

On day 3, we have a relaxing day visiting the small country towns of Devenish, St James & Tungamah. Then we are off to enjoy a chicken and champagne lunch aboard the P.S. *Cumberoona* on Lake Mulwala. Dinner tonight is at the Oriental Pearl Restaurant.

On day 4, we travel along the Murray to the museum at the former Bonegilla Migrant Hostel for some more history, then lunch at the Blazing Stump Bistro. More military history at the Army Museum Bandiana. Return home via Howlong. Dinner tonight at the Tame Restaurant.

On day 5, we go down river to Tocumwal and the Historic Aerodrome Museum, then on to Deniliquin, another historic location on the Edward River. Return to Yarrawonga for a farewell dinner at the Tame Restaurant. The following day we return home to Epping.

The tour is priced at \$995 per person twin share, with a single supplement of \$175. Deposits of \$100 per person are due and payable by EFT to Probus Account, or in cash, by the 31st May. A detailed itinerary is available from Wal at wwg@bigpond.com or by phone 0429 484 398.

WE PAUSE TO REMEMBER

This year marks the 80th Anniversary of some very important events in the Pacific Region during World War II. The Battle of the Coral Sea occurred between 4 and 8 May 1942. The Japanese were, by April, examining the possibility of capturing Port Moresby, Tulagi, New Caledonia, Fiji and Samoa. The occupation of Port Moresby, designated Operation MO, would not only cut off the eastern sea approaches to Darwin but provide the Imperial Japanese Navy with a secure operating base on Australia's northern doorstep.

The US Navy's signals intelligence unit had been transferred to Melbourne and became known as Fleet Radio Unit Melbourne. On 28 March it decoded a message that stated "THE OBJECTIVE OF MO WILL BE FIRST TO RESTRICT THE ENEMY FLEET MOVEMENTS AND WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY MEANS OF ATTACKS ON THE NORTH COAST OF AUSTRALIA". Thus, the Unit was almost as well informed on what was planned as the enemy. Armed with this information the Allies were able to concentrate their available striking forces in the Coral Sea area.

Most of the ships in the Allied Force were American. Only two Australian vessels, HMAS *Australia* and HMAS *Hobart*, took part.

On 18 May, FRUMEL decrypted a Japanese message which indicated that the enemy had given up attempting to capture Port Moresby by seaborne assault and intended to mount an assault overland.

A complete account of the Battle including a detailed map can be found on the web prepared by the Royal Australian Navy.

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Epping and District Probus Club Inc.



President & Editor	Col Short	9876-1018
Secretary	Ross Beattie	9871-1838
Welfare Officer	Ray Palmer OAM	9836-4516
Website: http://www.rnbt.id.au/edpci		
Postal Address: PO Box 855, Epping NSW 1710		

MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS

April

Alice Kang OAM was our guest speaker last month, when her topic was "The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway". Alice gave a Power Point presentation of a "Visual Journey" of the Walkway's conception, construction and where it is today.

In 1941, the 113th Repatriation General Hospital was constructed at Concord to minister to the many wounded World War II soldiers who had returned to Sydney either by ship or by the hospital trains run by the NSWGR. Hundreds of those soldiers were wounded or cut down by disease in the Kokoda campaign. Later it was renamed the Concord Repatriation Hospital.

In 1993, it became a State Hospital, known as Concord Hospital. In the middle of the following year Australia looked ahead and prepared to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of VP Day on 15 August 1995. The Federal Government launched a campaign to honour those men and women who served and suffered in World War II. The campaign was titled "Australia Remembers".

The General Manager of Concord Hospital, Mr. A. Kimkade, realised the chance to honour those who served in PNG and to preserve the Hospital's wartime identity. There was already a path from the Hospital to the nearby Rhodes Railway Station. Along it was Rhodes Park and an area recently vacated by Philips Industries. This area during World War II was used by Tullochs Engineering to build "Liberty" ships for the RAN. Concord Council had assumed ownership of the area. So the concept of a suitable memorial was born. It was to be a Memorial Walkway with the name Kokoda incorporated.

Work started on 18 December 1995 using unemployed persons as manual labour. It cost \$3 million. The first stage was officially opened on 3 October 1996. It comprised the Memorial Wall Centrepiece. On VP Day 1997 the first of the commemorative stations, Eora Creek, was dedicated. The rest of the 22 stations were dedicated as they were completed from 1998 to April

2000. In the latter year another event took place—the Olympic Torch was taken along the Walkway on 14 September 2000 by returned World War II veterans who served along the Kokoda Track in PNG.

The Rose Garden was opened on 1 November 1998 and the Ralph Honner Kokoda Education Centre on 14 August 2009. The late Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Honner DSO, MC, was the Commander of the 39th Militia Battalion at the battle of Isurava. It was the Battalion that held up the Japanese on the Kokoda Track.

Alice's presentation also covered the aspects of administration from a Steering Committee to a fully Incorporated Company of Directors. Alice has been involved the whole of the time from being the Executive Officer at Concord Hospital to the full-time Secretary and Board Member, with an office at the Memorial.

Finally, she covered the new project titled “Saluting Their Service”. It is a visual reality programme using modern technology allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the Kokoda Campaign, giving them the sensation of being there with the troops. The Producer, Sean Bacon, recorded interviews with veterans from the campaign using advanced computer technology and wartime footage.

We very sincerely thank Alice for coming and taking us through the concept, construction and history of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway. It is very worthwhile for members to attend one of the three services held at the Memorial each year—Anzac Day, VP Day and Kokoda Day. Mr John Gatfield, the MC at the services, has produced an excellent book “Their Spirit Lives On”. It costs \$30 and can be purchased from the Memorial Office.

May

Graham Sims JP is our guest speaker today, when his topic will be “Funny Dummies” a hilarious presentation—we all need a laugh! It will be clean and wholesome for audiences of delicate or genteel disposition. Graham has had a 40+ year career in education, as teacher, consultant, Chief of Public Relations, Principal, Inspector of Schools, and Director of Education. He specialised in Languages, teaching French, German, Indonesian, Malay, and English, both here and overseas.

He was three times seconded to the Commonwealth Government and served on the National Advisory Committee on Arabic and Middle-Eastern Studies. After his retirement in 2000, Graham served as Principal of two Islamic Colleges in Sydney, being at one when ‘9-11’ happened in New York and at another when ‘Bali Bombings’ took place in 2005. In his words, these were tense, difficult and challenging times.

And now to celebrations: Ken Fletcher turned 80 on the 4th May and our Non-Active member Ron Mackintosh, who supervised the Kitchen for many years, turns 98 on the 20th May. I speak to Ron monthly and he is still very interested in what is happening in Probus. Even tho his eyesight is far from good his Son reads the Newsletters to him. Our birthday wishes have, or will be, sent to both—CONGRATULATIONS!!!

SECRETARY’S GUFF

If members think their “EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS” have changed since they joined the Club, could they please send me the current details. These details are: name, relationship, street/postal address, email address, telephone number(s) [especially mobiles] Note that the Emergency Contact must NOT be your spouse/partner.

Note that the JUNE and JULY General Meetings are on the FIRST Monday of the month this year due to the Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday and School Holiday activities, viz, Monday, 6 June and Monday, 4 July.

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, Frank Hanlon, by phone 9878-1443.



James Dixon
Steve Drury

John Donohoe
Graeme Durie



TOUR NEWS

Adelaide to Uluru—10–21 August 2022

This tour is now fully booked. If you want to add your name to the waiting list, please see Wal.

Yarrawonga—18–23 September 2022

Bookings are now open for this 6-day/5-night tour to Yarrawonga in northern Victoria. On day 1, we are picked up from Epping and travel the Hume Highway to Albury/Wodonga, then to Yarrawonga to check in to the Central Motor Inn, our home for five nights. Pre-dinner wine tasting get together then dinner at a nearby local hotel.

On day 2, we go to Swanpool and its cinema museum, then to Benalla for some Kelly bushranging history, the Memorial Gardens remembering war heroes Weary Dunlop and Hec Waller. After lunch, we do a street art tour then return home via Goorambat. Dinner tonight is a BBQ themed dinner at the Tame Restaurant nearby.

heading to the Wharf and on to the cycleway (past the Armoury) to cross Silverwater Bridge. Return back through Meadowbank, over the bridge to Mill Park Street for coffee. The rise is approximately 23 km.

Please contact Steve Drury if you wish to 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 on Monday, 30 May 2022 to travel to Narellan for lunch. We will assemble on Platform 1 at the southern end of the Metro entrance area, no later than 8.45 a.m. to catch the 8.56 a.m. train to Rhodes arriving there at 9.06 a.m. Here we will alight to catch the Route 533 Bus at 9.15 a.m. to Olympic Park Station arriving there at 9.28 a.m.

At Olympic Park Station, where the entrance is adjacent to the bus stop, we will join the 9.32 a.m. train to Lidcombe, where we go to Platform 4 to catch the 10.03 a.m. train to Leppington (this allows sufficient time at Lidcombe for those who wish to use the lift at the western end of the station). At Leppington we will board the Route 841 bus at 11.12 a.m. to Narellan Town Centre arriving there at 11.55 a.m. This 43-minute bus ride is a “Cook’s Tour” through the housing developments in the Macarthur suburbs of Leppington, Emerald Hills, Gledswood Hills and Gregory Hills.

After lunch at the ART House restaurant at the entrance to Narellan Town Centre, we will board the Route 895 bus at 1.10 p.m. to Macarthur Station arriving there at 1.28 p.m. From here we will join the 1.44 p.m. train on Platform 1 to Town Hall Station, arriving there at 3.01 p.m. to cross to Platform 2 to board the 3.12 p.m. train to Epping arriving there at 3.50 p.m.

Please note that Health and Public Transport guidelines current at the time of the trip will be strictly enforced.

WELFARE REPORT (prepared by our Welfare Officer, Ray Palmer)

Re our Non-Active members, I spoke to the following, or their family, and all say they are coping with their various issues ok—John Cox, Bruce Frost, Laurie Fuller, Owen Harrison, Philip Jones, Ron Mackintosh, Tony Malin, Dick Nicholson, John Steele-Smith and Paul Woodward. Alf McDermott is not well at the moment, seeing a Specialist re stomach pain. No contact was made with Wal Williams.

Now to our Active Members: John Goodman returned home on Good Friday following illness with Stroke and Pacemaker. We wish him well in his recovery. Alan Membrey is at Mt Wilga with an infection in leg and Asthma. Neil McDonald is in SDA Hospital with weakness in legs and back. Doug Sneddon now has a further 2 cancerous lumps on leg, which will be further investigated, and has a District Nurse coming many times per week for dressings on other parts of leg. Doug Carruthers is continuing to have health issues, hoping to see us all soon.

Graham has a wide variety of interests, including wildlife conversation, crypto zoology, folk history, and the restoration of vintage micro cars (or ‘Bubble cars’), of which he owns and drives three.

In 2014, he was given an award by the NSW Government in recognition of his 50 years service as a JP. Graham has recently finished writing the life history of Big Chief Little Wolf, a famous wrestler of the 1930s, 40s and 50s. He writes for several magazines, and has become a popular speaker on over 30 topics at various clubs and retirement villages.

June

Andrew Biviano will be our guest speaker next month on Monday, 6 June 2022, when his topic will be “Estate Planning”. Andrew heads up a team of Financial Advisers, at Alteris Financial Grosup, who focus on helping clients, identify their retirement living and aged care financial options to help them make confident decisions.

Holding a Bachelor of Mathematics and a Graduate Diploma of Financial Planning, Andrew has 20+ years of experience within the financial planning industry. Andrew holds a Professional Certificate in Self-Managed Superannuation Funds, is a member of the Financial Planning Association and the Financial Services Institute of Australasia.

Making an informed decision during retirement is incredibly important. Making the wrong decision can have far-reaching consequences for the whole family and the stress can lead to family conflicts. During the talk he will highlight some intergenerational financial planning considerations paying particular attention to those times when there is often significant change—at retirement, when care needs change, and when a loved one passes away.

DAY OUTINGS

March

The March outing was to have been a trip on the Nepean Belle Paddlewheeler. It was cancelled due to the situation with the Nepean River. Twenty members have indicated that they would like to take part in the rescheduled cruise on Thursday, 27 October 2022. The company has refunded the money for six places, so club now has a credit for 20 places. If you require a refund, please talk to the Outings Co-ordinator. Please note that the price of the cruise increased in April, so any new bookings will cost \$60 per person.

May

This month’s outing will be a lunch at the West Pennant Hills Sports Club, 103 New Line Road, West Pennant Hills, at noon on Wednesday, 11 May

2022. This club is not far from Thompson's Corner and has plenty of parking. Please let Ray Palmer, phone 9836-4516, know if you are interested in attending. Currently there are only eight persons who have indicated their attendance. Please carefully consider this outing and make it a better attendance.

June

Next month's outing in June will be on Monday, 20 June 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. A table will be booked for lunch at the Sounds café on the Chau Chak Wing Museum terrace.

Please register your interest at the May General meeting. We will pay on the day. Travel details will be published in the June Newsletter.

July

The outing in July will be on Monday, 25 July 2022, and will be a Christmas in July celebration at The Fiddler at Rouse Hill. The cost is \$50 per person. Please register your interest at the May General meeting.

Outings Co-Ordinator Russell Gough: email Russell.Gough@gmail.com

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 the meeting will be at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 9 May 2022 at the home of John and Pam Peters, 91A Cheltenham Road, Cheltenham. If you wish to attend, please add your details to the Secretary's list at the May General Meeting or contact John, phone 9869-1957.

Coffee Club—eight members and three visitors met for coffee and chat on 8 April. 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, 13 May.

Dining—the next lunch will be at noon on Wednesday, 11 May at West Pennant Hills Sports Club, 103 New Line Road, West Pennant Hills, hosted by Ray Palmer. Please contact Ray to book for this event.

Members are 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 held a belated March Movie Event on Tuesday, 5 April with 13 attendees enjoying *The Duke* at Event Cinema, Macquarie Park, followed by 10 diners chatting over lunch at Chantilly Café. Details of the next movie, cinema, time, and optional lunch venue will be provided separately by email.

The Ramblers—the 'April ramble' was in fact held on Thursday, 5 May. It was a flat, scenic 4 km ramble along the Brisbane Water waterfront reserve from Blackwall Point to Woy Woy, followed by lunch at SaTanG Thai, 4/18-20 The Boulevarde, Woy Woy.

We will meet at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 2 June for the next ramble at the Western Sydney Parkland's Richmond Road car park, Quakers Hill, for a flat 5 km ramble along sections of the sealed Binyang Matta Trail which winds through scenic grassland, wetlands, and forests in the northern section of the Parkland. Lunch after the ramble at the Sawmillers Restaurant at the Quakers Inn, 7 Nirimba Drive, Quakers Hill. The Richmond Road car park is, as the name suggests, located off Richmond Road in the Western Sydney Parkland midway between Quakers Hill Parkway and Symonds Road. The easiest route to get there is via the M2/M7 to the Quakers Hill Parkway exit. Please call or text Rick Collins on 0411-611-338 if you would like to come or if you have any queries, e.g., how to avoid motorways on the way.

Theatre—19 Members and guests enjoyed The Theatre on Chester on Wednesday, 27 April as it gets underway with the first in a programme of three plays with the general theme of 'Proof that Things are Glorious!' The first offering was *Things I Know to be True*, a play by Australian playwright Andrew Bovell. The next play will be publicised when full information is available.

Cycle Group aka The Wobblies—there were seven riders, including Ross Beattie's Grandson, on Friday, 22 April 2022 for the Narrabeen Lagoon cycle ride. After meeting at Billarong Playground we only did one lap of the lagoon, instead of two, as the track was too wet. Therefore, we altered the ride by crossing over Pittwater Road to the bike track on the ocean side and had coffee/lunch at Ocean Street Café before returning to our meeting place. The ride was 14 km.

The next ride will be Friday, 20 May 2022 for the Parramatta River Parks Run meeting at Mill Park Street at 10.00 am. The route will be through Liberty Grove to Powells Creek Canal, right on to Underwood Road and right into Bicentennial Park. We then ride through the Mangroves, turn right onto Bennelong Parkway and then right on to Hill Road to circumnavigate 'the mound' via the spiral pathway up to the lookout. Back on to Hill Road