

CHAIR AND MORNING TEA ROSTER FOR AUGUST

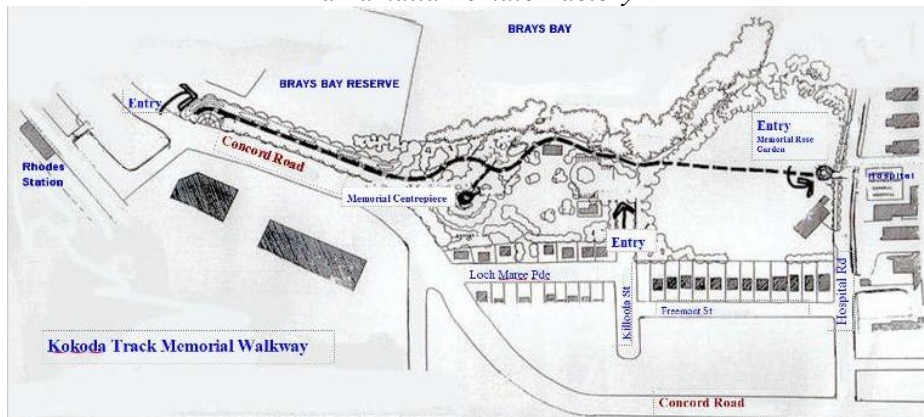
Rostered members capable of setting up chairs and tables should be at the Hall shortly after 8.30 a.m. If you are unable to be present as rostered, please arrange a swap with another member and inform Roster Co-ordinator, Mark Gibbs, by email bevmark21@hotmail.com or phone 9899-8545.



John Griffin-Miller Leo Hart
Brian Hartshorne Brian Haywood



Parramatta Female Factory



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Epping and District Probus Club Inc.



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JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

SECRETARY'S GUFF

What a fortnight! The State Government's COVID-19 "lockdown" and health guidelines have impacted our activities, and quite fairly. Your Committee has gazed at the Premier's crystal ball but the image remained unclear.

With regret it has been decided to CANCEL our 12 July 2021 General Meeting. The Old Codgers' that day will meet via ZOOM.

An Extraordinary Committee Meeting has been called for Friday, 9 July when the image in the crystal ball may be clearer. Members will be kept informed by email.

PRESIDENT'S MISSIVE

Firstly my apologies for not being able to submit last month's Newsletter contribution as personal circumstances interfered to prevent me having enough time to compose the missive.

As some of you know my wife Noelle has contracted oesophageal cancer and is now in palliative care at home with a Nurse coming every day to undertake some of the care necessary for her wellbeing. I want to take this opportunity to thank those club members who have expressed their concern and best wishes over the past two months—it is very much appreciated.

Unfortunately the dreaded Covid-19 is back with us and Ross has brought you all up to date in this Newsletter with the changes necessary to our activities. You never know maybe the climate of Covid-19 restrictions may improve later this month with the ongoing programme of jabs now underway. Let's hope so anyway. My best regards: look after yourselves and keep well.

MEETINGS

June

Beth Mathews was our guest speaker last month, when her topic was "My B.Girls". She outlined the history of the Colony's treatment of female convicts with facts and stories from that time. Correctional facilities were

commissioned at Parramatta by Governor King in 1798, “a strong logged gaol of 100 feet in length, with separate cells for the prisoners and paled around with very high fence, housing eight (male) prisoners”. This facility burnt down in 1799 and was rebuilt in 1802 as a 2-storey wooden structure on the same site, now Prince Alfred Square (formerly known as Gaol Green and Hanging Green).

A ‘Female Factory’—the first of 13 in the NSW and Van Diemen’s Land colonies—was established in 1804 when convict women and their children were placed in the upper level with a capacity for 30 women a night, with male convicts lodged downstairs. The Factory idea combined the functions of British bridewells, prisons and workhouses, and manufactured linen, wool and linsey woolsey—“Parramatta cloth”. Within a decade there were about 200 women and children at the Parramatta Factory. In 1816, to ease the overcrowding Governor Lachlan Macquarie selected a 4-acre portion of William Bligh’s 105 acre grant further upstream on the Parramatta River for a new Factory. It was designed by convict architect Francis Greenway to house 250 women. It was first occupied on 31 January 1821 following the transfer of convict women from the nearby Factory above the Town Gaol. Amongst many other duties, the Rev. Samuel Marsden (the “Whipping Parson”), chaplain at St John’s, Parramatta, was appointed a magistrate (1795–1807, 1812–18 and 1822–25) and had oversight of convicts at Parramatta including the Female Factory. He and Macquarie did not get on at all well.

The youngest “inmate” at the new Parramatta Female Factory was 9 years old, while the oldest was 80 years old. After their term was completed, they would be assigned to settlers or they would marry.

After 1826 the female convicts were divided into three classes. Those assessed as 1st or 2nd Class engaged in spinning, knitting, straw plaiting, washing, cleaning duties; 3rd Class in rock breaking and oakum picking. In 1827 the women rioted, protesting short rations and poor conditions. By 1842 there were 1,203 women and children accommodated. In 1848, once convict transportation had ceased, the site was reassigned as a Convict Lunatic and Invalid Asylum.

Beth described the backgrounds of the female convicts, their origins and ‘crimes’, their transportation to the Colony and how they and male convicts could obtain a ‘Ticket of Leave’ and eventually a ‘Certificate of Freedom’ and be allowed to marry. Outnumbered 6:1 by males in the early Colony, the girls were often sought for marriage, which could facilitate a grant of land to work and support themselves. If they had been married before being transported that marriage was often ‘set aside’ so a new life could begin. Some were allowed to bring children with them from Britain.

TOUR NEWS

I am hoping the next two tours this year will not be subject to border closures. Trade Travel is monitoring the situation with regard to the Adelaide to Uluru Tour in August and, if necessary, it will be re-scheduled to an acceptable alternate date.

A new tour is announced and as it will be popular, I am opening the bookings now. A deposit of \$100 per person will secure your reservation.

Yarrawonga—26 September–1 October 2021

Deposits of \$100 per person are due now. This is a tour to an historic part of Victoria. Be immersed in the culture, history, and geography of the region, at all times with an expert guide.

Priced at \$995 pp (\$175 single supplement), the tour includes travel by luxury coach, visiting:

Day 1—Pick up in Epping and travel the Hume Highway to Wodonga then via Rutherglen to Yarrawonga for our 5-night stay with all meals.

Day 2—Yarrawonga & Mulwala, Swanpool, Benalla Art Gallery and street art tour. A stop at Goorambat on the way back to Yarrawonga.

Day 3—A leisurely day on the Silo Art Trail and the Tungamah Hotel. Lunch on board the paddle steamer *P S Cumberoona* on Lake Mulwala before returning to Yarrawonga.

Day 4—Albury, Wodonga, the Bonegilla Migrant Hostel Museum and the Army Museum in Bandiana. Return via Howlong.

Day 5—Down the river to Tocumwal and Deniliquin. Farewell dinner in Yarrawonga.

Day 6—Return to Epping.

Queensland Outback to Reef—15 May–28 May 2022

This 14-day adventure tour travels by coach from Longreach to Cairns via Mt Isa, Cloncurry, Karumba and Cobbold Gorge. We fly to Longreach to begin the tour and fly home from Cairns. Some of the many highlights are: Longreach Stockman’s Hall of Fame; Qantas Founders’ Museum; Thomson River Sunset Cruise; Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum; Isa Experience; Riversleigh Fossil Centre; Les Wilson Barramundi Centre & Hatchery; *GulfLander* Train Ride; Cobbold Gorge Tour & Cruise and Undara Lava Tube Tour.

Please pay your deposit now to Probus Account BSB 633 000 a/c 182681668

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The following activities are subject to easing of Covid restrictions and ratification by the EDP Committee.

Old Codgers Music Group—Next meeting is on Monday, 12 July 2021 at 2.30 p.m. at the home of Brian and Deidre Haywood. It will be held via ZOOM.

Coffee Club—Thirteen attended in June. Next Coffee Club will be at Carlingford Court on Friday, 16 July 2021 at 10.00 a.m., subject to easing of Covid restrictions. Come for tea, coffee, etc. and help solve the world's problems over a chat with friends.

Movie Group—Andrew Davidson will provide details by email, when available.

Dining—Seventeen people attended lunch on Thursday, 17 June 2021 at the Eastwood Rugby Club. At time of publication there is no lunch planned for July.

The Ramblers—Five people attended the walk in Bicentennial Park on Thursday, 24 June 2021. Rick has planned a local walk on Thursday, 22 July 2021 starting at 10.00 a.m. at the car park at Somerville Park on Blaxland Road. We will walk along the beautiful Terry's Creek on the tracks and boardwalks to Epping Road and return to Somerville Park via Dence Park. Lunch afterward will be at Eastwood Rugby Club (now part of North Ryde RSL) on Vimiera Road. Contact Rick on 0411-611-338, if you wish to join in for lunch after the walk.

Theatre—This event was cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

Cycle Group

There were 8 cyclists on Friday, 18 June 2021 for the Wetlands ride. Meeting at Mill Park Street, Rhodes at 10.00 a.m., our route was along the Parramatta River Cycleway, heading through Liberty Grove into the Wetlands. After passing the WW2 Bunkers and the Armoury we crossed Silverwater Bridge and followed the cycle path down to Meadowbank, crossing the railway bridge back to Mill Park Street for coffee. The ride was approximately 24 km.

The next ride will be on Friday, 23 July 2021 at Narrabeen Lagoon, Covid restrictions permitting! Meeting at 10.00 a.m. at Billarong Playground car park on Wakehurst Parkway, for 2 laps of the lagoon, anticlockwise, a distance of 18km. Lunch/coffee will be at the lakeside H2O café.

If you wish to participate, please contact Steve Drury prior to the day on 9872-7447 or 0487-785-444.

She detailed the interesting and sometimes entertaining lives of several of the girls including Beth's forebear Catherine Long "Annie" Dunn and Mary ("Molly") Morgan née Jones. Molly, born c.1762 to a rat-catcher in Shropshire, had a daughter to a William Gough but married a William Morgan in 1785, bearing him a son. Mary and William Morgan were sentenced to 14 years transportation in lieu of death for stealing linen yarn and she was transported to NSW, arriving in Sydney in the *Neptune* in June 1790 part of the grim Second ("Death") Fleet. William accompanied or followed her to Sydney, joined the NSW Corp and they were sent to Norfolk Island where he started a new liaison. Molly returned to Sydney and was assigned to Nicholas Nepean (who had been in charge of the first detachment of the NSW Corps) but she soon absconded to England in the *Resolution* (probably in the captain's cabin). In Plymouth, she married Thomas Mears, but he accused her of burning their house down in 1803 and she (with her children) was transported back to Sydney in the *Experiment* in 1804 aged 44 years. She was sent to Parramatta's Female Factory in 1806. Leaving the Factory, she lived in Parramatta with Thomas Byrne and was given a land grant in Church Street, Parramatta, but in 1815 was sent to Newcastle, NSW, after branding government cattle as her own. In 1819, she was sent to Wallis Plains near Maitland, where as Mary Mears she married Thomas Hunt in 1822. With a larger land grant, by 1829 she owned 303 cattle, 18 horses and 100 sheep. She and Thomas Hunt owned and ran the Angel Inn (then a wine shanty) at Morpeth, where she died in 1835.

Many of the Female Factory buildings are still standing, but are under renewed threat of demolition to make way for development. This is supported by the local MP, even though the site is listed on the New South Wales State Heritage Register and was inscribed on the Australian National Heritage List in 2017. Open days and conducted tours are organised on a regular basis.

We very sincerely thank Beth for coming and enlightening us about the plight of female convicts and the building of the Parramatta Female Factory to help alleviate some of the very severe issues they faced if not looked after properly.

August

Alice Kang will be our guest speaker next month on Monday, 9 August 2021, when her topic will be "The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway". Alice is currently the Director of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway located at Rhodes Park, Concord. She recently retired from Concord Hospital after 46 years of service, having held several leadership roles over this period, the latest as Director of Marketing and Community/Veteran Relations.

Alice commenced her nursing training at Concord Hospital in 1974. Her time at Concord has seen her rise from being a Charge Nurse of the Emergency Department to Assistant Nursing Director of the Critical Care Area. She completed post graduate courses in Management and Gerontology in the late 70s and a Bachelor of Health Administration degree from UNSW in 1991.

In 1997, she was appointed as the State's first Veteran Liaison Officer at Concord Hospital, a role funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs. She was charged with overseeing all matters pertaining to the care of veterans, setting a blueprint for other hospitals around the State who have veterans in their care.

Alice was responsible for the construction of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, a major project initiated by Concord Hospital. She set up the Friends of Kokoda in 1998 and spearheaded the school's visitation program to the Memorial Walkway, engaging veterans as guides allowing them to share their valuable stories. The Memorial now receives approximately 4,000 students and 158,000 visitors annually.

In her role as Director of Marketing, Alice was instrumental in helping the Hospital engage with the broader community. She was responsible for setting up the Public Health Forum series at the Hospital including the major annual fundraising events Opera Night at Rivendell and the Rivendell Flower Show. These events became major cultural highlights in the City of Canada Bay.

In acknowledgement of her work at the Hospital and on behalf of veterans, Alice was made Drummoyne Woman of the year in 2015 and City of Canada Bay's 2018 Citizen of the year.

She is presently curating 2 books to capture the history of Concord Hospital and the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway to mark their 80th and 25th anniversary respectively this year.



WELFARE REPORT (Prepared by our Welfare Officer Ray Palmer)

I have made contact with the following Non-Active members and all say they are coping with their issues of health and being in lock-down: Laurie Fuller, Owen Harrison, Brian Howard, Ron Mackintosh, Tony Malin, Dick

Nicholson, Wal Williams and Paul Woodward. Ian Campbell is finding the repair to his ankle is slow but otherwise OK. Bruce Frost is finding getting around a lot harder now with his vision. Philip Jones is doing very well now being cared for by family. Alf McDermott is still having ongoing issues with mouth cancers. John Steele-Smith is very confused at the moment not seeing family thru lock-down.

And now to our Active members: Col Short is doing ok following his hip operation and has progressed to only using a walking stick in the house and the walker only while outside (on Tuesday he walked around the block). He is still under care of Doctors. Tony Chaine is undergoing further surgery this month and we wish him well. Doug Sneddon is still having very slow repair of his leg and receiving regular care with dressings done in his home.

And finally to celebrations: John Peters turned 80 on 2nd July, while Brian Keneally will turn 80 on 17th July—our good wishes have, or will be ent, to these members.

DAY OUTINGS

July

This month's outing was planned to be the Christmas-in-July lunch and show at the Camden Valley Inn on Monday, 19 July 2021. At present there are continuing high numbers of positive COVID-19 testing results and an increasing likelihood of the present lock-down being extended. As this increases the risk of not only catching COVID-19, but of being deemed a close or casual contact when attending a large gathering, it has been decided to cancel the July day outing.

Payments already made for the July outing will be refunded, so please advise the Treasurer of your bank account details.

August

Next month's outing will be on Monday, 16 August, 2021 and will be a visit to the Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney. This is a new Museum of art, science, history and ancient cultures that recently opened to the public. It features 18 new exhibitions across four floors of galleries. The price for the guided tour is \$10 per person, with a minimum of 10 people required. We will pay on the day.

We will assemble at the Epping Station Concourse at 9.50 a.m. to catch the 10.05 a.m. express train to Central Station. We will then take a bus to the University of Sydney from Railway Square. The tour will commence at 11.00 a.m. A table will be booked for lunch at the Sounds Café on the Chau Chak Wing Museum terrace.