



*Halvorsen built RAAF Patrol Boat*



*Newcastle Centenary of World War I Memorial Walkway. The surnames of all who enlisted from the Newcastle area are on the figureheads.*

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# Epping and District Probus Club Inc.



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VP DAY



15 AUGUST

AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS

July

Noel Phelan was our guest speaker last month, when his topic was “The Halvorsen Story”. It was the story of an immigrant family that showed extraordinary commitment to boat building and excellent craftsmanship and boat design skills. The boats were wooden and those that sailed them “Iron Men”.

The Patriarch of the family was Lars Gustav Halvorsen, who was born in Norway in 1887, the son of Halvor Andersen and Ellen Marie. Halvor was a farmer, who became a boat builder at the age of 58. He built fishing boats, one of which was *Nidelv*. Lars joined his father in the boat building business. However, after that boat was wrecked problems faced the business.

In 1909, Lars married Bergithe Klemmenstsen in Norway. They had five sons Harold, Carl, Bjarne, Magnes and Trygve along with two daughters Elnor and Margit. The family moved to South Africa in 1922, where Lars continued building boats. Realising that there was insufficient business in Cape Town and learning of the magnificent harbour in Sydney, Lars and Harold migrated to Sydney in late 1924, with the rest joining them at the end of that year.

The first boat they built was *Sirius* at Drummoyne. It was built of iron bark timber and was 30 ft in length. Then they moved to Neutral Bay before finally settling on the Parramatta River at Putney. All of the sons were involved in the business but Barne left and became prominent in the North Sydney area.

The family had the skills to built boats—creative genius, sustainability, craftsmanship. Lars was able to predict boat behaviour in various weather

conditions. The boats were sturdy and had Rolls Royce engines. In all the company built about 1300 boats and 63 rental cruisers. During World War II they built 250 boats for the Australian war effort.

They family was also skilled at sailing boats in ocean races. In 1963, 1964 and 1965, Magnes and Trygve, as joint skippers, won three Sydney to Hobart yacht races on handicap with *Freya*, which was designed by Trygve and built by Halvorsen & Sons. In 1962, the Company built the 12-metre yacht *Gretel* the first Australian challenger for the America's Cup. They also established a plant at Bobbin Head. Their Putney plant was the largest in the Southern Hemisphere at 310 ft × 150 ft..

Noel's power point presentation also covered the deeds of the sons. We thank him very sincerely for coming and enlightening us about a well-known Sydney family, whose Putney plant still lines the banks of the Parramatta River but has no seen a boat built there for a very long time.

## August

**T**om Ware is our guest speaker today, when his topic will be "Incident in Dubbo Air Space". Tom is a story teller about an aircraft that gets into trouble because of bad weather. It comes from his own experiences as a radio operator out at Dubbo in 1961–62.

Today, the art of storytelling is rare. Despite this, there is a huge demand for it. People love a good story. Known as 'The Prince of Storytellers,' Tom Ware, DTM has been entertaining audiences for 50 years. Tom joined his first Toastmaster club in 1972. He has also been a member of Rostrum Clubs of NSW, the National Speakers Association of Australia, and the Australian Storytellers Guild and is certified at 'professional standard' with this last. He was a grand finalist with both Rostrum in 1980 and at the Festival of Sydney in 1982.

Tom's background is colourful: navy, civil aviation, electrical power, trucker, police, clerical work and even a year as an Antarctic expeditioner. Also known as Tusitala Tom (Polynesian for Storyteller) he is both writer and speaker. Three of his books can be found on Toastmaster websites: The Raconteur, Speaking to Entertain, Real Storytelling, and Going Outside Toastmasters—A Guide to Giving Effective Presentations Outside of Toastmasters.

## September

**K**en Moroney will be our guest speaker next month on Monday, 12 September 2022, when his topic will be "Objects in Life". Ken was the 19<sup>th</sup> NSW Commissioner of Police from 2002 to 2007 with a remarkable track record of 42 years (1965–2007) in the NSW Police Force. He has been frequently commended and awarded for his outstanding leadership abilities.



*Halvorsen built Silver Cloud*



*Silver Cloud as HMAS Silver Cloud ↑ Halvorsen built navy Gun Boat ↓*







*A Typical Halvorsen Boat—A Symphony in Wood*



*1934 Halvorsen Bridgdeck Nautilus Yacht*



*Halvorsen built HMAS Nereus*

He started his police life at the Academy in Bourke Street, Redfern, in 1965 and was appointed a Probationary Constable on 16 August 1965, being first stationed at Liverpool. Half of his service was spent in country towns such as Lismore, and West Wyalong in the Riverina.

In 1987, he was appointed Director of Recruit Training at the Police Academy in Goulburn with the rank of Superintendent, which he held until October 1990 when he was appointed Chief-of-Staff to the Commissioner, serving under both John Avery and Tony Lauer. In June 1993, he became Executive Director of Education and Training and in March 1997 he was appointed Commander of the City East region. On 1 July 1999, he was appointed Deputy Commissioner.

The Premier, Bob Carr, made no secret when announcing the appointment of Police Commissioner. Mr Moroney was the new broom the Government so desperately wanted. The 37-year police veteran comes to the job with a “grassroots” outlook on policing. The headlines read: The “cut-price Commissioner” replaces “terminated” British import Peter Ryan on a salary of \$327,865—more than \$127,000 less than his predecessor.

Since his retirement from the Police Force in 2007, Ken has founded Nemesis, a company specialising in risk management, online investigations, surveillance and investigations and has continued to share his expertise and experience in a number of fields. He chairs a number of boards and member of various groups and with Ken’s significant experience in the management and leadership during emergency recovery operations in the aftermath of natural disasters. His experience includes: Thredbo landslide disaster (1997); NSW bushfires (late 2001–early 2002); Hunter and Central Coast floods (2007). More recently, Ken was appointed as Regional Emergency Recovery Co-ordinator of the Mid and Far North Coast flood recovery effort (2009).

Ken was awarded Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) 2006; Australian Police Medal (APM) for Distinguished Service 1992; NSW Police Medal for Diligent and Ethical Service 2002 among other distinguished awards and academic awards.

Ken’s Objective in Life: To be of service to my family and my community and to add value in all that I do.

## Guest Speakers

For years Epping Probus has prided itself and eagerly awaited each month a good quality guest speaker. This is due to in the past to the Guest Speaker Co-ordinators and I wish to acknowledge the hard work of the current Past Guest Speaker Co-ordinator, Frank Hanlon.

As I take on this monthly task, I have a better understanding and the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes. Finding speakers, setting

dates, follow up contact, receiving their bio for the Newsletter and then the nerves on the day; will they turn up on time, will the equipment work and then, are they entertaining enough? All these questions.

For me to keep up the standard set by previous Guest Speaker Co-ordinators I need YOUR HELP. Help me find interesting speakers for the future. At the next meeting or any time give me a name, contact and details of someone you may think would be interesting to your fellow Probus members.

Once again I acknowledge Frank for his work and handing over a good set of records and contacts and to all past Guest Speaker Co-ordinators.

## DAY OUTINGS

### August

This month's outing will be on Friday, 26 August 2022, and will be a Naval Harbour Cruise. The cruise starts at 10 a.m. from King Street wharf and finishes at the same place at 1 p.m. Please note that there are no more places available for this outing.

Brian Haywood has kindly agreed to lead this outing. We will assemble at the Epping Station Concourse at 8.20 a.m. to catch the 8.32 a.m. train to Wynyard Station so we can check-in for the cruise at the King Street wharf at 9.30 a.m. A table has been booked for lunch at the Cargo Bar (52–60 The Promenade, King Street Wharf).

### September

Next month's outing will be on Monday, 26 September 2022 and will be our Annual Picnic—this year at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway. The Walkway is a tranquil, living memorial to all the men and women who served in World War II, with a particular focus on the South Pacific region. We have booked the use of the undercover barbecue area.

It is intended that everyone gather there at approximately 10.45 a.m.–11.00 a.m. for morning tea with lunch to be served at about 12.30 p.m. Lunch will consist of barbecued sausages and rolls with a wide choice of salads. The charge for lunch is \$20 per person—and please bring your own drinks.

Free parking is somewhat limited so car pooling is recommended—or you could walk or catch the Route 458 bus from Rhodes Station. Members requiring a lift to the picnic please advise Outings Co-



### Adelaide to Uluru—10–21 August 2022

The tour is fully booked and the group leaves by air to Adelaide on Wednesday next. They will visit among other places Burra, Hawker, Wilpena Ponds, Quorn to ride the Pichi Richi Explorer, Port Augusta, Woomera, Coober Pedy, Alice Springs, the Mac Donnell Ranges and Uluru.

### Yarrawonga—18–23 September 2022

Bookings are still being taken for this 6-day/5-night tour to Yarrawonga in northern Victoria. The tour is priced at \$995 per person twin share, with a single supplement of \$175. Details of pick-up arrangements will be advised at the September meeting.

Payments in full for this tour are required NOW by EFT to Probus Account. 633 000 Account No 182681668, or at the August meeting.

### Hunter Valley Gardens—8–9 December 2022

Give yourself a short break in December on this 2-day/1-night tour to see the Christmas Lights Spectacular at the Hunter Valley Gardens. Day 1—travel by coach north from Sydney to Pokolbin, with a morning tea stop along the way arriving at the Hunter Valley Gardens for lunch. After lunch, there are 25 hectares to explore with 12 feature gardens. After a visit to the boutique shops, we check into the Wine Country Motor Inn in Cessnock. We then return to the Gardens for a festive dinner in its Terraces Restaurant and watch the 1.5 million Christmas lights on show.

Day 2—after breakfast we head to Nelson Bay for a dolphin-watching cruise on the Moonshadow Supercat. After a lunch at a local Club, we head back to Sydney.

The tour is priced at \$450 per person twin share with an \$80 single supplement. Deposits of \$100 are payable now. A brochure and booking form are available from Wal email [wwg@bigpond.com](mailto:wwg@bigpond.com) or mobile 0429-484-639.

## HALVORSEN PHOTO GALLERY



*Neutral Bay Boat Shed*



*Putney Boat Shed*



And now to celebrations: Brian Carlin will turn 90 on the 28 August—Happy birthday Brian.

## SECRETARY'S GUFF

Club members and their spouses can enjoy many of our activities: interesting talks from our Guest Speakers at the General Meetings, dining together, theatre and film outings, cycling and easy walking (rambling), et cetera. These are all Social Activities, giving a chance to meet and greet, to chat and discuss, to relax and enjoy each other's company. We hope you can join in (or even propose a new Activity)—and consider inviting a friend to join in and maybe become a Club member. The Probus slogan is: “Fun, Friendship and Fellowship” in retirement and semi-retirement: share the spirit!

## CHAIR AND MORNING TEA ROSTER

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 the Secretary. Note † indicates serving tea/coffee only.

### August



Geoffrey Brothers	Brian Carlin
Brian Hartshorne	Brian Haywood



### September

Les Jenkins †	Col Jones
Derek Jones †	Brian Keneally

## TOUR NEWS

### Travel Insurance & Covid

Probus Travel Insurance (PTI) [Allianz] will provide domestic travel insurance for members and their partners to cover costs resulting from contracting Covid. This includes cancellation due to Covid if the Covid is contracted prior to the tour, OR the cost of arranging somewhere to quarantine, and the cost of return fares home if the Covid is contracted on tour, necessitating requirement to leave the tour.

The policy does not provide cover for pre-existing medical conditions and carries a base excess of \$150. Enquiries to PTI 1800-125-234.

Ordinator. More details, particularly where to park and the train/bus timetables, will be provided in the September Newsletter.

Please register your interest in attending the picnic, and pay the \$20 cost, at or before the September meeting.

## October

The outing in October will be the rescheduled trip on the Nepean Belle Paddlewheeler on Thursday, 27 October 2022. 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.

When a payment for an outing has been made by EFT please advise the Outings Co-Ordinator, Russell Gough: [Russell.Gough51@gmail.com](mailto:Russell.Gough51@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**—on the 4<sup>th</sup> July six members and four wives enjoyed the music presented at Hugh Knight's home. This month the meeting will be at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 8 August at the home of Bob and Margaret Cruikshank, 1 Mason Avenue, Cheltenham. If you wish to attend, please add your details to the Secretary's list at the Meeting or contact Bob.

**Coffee Club**—12 members and 4 wives met for coffee and chat on the 10<sup>th</sup> June. 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, 12 August.

**Dining**—lunch at Dooley's Waterview Club on the 12<sup>th</sup> July attracted some 20 diners to this attractive venue.

Greg Stone has made a booking for lunch at North Ryde RSL Sports Club in Eastwood (formerly Eastwood Rugby Club), 146–150 Vimiera Road, Marsfield for noon on Wednesday, 24 August. Please contact Greg if you wish to attend: email [wafil6666@gmail.com](mailto:wafil6666@gmail.com) or sms 0437-030-337.

Members are encouraged to consider arranging a future lunch or dinner at a venue of their choice. Please discuss with Ray Finch: email [rayfinch42@gmail.com](mailto:rayfinch42@gmail.com) or mobile 0414-746-954.

**Cycle Group aka The Wobblies**—unfortunately the July Cook River Ride was cancelled due to bad weather. It will be now held on Friday, 19 August 2022 meeting at 10.00 a.m. at Yarrowee Road, Strathfield, at the

Bareena Road T junction, parking next to the cycle path and the golf course (UBD map 232 Q16). We will ride the Cooks River cycle path to Gough Whitlam Park, Tempe, having coffee at the Green House café in the park. We will return to Strathfield via the same route. The distance is about 30 km.

Please contact Steve Drury if you wish to ride or need more information, phone 9872-7447 or mobile 0487-785-444.

**Movie Group**—Andrew Davidson has advised details of the movie *Falling for Figaro*, a romantic comedy starring Danielle MacDonald, Joanna Lumley and Hugh Skinner. It was shown at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 2 August, at Event Cinemas, Macquarie Centre. Lunch followed at Chantilly Café. Details of the next movie will be advised to members via email.

**The Ramblers**—on 7 July, five ramblers enjoyed the postponed June Ramble from Neutral Bay to Mosman Bay via Mosman Rowers Club for lunch. On 19 July seven ramblers completed a walk around Parramatta Park and a section of the Parramatta River Walk followed by lunch at Parramatta Leagues Club.

The next Ramble will be on Thursday, 1 September. We will meet at Epping Station concourse at 9.00 a.m. to catch trains to Circular Quay, from where we will catch the 10.15 a.m. ferry to Watsons Bay. From there we will have a lovely ramble around the South Head Peninsula visiting Green Point, Camp Cove, South Head, The Gap, and Macquarie Lighthouse, before looping back across the Peninsula to Gibson's Beach from where we will follow the harbour shoreline back to Watsons Bay. We will have lunch after the ramble at Doyle's Fisherman's Wharf at Watsons Bay.

Please call or text Rick Collins on 0411-611-338 if you would like to come or if you have any queries.

**Theatre**—Wal Gallagher has taken some 22 bookings for the Theatre on Chester's presentation of *Proof*, a Pulitzer Prize winning play by David Auburn, on Wednesday, 3 August at 8.00 p.m.

Wal Gallagher is taking bookings for *The Pirates of Penzance*, the much-loved Gilbert & Sullivan Opera, on Sunday, 9 October at 2.00 p.m. After an absence of three years due to Covid, this year Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Sydney will present *The Pirates of Penzance*. Set in Cornwall during Queen Victoria's reign this comic opera in two acts premiered in New York on 31 December 1879 and followed up with a long run in London.

It tells the story of Frederic, who is young and handsome, and who, through a misunderstanding, is apprenticed until his 21st birthday to a band of pirates. Here he meets and falls in love with Mabel, the daughter of Major General Stanley. As Frederic was born on the 29th February, he only has a birthday every four years, but Mabel agrees to wait for him.

The performance is held at the Smith Auditorium Lyric Theatre, Shore School, William Street, North Sydney and we will attend the matinee

performance on Sunday, 9 October. Tickets are \$44. Please book with Wal, ideally at the August general meeting and preferably pay online to the Club via direct debit with a reference your name and pirates, eg Smith pirates. Alternatively, Wal can accept cash at the meeting.

**By Opal Card**—due to the cancellation of Hunter Valley Steamfest, on Friday, 29 July the small group of four members still went by train to Broadmeadow but instead of going to Maitland went by bus to Strzelecki Scenic Lookout for a walk along the Centenary of World War I Memorial Walkway opened in 2015 down to Bar Beach. That year was also the Centenary of the BHP Steelworks in Newcastle. Travel at the end of the 500 metre walk was by bus to Newcastle's Custom House Terminus with lunch at the nearby historic Great Northern Hotel, followed by light rail back to Newcastle Interchange for a train to Epping. The next trip is on 24 October.

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

Today we shared in a 1 minute silence for the passing of our oldest current Member, Ron Mackintosh, at 98 years of age. Our Secretary and I have received this letter from one of our Past Presidents, Doug Sneddon "Ron was a very humble man of great integrity, a gentleman always, quietly obliging and ready to help out wherever he was able. Admired by all, and a faithful servant to the Club for 13½ years in the kitchen, organising the morning teas monthly, with never a complaint. I remember when I was President, I called him to the front, in a light-hearted manner, to acknowledge his service over those years and present him with a 'Certificate of Service', accompanied by a bag of kitchen related items. It was a bit of fun at the time. Members will be saddened by his passing, but pleased to have known such a gentleman." Warren Martin also remembers Ron as a person of integrity for many years as his Insurance Broker.

I made contact with the following Non-Active Members and all say they are OK at present: John Cox, Bruce Frost, Laurie Fuller, Alan Herron, Tony Malin, Dick Nicholson and Philip Jones. Frank Johnson has had Covid but now on the mend. Alf McDermott has cancer of mouth again and seeing Specialist next week, John Steele-Smith is comfortable and being well-looking after, Wal Williams has had Covid and an Asthma attack requiring Hospitalisation, Paul Woodward has, this week, moved to Full-Care in a Nursing Home.

And now to our Active Members: Gordon Crombie had a knee replacement operation at the San on 1 August which hopefully will be a success, Doug Sneddon is having an operation at the Mater Hospital on 11 August for grafts to both legs, necessitating 7 days in hospital, followed by dressings, at home by District Nurse, to the new grafts and a couple of other excisions that are slow healing.