

believing that the airfields were defended by only two or three companies, initially landed a force roughly equivalent in size to one battalion on 25 August 1942. The Allies, forewarned by intelligence from Ultra, had heavily reinforced the garrison.

Despite suffering a significant setback at the outset, when part of their small invasion force had its landing craft destroyed by Royal Australian Air Force aircraft as they attempted to land on the coast behind the Australian defenders, the Japanese quickly pushed inland and began their advance towards the airfields. Heavy fighting followed as they encountered the Australian Militia troops that formed the first line of defence.

These troops were steadily pushed back, but the Australians brought forward veteran Second Australian Imperial Force units that the Japanese had not expected. Allied air superiority helped tip the balance, providing close support to troops in combat and targeting Japanese logistics. Finding themselves heavily outnumbered, lacking supplies and suffering heavy casualties, the Japanese withdrew their forces, with fighting coming to an end on 7 September 1942.

The Battle's significance lay in that it is often described as the first major battle of the war in the Pacific in which Allied troops decisively defeated Japanese land forces. Although Japanese land forces had experienced local setbacks elsewhere in the Pacific earlier in the war, unlike at Milne Bay, these earlier actions had not forced them to withdraw completely and abandon their strategic objective. Nor did they have such a profound impact upon the thoughts and perceptions of the Allies towards the Japanese, and their prospects for victory.

Milne Bay showed the limits of Japanese capability to expand using relatively small forces in the face of increasingly larger Allied troop concentrations and command of the air. As a result of the Battle, Allied morale was boosted and Milne Bay was developed into a major Allied base, which was used to mount subsequent operations in the region.

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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 | | |

SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with great delight along with the blowing of whistles and the ringing of bells that I am able to announce that the vacant position of Vice President has at last been filled. The Committee has appointed Past President Col Jones as your Vice President. This assures that next year's AGM will not be our last. Hurrah! The Committee has also received an indication from another member that he will nominate at the AGM to join the Committee. Please consider joining him. Remember all positions become vacant at the AGM.

It is with great sadness but complete understanding that the Committee has received the advice from Wal Gallagher that he will not be seeking re-election at next year's AGM. Appropriate response for Wal's great service to the Club will occur on that occasion, along with any other members of the Committee who will not seek re-election. Just as the great West Indies Cricket team had the three Ws, so Epping Probus has had the three Ws as its Tours Organiser in my just on 30 years as a member of this great Club—Wal Maizey, Wal Cooper and Wal Gallagher. This means that for tours to continue after March next year somebody will need to put their hand up and nominate for the position of Tours Organiser. If there was another Wal in the Club at the moment then it would have simply been an army style volunteering.

Members, you are already well aware of the problem the Club has been facing in remaining viable so that it could continue. I am pleased to report that a member of the Committee has put together a discussion paper on the future of the Club, which contains four options for our future. Your Committee has received this document and will thoroughly discuss it over the next period of time to form a consensus of opinion of how the Club should proceed in the future so that it survives. Once this opinion has been arrived at, then a Special General Meeting will be held sometime next year to bring recommendations to you for consideration. Prior to that the contents of the document will be printed in the Newsletter so that when you come to the SGM you will be fully informed of what the Committee has been discussing. Then you will be able to vote for or against the Committee's recommendation.



MEETINGS

August

Tom Ware was our guest speaker last month, when his topic was “Incident in Dubbo Air Space”. However, Tom began with another story on the problem a hotel owner was having attracting customers. The owner told his staff that they would probably have to close. One member suggested that he contact the wise man who lives on the mountain and sits in a cave. This the owner did but the wise man said he could not help. The owner got up to leave but the wise man called out a suggestion that might help. The owner continued down the mountain but again the wise man called with another suggestion. This went on with more suggestions, with the final suggestion to change the name of the hotel to Five Bells Hotel with a sign saying six little bells. Upon arriving back at the hotel this he did. He was overwhelmed with customers. Why! Well the answering is in the spelling mistake.

Tom’s main story was about an aircraft that got into trouble because of bad weather. It comes from his own experiences as a radio operator out at Dubbo in 1961–62. At that time country NSW had been experiencing a severe drought. However, in 1962 the rains came and did they come (a bit like this year).

On this particular day, Tom was on duty at Dubbo Airport in the radio room. He received the flight information for the aeroplane to leave Dubbo and fly back to Sydney. It was a Fokker Friendship. It took off at 8.00 p.m. and Tom was due to sign off and go home at 9.30 p.m.



The equipment of the day at the airport was a non directional beacon which relied on radio frequency rather than light. Tom received a weather report every 2 hours. Tom also had to estimate the height of the cloud as well as the direction and speed of the wind. On this particular night he reported heavy rain and low cloud together with low visibility. The powers that be in Sydney declared Dubbo Airport closed—Tom was instructed that no planes were to land or take off.

As he was about to head home he got a scrambled radio message from an unknown aeroplane. It was flying from Darwin to Sydney and was about to cross the Queensland/NSW border near Bourke. It was low in fuel and wanted to land somewhere. He reported back that Dubbo Airport had been declared closed. In the Aviation industry specific time spaces are in place between reports between the ground and the pilots. If these are not met, there could have been an incident requiring a search. After longer than the allotted time

WE PAUSE TO REMEMBER

This month celebrates the 80th Anniversary of the end of the Battle of Milne Bay. The Battle raged from 25 August 1942 until 7 September 1942. Milne Bay is a sheltered 97-square mile (250 km²) bay at the eastern tip of the Territory of Papua (now part of Papua New Guinea). It is 22 miles (35 km) long and 10 miles (16 km) wide, and is deep enough for large ships to enter. The coastal area is flat with good aerial approaches, and therefore suitable for airstrips, although, it is intercut by many tributaries of rivers and mangrove swamps.

Owing to the swampy lands and high rainfall, about 200 inches (5,100 mm) per year, the area is prone to malaria and flooding. After floods, the coastal plains become “virtually impassable quagmires of glutinous mud”, and the ground is not suited for development.

The bay is bounded to its north and south by the Stirling Ranges, which at points rise to 3,000–5,000 feet (910–1,520 m) and are covered in Kunai grass and dense scrubland. The main area of firm ground suitable for construction and development is found directly at the head of the bay. In 1942 this area was occupied by plantations of palm oil, coconuts and cocoa, as well as a number of jetties and villages, connected by what was described by Major Sydney Elliott-Smith of the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) as a “modest ‘road’ system” that was, in actuality, only a dirt track 10–12 metres (33–39 ft) wide.

The area was sparsely populated, although there were a number of villages along the track. Ahioma was situated the farthest east, and together with Gili Gili in the west, it bounded Lilihoa, Waga Waga, Goroni, KB Mission, Rabi and Kilarbo.

The Battle of Milne Bay, also known as Operation RE or the Battle of Rabi (ラビの戦い) by the Japanese, was a battle of the Pacific campaign of World War II. Japanese marines, known as Kaigun Tokubetsu Rikusentai (Special Naval Landing Forces), with two small tanks attacked the Allied airfields at Milne Bay that had been established on the eastern tip of New Guinea. Their mission was to capture the airfields and the Milne Bay Base.

Due to poor intelligence work, the Japanese miscalculated the size of the predominantly Australian garrison and,



Battle of Milne Bay 25 August - 7 September 1942

MORNING TEA ROSTER

News—our Morning Tea Coordinator is happy to do the pre-Meeting set-up, so rostered members are only currently needed for the serving and tidy-up. 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.

September

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Les Jenkins † | Col Jones |
| Derek Jones † | Brian Keneally |



October

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Hugh Knight | Julio Koraca |
| Jack Lee | Brian Logan |

TOUR NEWS

Yarrawonga—18–23 September 2022

Twenty-seven people from Epping Probus have booked on this tour. Please assemble at 7.45 a.m. in front of the Epping Club for an 8 o'clock departure.

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. On the first day, we will 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 their Terraces Restaurant and watch the 1.5 million Christmas lights on show.

After breakfast on the next day, 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 wg@bigpond.com or mobile 0429-484-639.

space Tom got a message back from the pilot requesting to descend to 7,000 feet. He gave permission but then he got another request to descend to 4,000 ft. This presented a problem because of the low cloud and visibility. At 4,000 feet and flying over the Blue Mountains would cause a disaster. He refused the request. Then the pilot said he was going to land at Dubbo anyway. Just then Tom head the plane fly very low over his office. This put the Airport into the alert phase. He tried to contact Walgett Airport for the Globemaster to land there by knowing that everybody would be at the pub. They had no electricity to light warning lights along the runway so the local fire engine was employed and the Globemaster landed safely at Walgett Airport.



We very sincerely thank Tom for coming and in his typical story-telling manner relate about that night over Dubbo there was an incident due to bad weather.

September

Ken Moroney will be our guest speaker today. His talk will briefly cover his distinguished career in the NSW Police Force and then move onto what he considers the greatest asset in our community. This should be an interesting presentation considering his Objective in Life: To be of service to my family and my community and to add value in all that I do.

Ken was the 19th 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.

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 managements, 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.

October

Les Fenech from the Parramatta & District Historical Society will be our guest speaker on Monday, 10 October 2022, when his topic will be “The History of Telecommunications”. Les has worked in Telecommunications with Telecom, Telstra, OTC and Optus. 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.

In 1872 Charles Todd declares the Overland Telegraph Line completed and Australia joined a global telegraph network. The submarine cable is completed and Australia sends its first international telegrams to London. These inventions were some of the key technologies that advanced the speed of our communications, can you sense the euphoria of such an occasion. This year marks 150 years of such an event.



November 1926 and 1952 before catching the Route 682 bus to Kurrajong at 11.28 a.m. arriving there at 11.46 a.m.

After lunch at The Village Kitchen, there will be ample time to view the site of the Kurrajong Station, now a very large electricity substation together with a look at the shops on Old Bells Line of Road at Kurrajong before catching the Route 680 bus at 1.47 p.m. back to Richmond. This bus travels a very different route to the one we arrived in Kurrajong on. Consequently, we will have the opportunity of view a lot of the countryside which the former railway operated through.

Upon arrival at Richmond Station at 2.19 p.m. we will board the 2.41 p.m. train to Schofields, where we will alight to join the Route 748 bus to Tallawong station at 3.32 p.m. At Tallawong we will board the 3.45 p.m. Metro service back to Epping, reaching there at 4.08 p.m.

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

As previously mentioned our dear Non-Active Member John Cox, passed away on the 10th August. Bob Cruikshank, Greg Stone together with Ray and Jill Palmer attended the Celebration of a wonderful life.

I made contact with the following Non-Active members and all say they are coping with their various issues OK: Frank Johnson, Owen Harrison, Alan Herron and Dick Nicholson. Philip Jones is still suffering from the effects of Covid; Alf McDermott is far from well with the issues of cancer in the mouth. It was good to catch- up with Wal Williams and Bruce Frost last week, both reporting they are Ok, Paul Woodward is now settling into full-time care. John Steele-Smith is comfortable and Alice sends their good wishes to all their Probus friends. No contact made with Laurie Fuller's family. Tony Malin is feeling good at present, and will be celebrating his 90th birthday on 24 September—Happy Birthday Tony. Dennis Druce has now been made a Non-Active member and he is OK at present.

And now to our Active Member Doug Sneddon who reports his operation on leg went well and Doctors are happy with the progress of repair.

SECRETARY’S GUFF

While we are encouraged to resume normal activities, medical authorities still ask that we remain COVID-19 vigilant and minimise our risk of exposure. Our Club currently recommends and requests members to wear masks at our meetings when possible. MASKS will be AVAILABLE at the Welcome Desk for those who need one on the day. Think about bringing a friend to our Meetings!

followed by lunch at Chantilly Café. Details of the next movie will be advised to members via email.

The Ramblers—on 1 September a group of 11 ramblers travelled by train and ferry to explore 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 they followed the harbour shoreline back to Watson's Bay for lunch at Doyle's Fisherman's Wharf. An additional duo joined them for lunch.

As it's now springtime, for the next ramble let's explore the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden located on the eastern edge of St Ives. We will meet at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 29 September at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden Visitors Centre, 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives, entry via Richmond Avenue. Our 4 km ramble winds through this delightful urban bushland oasis along some of the garden's largely sealed tracks, with lunch after the ramble at Bellini's Restaurant, 10/351 Mona Vale Road, St Ives (opposite Hassall Park). 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 is taking bookings for *The Pirates of Penzance*, the much-loved Gilbert & Sullivan Opera, on Sunday, 9 October. After an absence of three years due to Covid, this year Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Sydney will present performance.

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 29th February, he only has a birthday every four years, but Mabel agrees to wait for him.

The performance will be 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, at the September General Meeting and preferably pay online to the Club via direct debit with a reference your name and pirates, e.g., Smith pirates. Alternatively, Wal can accept cash at the meeting.

By Opal Card—use your Opal Card on Tuesday, 18 October 2022 to travel to Kurrajong for lunch. We will assemble near the lift on Epping Station's Platform 1 no later than 9.00 a.m. to catch the 9.16 a.m. train to Strathfield Station, arriving there on Platform 5 at 9.39 a.m. We will then cross to Platform 6 to board the 9.48 a.m. train to Richmond, arriving there at 10.54 a.m.

There we will have time for a toilet stop and a look at Richmond Station's former platform for the train to Kurrajong which operated between

DAY OUTINGS

September

This 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 on the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea. The undercover barbecue area has been reserved for our use.

It is intended that everyone gather there at approximately 10.45–11.00 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. Please bring your own drinks.

Parking is somewhat limited so car pooling is recommended, or you could walk or catch a Route 458 bus from Rhodes station. Referring to the attached map, the Picnic area is accessed from Concord Road by turning left into Hospital Road, through the roundabout and then the next left into Fremont Street. Proceed to the end of Fremont Street and turn right into Killoola Street, which is labelled A. The Walkway is labelled B. Adjacent to the end of Killoola Street and the entrance to the Walkway is a large open space owned by the City of Canada Bay Council and is labelled C. Since the pandemic the Council has allowed staff from Concord Hospital to park there and consequently is usually full. As it is school holidays on our picnic day, this may not be the case. You will not know until you arrive. If it is full, then turn back up Killoola Street and take the first right into Loch Maree Parade. As you drive along this street you will see on the right-hand side a grassed area after four houses. Drive into this grassed area and park beside the fence.

Alternatively, you can turn left off Concord Road into the area labelled D on the map where there is 3-hour parking. Please note anyone with a handicapped parking permit can park in the Walkway area opposite the



Education Centre. For those who wish to go by train to Rhodes and catch the bus to Concord Hospital, it leaves Rhodes Station on the western side from the bus stop adjacent to the railway line just before 10.24 a.m. You will need to catch the 10.02 a.m. train from Epping. When you get to the Hospital stay on the bus until it turns around at the end of Hospital Road at alight at the 2nd stop. Then walk back to the pedestrian crossing to the stop and turn right to the pathway through the Hospital Parking area at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway Rose Garden. This pathway leads to the picnic area. Those wishing to walk from Rhodes Station take the route down to the area labelled D on the map.

Members requiring a lift to the picnic please advise Outings Co-Ordinator. So that we know how many people to cater for, please register your interest in attending the picnic, and pay the \$20 cost, at or before the September meeting.

October

Next month's outing 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. Lunch will be served while we cruise the river and we will be entertained by the Captain's commentary.

Twenty members have indicated that they would like to take part in the rescheduled cruise. The company has refunded the money for 6 places, so club now has a credit for the existing 20 places. If you require a refund, please talk to the Outings Co-ordinator. New bookings will cost \$60 per person (senior's prices) for the cruise and lunch.

Guests are asked to be at the dock at Penrith, ready to board, by 11.30 a.m. for a 12 noon departure. Boarding is at the Jetty at Tench Reserve, Tench Avenue, Jamisontown. Free parking is available—turn toward the river at Tench Avenue exit. Please note that drinks on board can only be purchased with cash.

Please advise the Outings Co-Ordinator if you would like to join this outing.

November

The outing in November will be on Monday, 21 November 2022, and will be a visit to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway Education Centre. The talk will begin at 10.00 a.m. Travel will be by train to Rhodes Station and bus to Concord Hospital. There will be no charge for this outing, but please advise

the Outings Co-Ordinator if you wish to attend. Lunch will be organised in nearby Rhodes.

When a payment for an outing has been made by EFT please advise the Outings Co-Ordinator, Russell Gough: 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 8 August four members and four wives enjoyed the music presented at Bob and Margaret Cruikshank's home. This month the meeting will be at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 12 September at the home of Hugh Knight, 2/18 Fourth Avenue, Eastwood, with music selected by various regular members. If you wish to attend, please add your details to the Secretary's list at the September Meeting or contact Hugh, phone 9874-4225.

Coffee Club—eight members and a wife met for coffee and chat on Friday, 12 August. All are invited to meet 'face to face' to socialise over tea, coffee, etc., at the Coffee Club, Carlingford Court, at 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 16 September.

Dining—lunch at North Ryde RSL Sports Club in Eastwood, (formerly Eastwood Rugby Club), on 24 August attracted some 31 diners to this traditional club venue. Then next lunch is on Wednesday, 19 October at noon at the West Pennant Hills Sports Club, 103 New Line Road West Pennant Hills, hosted by Ray Palmer. Just turn up on the day or talk to Ray.

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 or mobile 0414-746-954.

Cycle Group aka The Wobblies—unfortunately the 19th August 2022 cycle ride was abandoned due to bad weather. After meeting in Strathfield, the group drove to Rhodes for coffee before disbanding.

The next ride will be Friday, 23 September 2022 for the 3rd attempt at the Cooks River run. Meet at 10.00am at Yarrowee Road, Strathfield, at the Bareena Road T junction, parking next to the cycle path and the golf course. The distance is approximately. 30 km (Map UBD 232Q16).

We will ride the Cooks River cycle path to Gough Whitlam Park, Tempe, having coffee at the Green House café in the park and returning via the same route.

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 led a small group of moviegoers to see *Falling for Figaro*, on 2 August, at Event Cinemas, Macquarie Centre,