

Adelaide to Uluru—10–21 August 2022

Bookings are now open for this 12-day tour to the outback, Adelaide to Uluru via the Flinders Ranges. 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 Yulara for anyone interested in a number of optional tours available there. Return to Sydney from Yulara.

Travelling by luxury coach after the flight to Adelaide, the tour is priced at \$5798 per person twin share with a single supplement of \$1195.

Yarrawonga—18–23 September 2022

Please put these dates in your diaries for later this year. Deposits already paid for this tour when it was cancelled last year will be carried forward.

Please contact Wal for further information on any of the tours: email wwg@bigpond.com or mobile 0429-484-639.

DEAD CROWS

The NSW Police have found a large number of dead crows on the Sturt Highway just outside Wagga Wagga early this morning and there was concern that they may have died from Avian Flu.

A Pathologist examined the remains of all the crows, and, to everyone's relief, confirmed the problem was NOT Avian Flu.

The cause of death appeared to be from vehicular impacts. However, during analysis it was noted that varying colours of paints appeared on the bird's beaks and claws.

By analysing these paint residues it was found that 98 per cent of the crows had been killed by impact with motorbikes, while only 2 per cent were killed by cars.

The investigators then hired an Ornithological Behaviourist to determine if there was a cause for the disproportionate percentages of motorbike kills versus car kills.

The Ornithological (Bird) Behaviourist quickly concluded that when crows eat road kill, they always have a look-out crow to warn of danger.

They discovered that while all the lookout crows could shout "Cah", not a single one could shout "bike".

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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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S PATTERN

This is the first Newsletter of the New Year and I hope it bides well for the period ahead. Covid is still with us although there are more sensible decisions being made, except for WA, by State Premiers on social distancing, enclosed areas etc. Our meetings in the Church Hall are resuming next Monday and the only rules that the Church requests is the wearing of masks during the meeting. Signing in on the Club register is required as per normal.

At our Committee Meeting in December last year, we decided to experiment with a change in the meeting format at the February meeting. The meeting will commence at 10.00 a.m. with the normal Club business and then we will break for morning tea followed by the introduction of our guest speaker. This format will be tried for one meeting to gauge member support and if positive will become normal at future meetings. Members will be asked to formally approve/disapprove the change at our AGM in March.

I would like to thank those members who volunteered for duties at our monthly meetings and for other tasks at various times. We are currently short of a morning tea organiser, and I would ask that a volunteer come forward for this role this year. However, we still have a problem with the succession to me as President next year. Col Short has penned a strong Editorial in this Newsletter pointing out the importance of having a functioning Committee to run the Club. Most members of the current Committee have nominated to continue next year, and I will transfer to the Past President position on the Committee. Please do consider nominating for either President or Vice President, or for that matter any position on the Committee, as members can have a vote on any nominees at the AGM in March.

Once again look after yourselves and my best wishes for the coming year.

EDITORIAL

We, the members of Epping and District Probus Club Inc., have reached the Decision Day. We have 2 choices—either we volunteer to join our Committee or we do not. It is simple as that—it is black & white. If we volunteer the Club will survive but if we do not it will perish.

Surely, we do not want the Epping and District Probus Club Inc. to be wound up. Then it is up to all of us not to let this happen. Next month is the AGM, so the ball is in our court to determine that it is not our last AGM. Acknowledgement is made of our Committee's support for the Editorial.

MEETINGS

February

Les Fenech is our guest speaker today, when his topic will be “Australia's Communications Links with the World”. This talk will take you on a historic journey about the development of Telecommunications; from the Telegraph, to the Radio era, undersea Cables, Cable stations, local Radio transmission stations to satellites and the delivery of images from the moon landing.



Les is a member of the Parramatta & District Historical Society. He has worked in Telecommunications with Telecom, Telstra, OTC and Optus.

March

Hazelyn Dillon will be our guest speaker next month on Monday, 14 March 2022, when her talk will be “My Life in The Business World”. Hazelyn left school just before she turned 16 after completing the School Certificate and began her working life as a Laboratory Assistant in a Rock & Soil Laboratory. After ten months, she moved to a drug company where she learnt many analytical procedures.

She married at 20 years of age and moved to take up employment in a Pigment, Paint & Plastic Laboratory, closer to where she was living. Then

over” due to COVID. Please consider the future and NOMINATE for a Committee position and help your Club. Many of you will have served previously: consider serving again.

There are also support roles such as Morning Tea Co-ordinator, done by Mark Gibbs for the past two years. Mark has now left the Club to pursue other interests, so if you like your cuppa and chat, think of becoming the Morning Tea Co-ordinator.

The February Old Codgers Music Circle on the 14th will be at Bob Cruikshank's house in Cheltenham: to be COVID-safe we ask that you be vaccinated and masked, and it is limited to 14 attendees.

Re Probus Travel Insurance, PSPL advises that due to unforeseen circumstances, the availability of Probus Travel Insurance for Australian members through Allianz Global Assistance has been put on hold temporarily: PSPL expects to resume Probus Travel Insurance in early 2022. EDPCi notes that this has little or no immediate impact on our Club tours as it really only affects international travel.

The Club's Website and associated Calendar are fairly up-to-date.

CHAIR AND MORNING TEA ROSTERS

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.

February

Warren Martin
Lance Walker

Brian Logan
Milton Bartlett



March

James Bidgood
Geoffrey Brothers

Vince Bignell
Brian Carlin

TOUR NEWS

Queensland Outback to Reef—15—28 May 2022

This tour is fully booked but a waiting list is in place if you want to add your name to it. Final payments for this tour are due by Tuesday, 15 March 2022.

The story follows the lives, loves and tribulations of the sisters growing up during the American Civil War. Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy live in Concord Massachusetts with their mother while their father is serving as a chaplain for the Union forces on the battlefield.

The performance is in the Eastwood Uniting Church Hall, Lakeside Road, Eastwood at 8.00 p.m. on Friday, 18 February and the price of tickets is \$20. NB: QR or paper sign-in is required on arrival, together with double vaccination (or exemption) proof. Enquiries and bookings with Wal Gallagher email wwg@bigpond.com or mobile 0429-484-639.

By Opal Card

Use your Opal Card on Monday, 21 March 2022 to travel to Narellan for lunch. We will assemble on Platform 1 near the northern end of the old station building no later than 8.55 a.m. to catch the 9.01 a.m. train to Rhodes. Here we will alight to catch the Route 533 Bus at 9.30 a.m. to Olympic Park.

At Olympic Park we will join the 10.02 a.m. train to Lidcombe, where we go to Platform 4 to catch the 10.18 a.m. train to Leppington. At Leppington we will board the Route 841 bus at 11.12 a.m. to Narellan.

After lunch at a café to be determined, we will board a bus to Campbelltown. From here we will return to Epping via Strathfield, changing trains at Glenfield.

Please note that Health and Public Transport guidelines current at the time of the trip will be strictly enforced. Also note the trip is on the 3rd Monday to avoid having 2 Probus functions in the same week and the public transport times assume that by then we will have reverted to the pre-pandemic situation which currently applies of Sunday Timetables daily on trains.

SECRETARY'S GUFF

Welcome to another year! Club Activities wound down during December and January (Christmas, New Year and The Heat) but nonetheless we were able to enjoy with COVID-caution some activities: a very good Christmas Party (51 attendees with more spacing), two Coffee Mornings (21 attendees in December, eight in January [Omicron]) and two well-attended bicycle ride as well as some lunch events.

Our first GENERAL MEETING for 2022 is on FEBRUARY 14, in the Epping Presbyterian Church Hall, and is subject to COVID-safe guidelines.

Remember that this is YOUR Club and the A.G.M. is in March. Your Committee manages it on YOUR behalf and in YOUR interests. Please consider nominating for a Committee position next year. Members of the current Management Committee have served the 2021–22 year as a “roll-

after some time she left the workforce for 12 years to raise her children. During this time she went to TAFE and did her Higher School Certificate. After gaining her Certificate she went to Macquarie University and did a Science Degree majoring in Biology. It took six years as a part-time student.

Hazelyn then gained employment with a Cosmetic Company. After two years she became its Laboratory Manager and several years later she moved to Colgate as a Developing Chemist and, after six years, finishing as the most senior Technical Woman in Colgate Australia. During this time, she became a member of the Australia Society of Cosmetic chemists.

As an active member she joined teams who organised conferences to keep Australia up to date with the developments in clinical trials. Hazelyn was then “head hunted” and joined a contract Manufacturing Company, that made personal care products for many international companies, as its Research and Development Manager. She worked there for 8 years until she retired.

DAY OUTINGS

February

This year's first outing will be on Monday, 21 February 2022 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. Please register your interest at the February General meeting. 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. on Platform 1 express train to Central station. We will then take a bus from Railway Square to the University of Sydney. 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.

March

Next Month's outing will be on Thursday, 31 March 2022 and will be a trip on the Nepean Belle Paddle Wheeler. This cruise on the Nepean River will take 2½ hours and will take us up the Nepean River Gorge through very scenic surrounds. The boat is equipped with a Bar and lunch table facilities. Please note that drinks on board can only be purchased with cash. A delicious lunch will be served while we cruise the river and we will be entertained by the Captain's commentary.



Guests are asked to be at the dock at Penrith, ready to board, by 11.30 a.m. for a 12 noon departure. The cost is \$53 per person (senior's prices) for the cruise and lunch. Please register (and pay) for this outing at the February General meeting so a booking can be made.

April

The April outing will be on Friday, 29 April 2022 and will be a Naval Harbour Cruise. The 3-hour cruise west of the Harbour Bridge is operated by the Naval Historical Society of Australia. The sites you will see and learn about include; HMAS Waterhen, Cockatoo Island, Spectacle Island and Snapper Island. The commentary on the cruise is supported by a complimentary booklet of photos to bring the story to life. During the cruise you will also learn about some of the RAN customs and traditions. The cost is \$75 per person, or \$65 per person for a group of 10 or more. The cruise starts at 10 a.m. from King Street wharf and finishes at the same place at 1 p.m.

We will assemble at the Epping Station Concourse at 8.20 a.m. to catch the 8.32 a.m. train on Platform 2 to Wynyard Station so we can check-in for the cruise at the King Street wharf at 9.30 a.m. A table will be booked for lunch at a suitable venue.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The following 'other activities' are planned for this month. It goes without saying that all activities are conditional on compliance with any relevant Covid-19 restrictions.

Old Codgers Music Group

This month's OCMG meeting will be held, 'face to face', (no Zoom) at the home of Bob and Margaret Cruickshank, 1 Mason Ave, Cheltenham. at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 14 February. A program of fine music has been selected for your enjoyment and appreciation. Some Covid restrictions have been removed but for the welfare and confidence of members it is requested that all who attend be double vaccinated, wear a mask indoors when listening to music and place their name on the Secretary's list at the Monday morning General Meeting.

Coffee Club

You can again meet 'face to face', and chat over coffee, etc., at the Coffee Club, Carlingford Court, at 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 18h February.

The Wobblies Cycling Group

There were seven riders (including two ladies) on Friday, 21 January 2022 for the St Albans cycle ride. After meeting at 9.00 a.m. at Wisemans Ferry, we drove to the Webbs Creek ferry for the 3 minutes crossing. We disembarked the ferry and after parking our vehicles, commenced the ride along St Albans Road, through the picturesque Macdonald Valley to the Settlers Inn at St Albans where we had coffee.

Returning via the same route to Wisemans Ferry, a total distance of 42 km, we had lunch at the Wisemans Inn Hotel.

The next ride will be Friday, 25 February 2022, meeting at Mill Park Street, Rhodes at the earlier time of 9.45 a.m. Our route will be the Parramatta River Parks run, more details to be advised later.

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

Dining

Greg Stone has arranged a 'February' lunch at 12.30 p.m., on Wednesday, 2 March at Eastwood Rugby Club. Please book with Greg by email wafil6666@gmail.com or sms 0437-030-337. All are invited to attend.

Members are also invited to consider arranging a future lunch or dinner at a venue of their choice. Please discuss with Ray Finch email rayfinch42@gmail.com or mobile 0414-746-954.

Movie Group

Andrew Davidson is currently working on the selection of a suitable movie for February. Details of movie, cinema, time, and lunch venue will be provided separately by email.

The Ramblers

There will not be a 'ramble' in February due to Rick's absence. If any member feels inclined to arrange a walk in February please contact Ray Finch email rayfinch42@gmail.com or mobile 0414-746-954. Otherwise, the next 'ramble' will be in late March.

Theatre

The Eastwood Uniting Church Musical Society is excited to get underway in 2022, albeit with restricted seating arrangements due to Covid, with a musical performance of *Little Women*. Louisa May Alcott's classic story of the adventures of the four March sisters is brought to vivid musical life.