

SECRETARY'S DIATRIBE

All our activities are now back! A reminder that members' Annual Dues are, well, due (\$30.00 for 2021). The Club is transitioning its bank accounts to Bendigo Bank, now the only bank with a functioning branch at Epping. It is now in use. Our new account details are: Bendigo Bank, BSB 633 000, a/c 182681668 (remember to add a short description stating YOUR NAME and reason for payment on any deposit). The Westpac Bank account will continue operating for a while.

CHAIR AND MORNING TEA ROSTER FOR MAY

Rostered members capable of setting up chairs and tables 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 Roster Co-ordinator, Mark Gibbs, by email bevmark21@hotmail.com or phone 9899-8545.



Rick Collins Joseph Corte
Bob Cruikshank Bernard Cupitt
John Connell (serving tea/coffee only)



TOUR NEWS

Proud Mary Cruise—23 May–29 May 2021

It is not too late to book on this 7-day/6-night tour of a cruise on the River Murray on the *Proud Mary* and with a night in a luxury hotel in the Adelaide CBD. Nineteen people from our group have booked and there is one more cabin available.

The tour is priced at \$3,050 per person twin share or \$4,499 single. A detailed brochure and itinerary is available from Wal: email at wwg@bigpond.com or phone 0429-484-639.

Adelaide to Uluru—13 August–24 August 2021

It is still possible to join this *Uluru and Outback Explorer* tour as detailed in the November Newsletter. Fly to Adelaide then luxury coach to Flinders Ranges, Quorn, Port Augusta, Woomera, Coober Pedy, Alice Springs and Uluru. Fly home from Yulara. Please contact Wal for more information or to request a booking form.

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

Each of the numbers reflects the status of the previous number. For example, the second number is 12, which says there are 1 2s in the first number, and so on. Therefore, the answer to the quiz is 311311222112. Got it?

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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They went with songs
Straight of limb, true of eye,
They were staunch to the end
They fell with their faces
They shall grow not old,
Age shall not weary them,
At the going down of the sun
We shall remember them



to the battle, they were young,
steady and aglow,
against the odds encountered,
to the foe.
as we that are left grow old
nor the years condemn
and in the morning
LEST WE FORGET

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

OUR NEW COMMITTEE

Our Committee for 2021–22 is: Michael Brinsden (President), Vacant (Vice President), Ross Beattie (Secretary), Godfrey Abel (Treasurer), Frank Hanlon (Speakers), Russell Gough (Outings), Ray Finch (Other Activities), Wal Gallagher (Tours and Special Events), Ray Palmer (Welfare) and Ed Thurston (Immediate Past President).

PRESIDENT'S MISSIVE

At last it appears that the social distancing Covid-19 restrictions and the threat of infection that we have endured during the past year are being gradually removed and we will shortly be enjoying our traditional community lifestyle once again.

This is good news for the resumption of all of our normal activities such as Outings, Tours, Cinema and Theatre, etc. Details of our current and future Schedule are included in this edition of the Newsletter.

This month our General Meeting will be held on Monday, 12 April 2021 at 10.00 a.m. Upon your entry to the church hall please sign in at the front desk. Ray Finch will assist if necessary. During discussions with the Church Minister (Josh) last Sunday he has requested that Social Distancing and the wearing of masks be practiced. Morning tea will consist of coffee and tea with wrapped biscuits that will be served to everyone by our morning tea

team. After the meeting it will be necessary to wipe the tables and chairs that we have used as they are put away. Wipes will be provided to those doing this task. Josh indicated that this may be the last time we have to follow this procedure and future meetings will follow normal practice.

Our meeting will include recognition of the coming Anzac Day celebration later this month.

This April edition of our Newsletter has been published by Col Short and will be distributed to members by Email. Included in the Newsletter are descriptions by Committee members of our planned social activities and I encourage all members to participate where possible. After all they are the key to providing Club benefits to members. There will be additional hard copies of the Newsletter available at the front desk.

All members are welcome to join our third live meeting this year. If anyone needs a lift to attend please contact me at 9617-0960 or by Email at landor@optusnet.com.au, or contact any member of the Committee.

We are nearly there to resuming full Club activities and I am very happy about that. My best wishes to you all for the coming year.

MEETINGS

March

Our member, John Donohoe was the guest speaker last month, when his topic was “Bushrangers of the 1860s and 1870s”. John began with the Gold Robbery near Eugowra in 1862. It was carried out by Frank Gardiner and his gang. The robbery of the Mail Coach at Eugowra Rock was one of the most daring and notorious of deeds ever conducted by bushrangers. It was Australia’s largest gold robbery and the plan was hatched over a bottle of gin in a kitchen of a small house near Forbes. The gang comprised Gardiner as its head, Ben Hall, Alexander Fordyce, John Bow, Henry Mann, John Gilbert, John O’Meally, Dan Charters and John McQuire.

With large amounts of Gold being mined across NSW and Victoria, a safe form of transport was introduced called Gold Escorts. One such Escort left Forbes on 15 June 1862 bound for Orange. It carried £14,000 of gold and cash. John Fagan was the driver, while Sergeant Condell was the guard on board with three constables in the coach.

However, every Sunday Gardiner watched from a butcher shop as boxes of gold were put into a wagon destined for Sydney. The shop was mostly a front for his cattle stealing business. In 1862, Forbes was the main town servicing the gold fields in the Central West of NSW.

The gang set up an ambush at Eugowra Rock, which is located about 4 km north-east of Eugowra on Escort Way. It is a large boulder and the site is

Cycle Group (Wobblies)

Unfortunately the Prospect Parklands cycle ride planned for 19 March 2021, as outlined in last month’s Newsletter, had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

It will be now held on Friday, 23 April 2021. The meeting point is 10.00 a.m. at Andrew Campbell Reserve on William Lawson Drive. Access to the Parklands is via Reservoir Road. Take the M4 from the Cumberland Highway (*Wentworthville*). Approximately 4 km along the M4 take the 1st exit ramp to Reservoir Road/Blacktown. Turn left at the lights, then right at the 1st roundabout into Reservoir Road. Second left is William Lawson Drive.

We will ride along the Prospect Canal Reserve track, over the viaduct, then a short stint along the Cumberland Highway cycle path before turning into Prospect Creek for the return journey back to Prospect Reservoir. The ride is about 20 km. Following the ride we will have light refreshments at the Royal Cricketers Arms on Reservoir Road. The Parklands is possibly our most scenic ride, an oasis in the middle of suburbia.

Please contact Steve Drury if you wish participate or need more information. Contact details are: email sandbdrury@gmail.com or phone 9872-7447 or mobile 0487-785-444.

By Opal Card

Use your Opal Card to enjoy last month’s postponed fast trip to Lithgow and return on the vintage V double-deck intercity trains on Monday, 26 April 2021. The main assembly point will be the Westmead end of Platform 2 at Parramatta Station no later than 9.05 a.m. in order to sign the Attendance/ Covid 19 sheet before boarding the train to Lithgow departing at 9.13 a.m. and arriving there at 11.17 a.m.

For those travelling from Epping, please assemble at the Hornsby end of Platform 1 no later than 8.15 a.m. in order to sign the Attendance/ Covid 19 sheet before catching the 8.25 a.m. train to Strathfield’s Platform 1 and then the 8.48 a.m. train to Parramatta from Platform 6.

We will lunch at the Vanilla Café before rejoining the fast train back to Parramatta departing at 1.18 p.m. and reaching Parramatta at 3.26 p.m. The main outing will end here.

For the Eppingites, instead of returning direct to Epping by train or the Route 550 bus, we will walk over to Valentine Avenue to join the Route 535 train replacement bus to Carlingford departing at 3.40 p.m. and then join the Route 550 bus back to Epping Station.

Please note that Health and Public Transport guidelines current at the time of the trip will be strictly enforced but the wearing of masks on public transport is not mandatory but is encouraged.

To visit ANSTO, please provide the Outings Co-ordinator with the information required for the ANSTO Tour Booking Sheet for both members and guests BEFORE the end of the Probus meeting on Monday, 10 May 2021.

Please note that there are high magnetic fields in certain areas. The Meetings organiser is asked to advise ANSTO “if any members of [the] group have medical conditions, mobility challenges or other special needs that we should be aware of. For example, cochlear implants, pacemakers, hearing problems, use of walking sticks or wheelchairs, etc.”

As public transport to ANSTO is not feasible, we will car-pool; departing Epping at about 9.00 a.m., to arrive at ANSTO at 10.00 a.m. Driving directions can be found on Google Maps. Lunch will be on-site, at the ANSTO Cafe.

July

Advance notice of the July outing, which will be on Monday, 19 July 2021, and will be a Christmas-in-July lunch, with entertainment, at the Camden Valley Inn. The cost will be \$50 per person.

Outings Co-ordinator: Russell Gough, phone 9869-2365

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Old Codgers Music Group will meet at the home of Ross and Sybil Beattie on Monday, 12 April 2021 at 2.30 p.m. Please add name to list at General Meeting if you want to attend.

The President's Coffee Club will meet at Carlingford Court on Friday, 16 April 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

The Dining Group—Brian Haywood has booked Vanilla Cream Café in Amaroo Park for lunch on Monday, 19 April 2021 at noon. It is located at 233 Annangrove Road, Annangrove. Please book with Brian Haywood.

The Movie Group—Thirteen people attended Roseville Cinema for the movie *French Exit* in March, followed by lunch. Andrew Davidson will arrange another movie visit on Tuesday, 27 April 2021. Details of selected movie, cinema and food venue will be provided by email following publication of cinema programs.

A Ramble will be led by Ross Beattie through the grounds of the well-known Gladesville Hospital, previously known as ‘Gladesville Mental Hospital’ and even earlier as the ‘Tarban Creek Lunatic Asylum’. Please meet at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 29 April 2021 in the vicinity of the Banjo Patterson Restaurant in Punt Road. Contact Ross for further details.

The Chester Street Theatre has announced resumption of its program in April with the thought-provoking play *In Duty Bound* by Australian author, Ron Elisha. Wal Gallagher has made a booking for Wednesday, 28 April 2021 at 8.00 p.m. Please reserve your seat with Wal.

located 200 metres east of Escort Way on the site of the old coach road. The gang made off with 77 kg of gold and 10 bags of cash—a haul worth around \$10 million today—and camped at Mt Wheogo. They split up but were eventually tracked down by the police and the gold was recovered. Ben Hall and Dan Charters were arrested while mustering on Hall's property on 27 July 1862. Halls association with Gardiner played a big part in him becoming a notorious bushranger.

John then went through the deeds of Thomas Frederick Lowry (1862–30 August 1863), who held up the Mudgee Mail train and netted £6,000; Thomas and John Clarke (1865–67) who operated in the Braidwood, Goulburn and Yass areas—they murdered at least 1 policeman and they were hanged in June 1867, their execution ended organised gang bushranging in NSW; Andrew George Scott (Captain Moonlite) (1869–80), a son of a Church of England minister and himself a preacher in rural Victoria—began his life of crime robbing the bank at Egerton, near Ballarat before heading to Sydney and becoming among other things a fraudster (hanged for murder on 20 January 1880); Daniel Morgan (1860–65) whose life of robbery and murder was carried out under many aliases such as Down-the-River Jack and Mad Dog; and finally Frederick Wordsworth Ward (Captain Thunderbolt) (late 1860s) who operated in the New England area of NSW.

We very sincerely thank John for coming and talking about some of the infamous characters who roamed the NSW bush in the 19th Century pillaging unsuspecting members of the community of their riches and killing anyone who might object or put a resistance or come to arrest them.

April

Lieutenant Col Andrew Lam is our guest speaker today, 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. He is an avid supporter of the Parramatta Eels, Sydney Swans and Sydney FC.

May

David Rosenberg will be our guest speaker next month on Monday, 10 May 2021, when his topic will be “Pine Gap, the Inside Story”. He was employed as a civilian by the United States National Security Agency (NSA) for 23 years, completing his last 18 years with the Agency managing his team in Operations at the Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap in Alice Springs. When he left in 2008, he was the United States Government’s longest serving Technical Liaison Officer in Australia. He became a dual Australian citizen in 2009.

David was trained in Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) and has over 20 years experience in the Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) community, evaluating the function, capabilities, performance, and vulnerability assessment of all types of radar, associated weapon systems such as Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs), ballistic missiles, and cruise missiles, and countermeasure techniques/tactics.

He has 18 years experience with all aspects of satellite surveillance resources, assets, equipment, and recording techniques and over 20 years experience in the production and reporting of intelligence across the global Intelligence Community.

On 1 October 2018, Hardie Grant Publishers released his book, *Pine Gap: The Inside Story Of The NSA In Australia*, the first book about the NSA’s operations at a satellite ground site by an individual who held the Top Secret security clearance that allowed him to work inside Operations. His book details the intelligence collection mission at Pine Gap and the partnership between Australia and the United States that has made Pine Gap the most important satellite ground site in the Intelligence Community.

David is the Technical & Creative Consultant for the Netflix and ABC television series, *Pine Gap*. The series is produced by Screentime Australia.

DAY OUTINGS

April

This month’s outing is on Thursday, 22 April 2021, and is to the Hyde Park Barracks. The displays at Barracks have been recently updated and we will take an “audio-led” guided tour. The tour will start at 11.30 a.m. and takes about 1½ hours. A table will be reserved at the City Tattersalls Club (194–204 Pitt Street) for lunch after the tour.

We will assemble at the Epping station Concourse at 10.00 a.m. to catch the 10.17 a.m. train on platform 1, arriving at Central at 10.55 a.m. on platform 16. We will cross to platform 17 and catch the next train to St James Station via Circular Quay. It is a short walk from St James Station to the Hyde Park Barracks.

The “audio-led” tour costs \$20 per person. As bookings can only be made by purchasing tickets, and to avoid disappointment, the Outings Co-ordinator will purchase the required number of tickets on Tuesday, 13 April 2021.

If you would like to join the outing, please advise the Outings Co-ordinator and pay at the meeting on Monday, 12 April 2021.

May

Next month’s outing is on Monday, 17 May 2021, and will be a visit to the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) at Lucas Heights. The 2½-hour tour will cost \$15, and we will pay on the day.

ANSTO is the home of Australia’s most significant national infrastructure for research. Thousands of scientists from industry and academia benefit from gaining access to state-of-the-art instruments every year. It operates much of Australia’s landmark infrastructure including one of the world’s most modern nuclear research reactors, OPAL; a comprehensive suite of neutron beam instruments; the Australian Synchrotron; the National Imaging Facility Research Cyclotron; and the Centre for Accelerator Science.

The ANSTO site is a secure site. The ANSTO Visitor Information Fact Sheet outlines information that visitors need to provide prior to the visit. If you wish to join the tour, you are requested to read the ANSTO Visitor Information Fact Sheet (search on your browser as the address is too complicated for the Newsletter to include), including the ANSTO Visitor Terms and Conditions (again search your browser). The Outings Co-ordinator will have a printed copy of the web sites referred to above at the Probus meeting on 12 April 2021. If requested, the Outings Co-ordinator will email you .pdf’s of the information on the web sites.