

Priced at \$5990 this tour is fully booked but a waiting list is in place if you want to add your name to it. Second instalments of \$3000 for those already booked are payable by 18 December 2021 and final payments by 15 March 2022.

Adelaide to Uluru—10–21 August 2022

This tour is similar to one a number of us had booked for August this year and which was cancelled due to COVID. It is a 12-day outback tour by luxury coach from Adelaide through the Flinders Ranges then on to Alice Springs and Uluru. Among the many highlights are Burra, Hawker, Wilpena Pound, Pichi Richi Explorer (steam-train ride), Port Augusta, Woomera, Coober Pedy (Desert Cave Hotel with choice of underground or above ground accommodation), Alice Springs & MacDonnell Ranges, and Uluru. There is a free day in Uluru for anyone interested in a number of optional tours available. Return to Sydney from Yulara.

This is a new tour priced at \$5798 pp twin share (single supplement \$1195). We will not be sharing with Burraneer Club this time so there is plenty of availability on the tour. Please contact Wal for a detailed itinerary and a booking form.

Yarrawonga—18–23 September 2022

New dates are now available for this tour which was postponed from 2020 to 2021, then from 2021 to 2022. This time it stands a good chance of happening. Make a note of the dates in your diaries. More details will be provided later. Deposits already paid will be carried forward.

SAY WHAAAT???

- Is there another word for Synonym?
- If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is that considered a hostage situation?
- If a Parsley Farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?
- Would a fly without wings be called a walk?
- Why do they lock petrol station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will break in and clean them?
- What was the best thing before sliced bread
- At any given time, the urge to break into a rendition of “The Lion Sleeps the Night” is only a whim away...a whim away....a whim away.
- Why is it called Tourist season when we can’t shoot them?

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Epping and District Probus Club Inc.



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OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT’S MISSIVE

At last, there are signs in our community that we are starting to come to terms with the Covid Virus. With the Inoculation levels reaching a high percentage of our population and the political decision makers starting to realise that we will have to live with this virus, as we do with other viruses that affect our people, we are starting to get common sense decisions that will free up our lifestyle and allow us to proceed to normality in our community.

At our Committee meeting last week we made the decision to renew our monthly meetings, the first of which will be held by Zoom next Monday at 10.00 a.m. Frank has managed to obtain a speaker who is prepared to give his address via Zoom and the meeting format will change to allow his address to be held first, followed by brief announcements by the President and Secretary on other planned activities in the month of October and November.

Discussion with the Presbyterian Church Office Manager Ed have revealed that the Church is not allowing any live meetings in the Hall in the month of October but will be reviewing the matter late in the month to make the decision for November onward.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter there is further information on some activities that will be implemented in October and November. I am very hopeful that our planned Christmas party can be held at the North Ryde Club in December to round off what has been a difficult and frustrating year for all of us.

As some of you know I lost my wife Noelle when she passed away on the 28th of September in Nerindah hospital. It is a great loss to me, and my family and we intend to hold a funeral at 1 p.m. on the 14th October at St Albans Church in Epping. I understand that the Church can fit 40 people in attendance so I would ask that if you would like to attend, please let me know by email or phone. The funeral can be viewed by Zoom and I can arrange to send you a link if you prefer.

I would like to thank those members who have kindly sent their condolences by phone, email, and letters. It is of great comfort to me.

SECRETARY'S GUFF

It is comforting to know that we may soon be allowed to gather socially and that some of our activities may resume. We will still need to be alert to signs of the COVID pestilence, but vaccinations will help protect us all including those who for medical reasons may not have been able to receive a “jab”.

I look forward to seeing you in this month's ZOOM activities—the General Meeting and Old Codgers Music Circle on the 11th and a Coffee Morning on the 15th—and to wobble and wander in the great outdoors with the Wobblies and Ramblers, and munch a Lunch, later in the month. And maybe even a Movie. I had better update the WebSite!

Roll on November. Those on the Morning Tea roster for October will need to exercise individually, but for the real “live” General Meeting on Monday, 8 November 2021; those rostered for Morning Tea duties are John Oliver, Paul Partington, John Peters and Geoffrey Richardson.

MEETINGS

October

Noel Phelan is our guest speaker today when his topic will be “*Costa Concordia*, the ship that rolled over off Isola del Giglio, Tuscany”. Noel's first career was as a science and mathematics teacher. He then moved into IT with IBM as a systems engineer and spent 25 years in various technical and management positions.

He has been a volunteer guide at the Maritime Museum for several years and enjoys showing visitors over HMAS *Vampire*, HMAS *Advance*, HMAS *Onslow* and *First Lady*. Noel is also the team leader for the museum speakers.

Noel is a Past President of the Northbridge Rotary Club and he is an active volunteer in retirement with sailability and sailing captain of his sailing club. Noel also served as a director of Taldumande—the organisation that looks after homeless and at risk young people north of the harbour. He also spent several years with Marine Rescue and the Rural Fire Service.

Noel is also organising a speakers program for the Navy Historical Society where the presentations are delivered by ZOOM to the 500 members around Australia.

He fulfilled a boyhood dream to fly a WW II fighter by flying a SPITFIRE at The Imperial War Museum at Duxford in the UK last year.



So the Wobblies are riding again, prepare your bikes and yourselves, this will be a two coffee shop stop ride. Please contact Steve Drury if you wish to participate or need more information. Contact details are: email sandbdrury@gmail.com, phone 9872-7447 or mobile 0487-785-444.

WELFARE REPORT (prepared by Ray Palmer OAM)

Firstly, as your Welfare Officer, I wish to pass on to our dear President, Michael, all our love and support at this time in the passing of his Wife Noelle, following a lengthy illness. Keep strong dear Michael as you make your journey without the support of your partner. We will be thinking of you, and your family, as you celebrate Noelle's wonderful life on the 14th October.

I have made contact with the following Non-Active members, or their family, and all say they are coping with their various health issues: Ian Campbell, John Cox, Bruce Frost, Laurie Fuller, Owen Harrison, Brian Howard, Philip Jones, Alf McDermott, Ron Mackintosh, Tony Malin, Dick Nicholson, John Steele-Smith, Wal Williams and Paul Woodward.

For those who remember John Salmon—he is very comfortable and having good care, but his short-term memory is slowly fading. He is now 91 years of age.

And now to our Active members: Doug Sneddon is so pleased to report the graft on his leg is so much better. Keith Robinson is still experiencing a lot of discomfort with his ankle.

Finally, I wish to say, especially during these unusual times, if any member has a medical or family need they wish to share with members, please give me a call on 9836-4516. My phone number is also on the header of the bulletin. Unless I hear from you personally I am not able to share any details even if I hear from other members.

TOUR NEWS

It seems that the worst of the travel restrictions are behind us and all of us can look forward to getting away in 2022. No international tours are contemplated for the for-seeable future but in the meantime, three domestic tours are booked for next year.

Queensland Outback to Reef—15–28 May 2022

Begin this 14-day adventure tour with a flight to Longreach then by coach to Cairns via Winton, Mt Isa, Cloncurry, Karumba, Cobbold Gorge and Undara Lava Tubes. Return to Sydney from Cairns, flying Qantas.

November

Tom Ware will be our guest speaker on Monday, 8 November 2021, when this topic will be “Two Short Stories”. Tom is a Public Speaker, trainer, storyteller, and writer. Known as the “Prince of Storytellers,” one Probus Club has invited him back no fewer than 15 times in 20 years. His audiences have included Master Mariners, Australian Navigators Association, the Merchant Navy Association, and all manner of Service Clubs. With nearly a thousand presentations since 1982, he is a proven performer.

Tom was born in London, UK, in 1936 and migrated to Australia with his family in 1951. Tom has been a sailor, an air ground aviation radio operator, and a police radio operator. He has also been a foundry labourer, truck driver, Laboratory Assistant, Clerk and even an Antarctic Expeditioner.

He was grand finalist in both Rostrum in 1980 and The Festival of Sydney in 1982. Since that time he has given hundreds of speeches and presented scores of seminars. During the last 39 years he has given over 900 presentations and addressed over 48,000 people and the invitations continue to roll in.

DAY OUTINGS

The Committee has decided that this month’s outing, and the November outing, will not go ahead—despite an expected easing of the COVID-19 restrictions—because the risk to members of exposure to the COVID-19 virus is considered to be too great.

The Christmas party is planned for Tuesday, 7 December 2021 and is now expected to go ahead with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. Details are not available at present, but will be provided when they become known.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

More ‘other activities’ are planned for this month. It goes without saying that all activities are conditional on compliance with Covid-19 restrictions.

Old Codgers Music Group

Bob Cruickshank is the music host for our October Zoom meeting at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 11 October 2021. Ross Beattie will be handling the Zoom technology. Zoom details will be made available nearer the date.

Coffee Club

The opportunity to meet and chat over coffee, etc., will again be provided via Zoom at 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 15 October 2021 courtesy of Ross Beattie. Ross will not be supplying any tea, coffee, cakes, etc., which means that you can do your own thing. All are invited to participate. Zoom login details will be provided nearer the date.

Dining

Ray Palmer has booked lunch at West Pennant Hills Sports Club, 103 New Line Road, West Pennant Hills at noon on Wednesday, 20 October 2021. This club is not far from Thompson’s Corner and has plenty of parking. Please book with Ray Palmer, 9836-4516. Please observe all required Covid restrictions when attending.

Movie Group

At time of going to press, there is no plan for a ‘visit to the flics’ in October. This may change when Covid restrictions relating to cinemas become clearer, in which case members will be notified by email.

The Ramblers

Rick Collins is planning a walk late in October, conditional on Covid restrictions. When the situation is clear, members will be advised of details by email.

Cycle Group

There was no cycle group activity in September due to COVID restrictions. Steve Drury is planning a local ride for October following the easing of some restrictions. However, we still need to be vigilant, i.e., carry masks, hand sanitiser, etc., as it’s early days.

Therefore, the next ride will be on Friday, 22 October 2021. The meeting point is Mill Park Street, Rhodes for a 10.00 a.m. start. The route is via the wetlands and the WW2 bunkers, on to the Parramatta River cycle way, over Silverwater Bridge and into Parramatta Park. The return journey will be via Meadowbank, across the railway bridge and back to Mill Park Street café (approximately 26 km).