

Uluru. Fly home from Yulara. Contact Wal for more information or to request a booking form.

Yarrawonga—26 September—1 October 2021

Join us for a Spring tour in this historic part of Victoria with Linga Longa Tours. Be immersed in the culture, history, and geography of the region, at all times with an expert guide. Priced at \$995 per person (\$175 single supplement), the tour includes: travel by modern 5-Star Coach (toilet equipped); 4-Star accommodation; entrance fees to all Venues and Attractions; Full cooked Country breakfasts; dinners at the best restaurants in Yarrawonga and commentary of town tours by local experts.

A full itinerary will be included in the next Newsletter, in the meantime contact Wal for more details. As it is unlikely we will fill the 50-seater coach, we will be sharing with another group.

Tours Co-ordinator: Wal Gallagher, phone 0429-484-639 or e-mail at wwg@bigpond.com



By Opal Card to Lithgow

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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MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MISSIVE

Well it is now pretty certain that our lives are returning to normal and our personal interactions at the social level are once again being restabilised. The virus inoculation programs now being implemented should minimise any further penetration of the infection into our society and with luck Covide-19 will become no more threatening in due course than the Flu.

We have now resumed nearly all of our Club activities and our members have responded by participating in numbers at our scheduled events during the past two months.

This month our General Meeting will be held on Monday, 10 May 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. Morning tea will consist of coffee and tea and normal (unwrapped) biscuits that will be served to everyone by our morning tea team. At the meetings conclusion all chairs and tables should be returned for storage as is the normal practice.

The May edition of our Newsletter will be distributed to members by Email. Additional copies will be available at the front desk for those members who do not have Email.

In April, we celebrated the ANZAC spirit with our own service at our monthly Club meeting and I attended, on behalf of our Club, the Dawn Service held by the RSL in Forrest Park on Sunday, 25 April. This very moving service was well organised and extremely well attended by the general public with an estimated 900 attendees.

We have many events to look forward to over the coming months and I am now sure that last year's pandemic difficulties and lockdowns are now behind us. My best regards: look after yourselves and keep well.

MEETINGS

April

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Lam was our guest speaker last month, when this topic was "A Modern Day ANZAC". The Modern Day Anzac is very different from the original Anzacs. They age between 19 and 30, while in

1914–15 ages went up to forty-five. Today they are full-time Professionals or Reservists like Andrew, while in 1914 they were untrained volunteers. He has served in Solomon Islands, East Timor and Iraq.

Andrew gave a power point presentation of the action during his time with the ADF in Iraq. The Iraq/Syrian War of 2014–15 arose due to the rise of Daesh. According to Arabic Translator Alice Guthrie: “D.A.E. SH is a transliteration of the Arabic acronym formed of the same words that make up I.S.I.S. in English: ‘Islamic State in Iraq and Syria’ ”.

The operation was titled “Operation Okra”. It also involved the RAAF and Special Forces. Their duty was to advise and assist (advise—facilitate and influence by means of counsel and dialogue; assist—provision of direct and indirect enabler support to enhance planning and conduct of operations). The actual fighting to remove Daesh was the responsibility of the Iraqi Army.

ISIS came to be in control in January of 2015. Andrew displayed a map of the fall of ISIS, with the last territory it held occurred in March 2019.

However, the modern veteran and their problems, medical and mental, must be continually in our thoughts and prayers—LEST WE FORGET.

We very sincerely thank Andrew for coming and giving us such a graphic insight into the Iraqi War.

May

David Rosenberg is our guest speaker today, 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

Macarthur Station to join the train to Glenfield. Here we will alight and board the waiting train to Strathfield, arriving there at 4.34 p.m. The train back to Epping leaves at 4.45 p.m. with an arrival there at 5.02 p.m.

SECRETARY’S SAY

Our General Meeting is on Monday, 10 May 2021 at 10 a.m. in the Epping Presbyterian Church Hall. The May Chair & Morning Tea roster—Rick Collins, John Connell (serving tea/coffee only), Joseph Corte, Bob Cruikshank and Bernard Cupitt.

The Old Codgers’ music afternoon on 10 May (2.30 p.m.) will be at Andrew and Gillian Davidson’s, 1 Eric Street, Wahroonga. Let the Secretary know if you intend to attend.

A reminder of the Club's new bank account details: Bendigo Bank, BSB 633 000, a/c 182681668; remember to add a short description stating YOUR NAME and reason for payment on any deposit.

CHAIR AND MORNING TEA ROSTER FOR JUNE

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.



Andrew Davidson	James Dixon
John Donohoe	Dennis Druce
Steve Drury	



TOUR NEWS

Proud Mary Cruise—23 May–29 May 2021

This tour will go ahead as planned with 19 from Epping Probus in 11 cabins. Wal will be contacting the participants to organise transport to and from the Airport.

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

of the group (*i.e., the recovery vehicle*) drove to Cumberland Highway to pick up the stranded rider; the remaining riders had coffee at the Royal Cricketers Arms on Reservoir Road. These were the first punctures we have had in the 3 years since the Cycle Group was formed in 2018, a remarkable record. Both riders stayed upright.

The next regular cycle ride will be on Friday, 21 May 2021. The meeting point is Mill Park Street, Rhodes for a 10.00 a.m. start. The ride will be along the Parramatta River cycle path, passing the Armoury, over Silverwater Bridge and into Parramatta Park. We will return to Rhodes via Meadowbank, coffee will be at Rhodes Mini-Mart (approximately 24 km).

Please contact Steve Drury prior to the day, on phone 9872-7447 or mobile 0487-785-444 if you wish to participate.

A ride with a difference has been organised along the Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail on 12 May. This is a new conversion of unused rail track for public use for cycling, walking, etc., officially opened in 2020. The journey involves travel by car to Tumbarumba on Tuesday, 11 May and return on Thursday 13 May, with 2 night's accommodation in Tumbarumba. Eight couples have indicated that they are going to Tumbarumba and their accommodation has been booked. Should any other member wished to go, then they will need to check the Motel to see if accommodation is available.

By Opal Card

Five members and two ladies enjoyed the fast train trip to Lithgow on Monday, 26 April aboard the vintage V set double-deck intercity carriages, with a very fine lunch at the Vanilla Café. As we approached Lithgow Station there sitting in the yard was the replacement interloper, a 10-car D set (comprising a 4-car set + a 6-car set). It is not known when the new fleet will take over due to the current dispute between the State Government and the Union over the function of the guard.

Use your Opal Card on Thursday, 20 May 2021 (note the change from the 4th Monday so as not to clash with the *Proud Mary* cruise) for a very unusual trip to Moss Vale. We will assemble on Epping's Platform 6 no later than 8.50 a.m. in order to sign the attendance/Covid 19 sheet before boarding the Sydney Metro train at around 9.00 a.m. to Tallawong.

Here we will join the Route 751 bus to Schofields Station at 9.36 a.m. We will then board the 9.52 a.m. Leppington train, alighting at Glenfield's Platform 3 at 10.50 a.m. to join the train to Campbelltown on Platform 4. At Campbelltown the Endeavour 2-car train awaits to take us to Moss Vale, arriving there at 12.40 a.m.

There will be ample time for lunch at the Porterhouse Bristo at the Moss Vale Hotel before we head back home at 2.02 p.m., alighting at

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.

June

Beth Matthews will be our guest speaker next month on Monday, 7 June 2021, when her topic will be "Our Girls". Beth has been a member of the Parramatta & District Historical Society for 28 years, and she is currently on the Research Committee. She was a volunteer at Parramatta Heretic Centre for 16 years until ill health forced her retirement.

These days she is a member of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends, doing the research with Anne Matthews. When they began, they had an exhibition called "Women Transported" and they had 800 names. The exhibition toured Australia. Anne and Beth received an NSW Volunteer Award in 2009 for their hard work putting this exhibition together.

Beth, with Ann is still researching these women and they call them "Our Girls" and now have 3,000 names, using the name of the ship of arrival as ID. Many are still a mystery. They use the NSW State Archives for the original records; other family historians generously share their own records.

These women, who were often unnamed in History such as "his wife" or "the wife of", were the backbone of our nation and we believe their stories should be better known.

Many of the Female Factory buildings are still standing, often under threat of development. Open days and conducted tours are organised on a regular basis.

Note the meeting is on the 1st Monday due to the Queen's Birthday weekend holiday on the 2nd Monday.

DAY OUTINGS

May

This month's outing is on Monday, 17 May 2021, and is 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 including the ANSTO Visitor Terms and Conditions. The Outings Co-ordinator will have a printed copy of the web sites to view the documents at the Probus meeting on 10 May 2021.

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, so we arrive at ANSTO at 10.00 a.m. Lunch will be on-site, at the ANSTO Café.

June

Next month's outing is on Monday, 21 June 2021, and will be a visit to Fort Scratchley in Newcastle. In 1876, with fears of Russian attack, the British Government sent Major General Sir William Jervois and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Scratchley to advise on naval defences. The Fort was designed around a battery of three guns facing eastward in an arc to the ocean, with other guns covering the harbour to north and west.

The visit to the site, including the museum rooms is free. We can also join a 1-hour guided tour of the defence's tunnels starting at 11:30 a.m. The tunnel tour is reasonably accessible, but does include about 20 steps. The cost of the tunnel tour is \$10 per person to be paid on or before Monday, 7 June 2021. Please advise the meetings organiser if you wish to join the outing.

We will assemble at the Epping Station Concourse at 8.30 a.m. to catch the express train to Newcastle and then the light rail to the Newcastle Beach stop. It is a short (about 800 metres) walk up a slope to Fort Scratchley.

A table will be reserved at Scratchleys-on-the-Wharf for lunch. This will be an opportunity for you to use one of your \$25 Dine & Discover NSW dining vouchers. More details will be included in the June Newsletter.

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

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Old Codgers Music Group—Eleven attended April meeting. Next meeting is at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 10 May at home of Andrew and Gillian Davidson, 1 Eric Street Wahroonga.

Coffee Club—21 attended in April. It's on again at Carlingford Court at 10.00 a.m. on Friday 14 May.

Movie Group—Ten enjoyed the Oscar winning movie *Nomadland* in April. The next movie will be on Tuesday 25 May. Andrew Davidson will provide details when available.

Dining—Twenty enjoyed lunch at Vanilla Bean Café in April. Wal Gallagher has made a booking at the Ambassador Restaurant for lunch on Tuesday, 1 June at midday. This is the TAFE 'hospitality' training restaurant', Building A, Level 4, 250 Blaxland Road, RYDE. Enter from Parkes Street - press the intercom button for access and free parking if the boom gate is down. Price is \$30 per person and includes non-alcoholic drinks. Alcohol is not available for purchase. Commercial Cookery Menu, 3 courses, choice of two per course but alternate drops. Booking is for 20 maximum—places will be allocated in order of booking. As the booking has to be paid in advance, bookings and payments please to Wal Gallagher (not Probus), in cash or to BSB 082 155 A/c 49 578 2533.

Walks/Rambles—Seven walkers enjoyed a great day in April at Gladesville Hospital, mixing river vistas, bush walk, history and architecture. Good News, Rick Collins has offered his services as Activity Leader. Rick will start by leading a 4 km walk on Thursday, 3 June commencing at 10.30 a.m. Meet at car park in Day Road, Cheltenham (cnr Malton Road). Walk along Devlin Creek Trail and the Lane Cove Valley Walk to Sutherland Road at the M2 and then loop back to the car park along Sutherland Road and Day Road. There is a picnic table at the car park but no other facilities or we could drive back to the Café Long Shot in Beecroft for lunch after the walk.

Theatre—*In Duty Bound* was enjoyed by 19 at Chester Street Theatre on 28 April.

Cycle Group (Wobblies)

There were 10 riders on Friday, 23 April for the ride through Prospect Parklands cycle ride. We left from Andrew Campbell Reserve, turning on to the Prospect Canal Reserve cycle track, then over the canal viaduct to the Cumberland Highway.

Unfortunately the ride was disrupted at this point, two of the riders experienced tyre problems, one puncture was repairable and one was not. We therefore returned to our starting point without completing the full ride. One