February at Carlingford Court near the Coffee Club outlet. The next meeting is on Friday, 13 March for morning tea and a chat. No booking required, just turn up from 10 o'clock to midday.

Theatre—This year the Theatre on Chester will present a series of plays with the general theme of ‘Love and Marriage’. The first is an Australian play by Ron Elisha, *In Duty Bound* set in 1969. A Jewish family is gathered for the Sabbath in the Berkowicz household. Good humour and high spirits prevail until youngest son, 22-year old medical student Jack, drops a bombshell. This is a thought-provoking play, exploring the dynamics of family and faith. Wal is taking bookings for Wednesday, 20 April 2020. The performance is at 8.00 p.m. and the cost is \$22.50 per person.

Dining Group—22 diners had an enjoyable lunch, arranged by Ray Palmer, on Thursday, 20 February at West Pennant Hills Sports Club. Doug Carruthers is arranging a lunch in March at the Salinga Café, located in the Cumberland State Forest, Castle Hill Road, West Pennant Hills. Full details will be provided when the booking has been made. The Club is seeking more members who would be able to arrange at least one lunch or dinner each year.

Computer Club—As previously advised, this activity was planned as a 12-month trial and will no longer be available.

## CYCLE GROUP

There were 7 riders on Friday, 21 February 2020 our first ride this year. We met at Mill Point Street, Rhodes and rode along the Parramatta River cycle path past the Armoury café, over Silverwater Bridge and on to Parramatta Park before riding back to Parramatta Wharf where we had coffee. Our return journey was via the cycle path to Meadowbank, over the old railway bridge and returning to Mill Point, a total of 26 km.

over the Blue Mountains from 25 April to 19 May 1815 (note exactly 100 years before Gallipoli and the ANZACs). From 3 October to 12 October 1815 he revisited the Cowpastures and other parts of the Interior. He went to Newcastle from 27 July to 9 August 1818 and to the Western and Southern Countries, including Goulburn and Lake George from 16 October to 6 November 1820. He returned to Van Diemen's Land from 4 April to 12 July 1821. He travelled to Port Macquarie and Newcastle from 1 November to 21 November 1821 and to Bathurst again from 15 December 1821 to 17 January 1822. He made the decisions to travel to these places and went, asking permission afterwards.

Throughout all of this he was greatly supported by his wife Elizabeth. She was his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife and his cousin (née Elizabeth Henrietta Campbell). They married in November 1807 (his 1<sup>st</sup> wife Jane Jarvis, whom he married in 1793, died in 1796). Elizabeth had seven miscarriages before Lachlan Junior was born on 28 March 1814.

The crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1815 by Gregory Blaxland, William Lawson and William Charles Wentworth via Cox's Road from Emu Ford to Bathurst was instrumental in Macquarie's visit to the “Newly Discovered Country”. A large celebration was held in 2015 to mark the bicentenary at the exact locations of the original journey.

However, the free settlers complained to the Home Country about Macquarie's style of leadership and a British Judge John Brigge was sent to NSW in 1819 to make a report. It was adverse for the administration and Macquarie resigned in 1822 partly due to failing health. He died back in London on 1 July 1824 and is buried along with his wife and son on the Isle of Mull in Scotland, near where he was born on 31 January 1762. He was the 5<sup>th</sup> Governor of NSW and the last autocratic one.

We very sincerely thank Patrick for coming of telling about Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie and their journeys around the then Colony of NSW.

## March

Dilini Manthilaka is our guest speaker today, 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 us how to try and preserve our sight. Over the age of 50, 1/3 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.

She graduated with a B.Sc. at the University of NSW, majoring in Vision Science, and then with a Master of Public Health from Sydney University. 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.

## April

**T** Col Andrew Lam will be our guest speaker next month on Monday, 6 April 2020, when his topic will be “A Modern Day ANZAC”. He was born in Sydney in 1978 and grew up in the small town of Moruya on the south coast of NSW. He enlisted in the Australian Army Reserve in 1996 at the Sydney University Regiment while studying accountancy at Macquarie University. His initial posting on commissioning was to the Army Financial Services Unit (AFSU) as an Audit Liaison Officer. While there he was promoted Captain in 2007. Following his promotion, he was the Unit Recruiting Liaison Officer and a Team Leader in one of the Financial Management Review Teams. He was the senior finance member for the introduction of the centralisation of finance support services to Reserve units supporting domestic and overseas operations. He was deployed to the Solomon Islands and Timor.

He was promoted to Major in 2013 and later deployed as the Financial Advisor in Iraq in 2015. In 2017 he was the primary Financial Advisor on the Field Training Exercise. In 2020, he was posted on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel to Headquarters 17th Sustainment Brigade.

In his civilian life, he is a criminal investigator with the NSW Police Force, holding the rank of Detective Senior Constable. He has been posted to the Eastwood Local Area Command, South East Asian Crime Squad, Gangs Squad, Homicide Squad and is currently posted to the Cybercrime Squad, State Crime Command. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce with an Accounting major, Diploma of Policing and Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Criminal Investigation). He is currently studying in the Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) Programme.

He is married to Stefanie, who is an IT system specialist and they recently became parents to a daughter, Alexandra. His interests include travel, running, golf and military history.

## APPRECIATION TO OUR OUTGOING COMMITTEE

**T**he members all join together in thanking our outgoing Committee—Ed Thurston, Michael Brinsden, Ross Beattie, Leo Hart, Ken Fletcher, Ray Finch, Ray Palmer, Col Jones and Wal Gallagher—for guiding the Club

through a very successful and enjoyable year. We also would like to thank Mark Gibbs and his team in the kitchen as well as the other members who have worked behind the scenes to assist the Club in various spheres over the past year.

## DAY OUTINGS

### March

**T**his month's outing is on Wednesday, 11 March 2020 and is a visit to Camden Valley Inn. It is a bus tour to the Inn for a St Patrick's Day 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 \$70 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.

To date we have firm commitments for 20 people but the bus cannot take more than this number. Please pay at the March meeting if you wish to attend as we have to settle the cost in advance. Come along—you will enjoy the day!

### April

**N**ext month's outing is on Wednesday, 8 April 2020 and is a visit to the Sydney Observatory. A range of tours are available, and it appears that the most interesting is the 1 o'clock tour entitled “Bigger than Big: Discover the scale of the Universe in this 3-D Space Theatre show”. The tour will go for approximately 40 minutes. The telescope tour includes viewing of the Sun; weather permitting, from the dome. The cost is \$10 per person, and we will book and pay on arrival.

The Sydney Observatory is at 1003 Upper Fort Street., Millers Point. It is a bit of a walk, uphill, from the nearest railway station, Circular Quay.

We will assemble at Epping Station Concourse at 11.15 a.m. to catch the 11.32 a.m. train on platform 1, arriving at Central on Platform 16 at 12.10 p.m. We will then catch the next train to Circular Quay from platform 17. There is an approximately 20-minute walk from Circular Quay to the Sydney Observatory—up Argyle Street and then along Watson Road and Upper Fort Street.

Following our tour, there is a casual walk (taking approximately 20 minutes) to the Zupano Espresso Bar (Shop 9/23 Hickson Road.), overlooking