

The Bruce Kingsbury Memorial Garden

Private and confidential for Probus use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.

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



NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS

October

Es Fenech was our guest speaker last month, when his topic was “The History of Telecommunications”. This talk took us 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.

Samuel Morse invented the Morse Code and sent his first message on Queen Victoria's 25th birthday, 24 May 1844. She had ascended the throne on 20 June 1837. Samuel Finley Breese Morse was an American, born in Charlestown, Boston, Massachusetts on 27 April 1791. He became an artist from the age of 9 by entering the Phillips Academy. He attended lectures on electricity but his main focus in life was art.

In 1811, he sailed to England and attended the Royal Academy of Arts. In 1815, he returned home and opened a studio in Boston, thus beginning his life as a professional painter. He subsequently married Susan Walker. In 1825, while he was in Washington DC, he received the news of his wife's sudden illness. He rushed home to New Haven only to find his wife had passed away at the young age of twenty-five. Devastated by the news and the inability of get communication faster, he set out to devise a plan to create a new way of fast long distance communication.

In 1832, he came to the idea of electromagnetism as a means of communication. He found out communication sent by copper cables travels

instantaneously over great distances. So he began devising a plan of creating single-wire telegraph. In 1842, he successfully deployed his telegraph system between 2 Committee Rooms in Washington DC. In 1843, he successfully deployed the 38-mile telegraph line along the ways of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The first official use was 1 May 1844 when the news of the Whig Party's nomination of Henry Clay for US President was telegraphed from Baltimore to Washington. Official demonstration of Morse Code took place on 24 May 1844, carry the famous words "What hath God Wrought" from the Supreme Court chamber in Washington DC to the B&O's Mount Clare Station in Baltimore. Morse Code is a method to encode text characters as standardised sequences of two different signal durations called dots and dashes. So developed the Morse Code Alphabet. International Morse Code was created in 1848 by Friedrich Gerke, and is somewhat different to that created by Samuel Morse.

The first undersea cable was laid in 1850 between England and France. In that year one was also laid between Ireland and Newfoundland. The cable laying ship for the English Channel operation was the *Goliath*. Les showed images of various types of cables down to the modern coaxial cables.

As far as Australia is concerned, the first undersea cable was laid on 20 October 1872 between Port Darwin and Java (exactly 150 years ago on the 3rd Thursday in October this year). On 21 February 1876, one was laid from Frenchman's Beach La Perouse to New Zealand and in 1889 one from Broome to Batavia. The La Perouse Cable Station was designed by the famous Architect James Barnett and opened in 1882. In 1902, another was laid to Canada.

Les then spoke about the social impact of the new communication and the various instances communication in Australia, such as the overseas news coming from the GPO Adelaide until the 1870s. There were the various installations of telegraph wires in Australia. In 1869, the Telegraph Offices and the Post Office were amalgamated. In 1917, the cable laying site was moved from Frenchman's Beach to Bondi. The La Perouse Wireless Station was closed and the Paddington International Telecommunications Centre opened. Optical Fibre cables were introduced in the 1970s and early 1980s. These cables initially transmitted 4,000 telephone channels, which increased over the years to 12 thousand.

Radio was the next subject of Les's talk, from coastal short wave and domestic. On 19 August 1912, Marconi Company created the Lifeboat Transmitter. It is a portable transmitter designed for use on lifeboats (see picture).



Messrs Reg Chard, Bruce Robertson, Les Thompson and David Trist



As an example, following both battles the 39th Battalion mustered barely 30 survivors (from a nominal strength of 600–800), the remainder dead, missing, wounded, or in hospitals in Port Moresby and northern Australia suffering from disease and exhaustion.

Maroubra Force, Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Honner DSO, MC and Brigadier Arnold Potts DSO, OBE, MC were instrumental in the successful defence of Australia, and are often cited as “the men who saved Australia”.

The Hon. David Elliott MP, NSW Minister for Transport and Veterans’ Affairs, on behalf of the Government announced at the function held at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway on 3 November 2022 that the 3rd November is now to be formally recognised in NSW as “Kokoda Day”.

The Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite MP, the Federal Assistant Minister for Defence and Veterans’ Affairs, unveiled a Memorial Garden, in front of the Ralph Honner Education Centre, in honour of the late Private Bruce Steel Kingsbury VC, a member of the 2/14th Australian Infantry Battalion. Quoting from *Kokoda Australians in the Pacific War* published by the Commonwealth Department of Veterans’ Affairs, “Japanese attacks resumed at Isurava on 28 August but they failed to break the 2/14th’s lines, now established in front of the 39th Battalion. On the next day, persistent enemy thrusts were met with dogged resistance requiring counter-attack after counter-attack. About midday, it looked as if a breakthrough might occur. To meet this threat, different groups of men charged back at the Japanese and, as this assault developed, one man was seen to lead—Private Bruce Kingsbury, 2/14th Battalion.” “For his outstanding courage and his key role in restoring the Australian Position, he was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross, the first of the war in Papua New Guinea.”

The following is the citation: “[He] rushed forward firing the Bren gun from his hip through terrific machine gun fire and succeeded in clearing a path through the enemy. Continuing to sweep enemy positions with his fire and inflicting an extremely high number of casualties on them, Private Kingsbury was seen to fall to the ground shot dead by a bullet from a sniper.”

David Elliott launched the Digital Honour Roll, projected on the window of the Ralph Honner Education Centre. It contains the names of the 625 soldiers killed on the Kokoda Track.

Attending service were four World War II veterans— Mr Bruce Robertson, aged 102, RAAF 30 Squadron Beaufighters; Mr Reg Chard, aged 99, 55/53rd Battalion; Mr Les Thompson, aged 98, 2/33rd Infantry Battalion and Mr David Trist, aged 98. Two more veterans were unable to attend due to illness—Mr Cecil Creswick, aged 102, 2/2nd Australian Infantry Brigade and Mr Ernie Walker OAM, aged 103, 2/8th Field Company. During the service the veterans laid a wreath, released white doves and cut a cake. Mr Robertson recited the Ode.

Les then covered the Overseas Telecommunication Station located at West Pennant Hills (actually North Rocks Road Carlingford) and its replacement at Doonside. Finally, Les took us through the OTC and NASA space programme involving stations at Ceduna, Carnarvon and Moree, before moving into the deep space communications involving the Tinbinbilla Tracking Station in Canberra and the Parkes Observatory.

We very sincerely thank Les for taking through the history of Telecommunications, something we take for granted today.

November

James Rutherford is our guest speaker today, when his topic will be “The Story of Cobb & Co”. James, a member of the Abbotsford Chiswick Probus Club, will present a talk on the origins and the expansion of the coaching company Cobb & Co, which dominated the transport industry in the Eastern States of Australia in the second half of the 19th Century and the role played by his namesake and Great Grandfather James Rutherford.

Climb aboard the coach with James as he takes the reins and his audience back to an era where Cobb & Co was king. His journey will take you on to some roads travelled. Most were tracks or paths taken by the explorers as they ventured into the regional parts of eastern Australia. Some history of Cobb & Co has faded over time. However, the likes of James along with paintings, the most memorable—Bailed Up by Tom Roberts with a coach being held up by bushrangers around 1895; and the writings by Henry Lawson—The Lights of Cobb & Co; have kept the legends, larrikins and folk lore alive with stories of courage and adventure as well as an entrepreneurial spirit which is part of Australian folklore.

DAY OUTINGS

November

This month’s outing will be on Monday, 21 November 2022, and will be a visit to the Education Centre of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway followed by a guided tour. 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. This is where the club picnic was held last month. Parking is somewhat limited so car pooling is recommended or you could walk or catch a bus from Rhodes station.

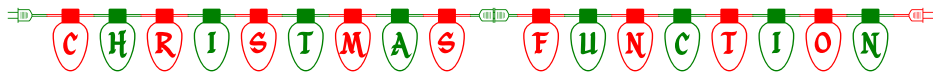
The tour will commence at 10.00 a.m. at the Education Centre where we will see a video of the warfare on the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea during World War II and put on modern technology goggles. There will be no charge for the tour but a gold coin donation to the Centre would be

appreciated. As the Kokoda cafe will not be open for lunch, arrangements have been made for the supply of a lunch box, tea and coffee at a cost of \$25 per person. Please advise the Outings Co- Ordinator at the Meeting on 14 November if you would like to join this outing and pay for your lunch box.

June 2023

The Naval Historical Society will be holding a cruise on Thursday, 1 June 2023, the 81st Anniversary of the attack on Sydney harbour by Japanese midget submarines. The cost will be \$70 per person for a group. The club has booked a limited number of places on this cruise. It is expected that the cruise will be very popular so, if you are interested in this outing, please advise the Outings Co-Ordinator early so more places can be booked if necessary.

If not paying by cash for any outing, please make a direct deposit to Probus Account BSB 633 000 A/C 182681668 stating YOUR NAME and reason for payment and also advise the Outings Co-Ordinator, Russell Gough, by email to: Russell.Gough51@gmail.com



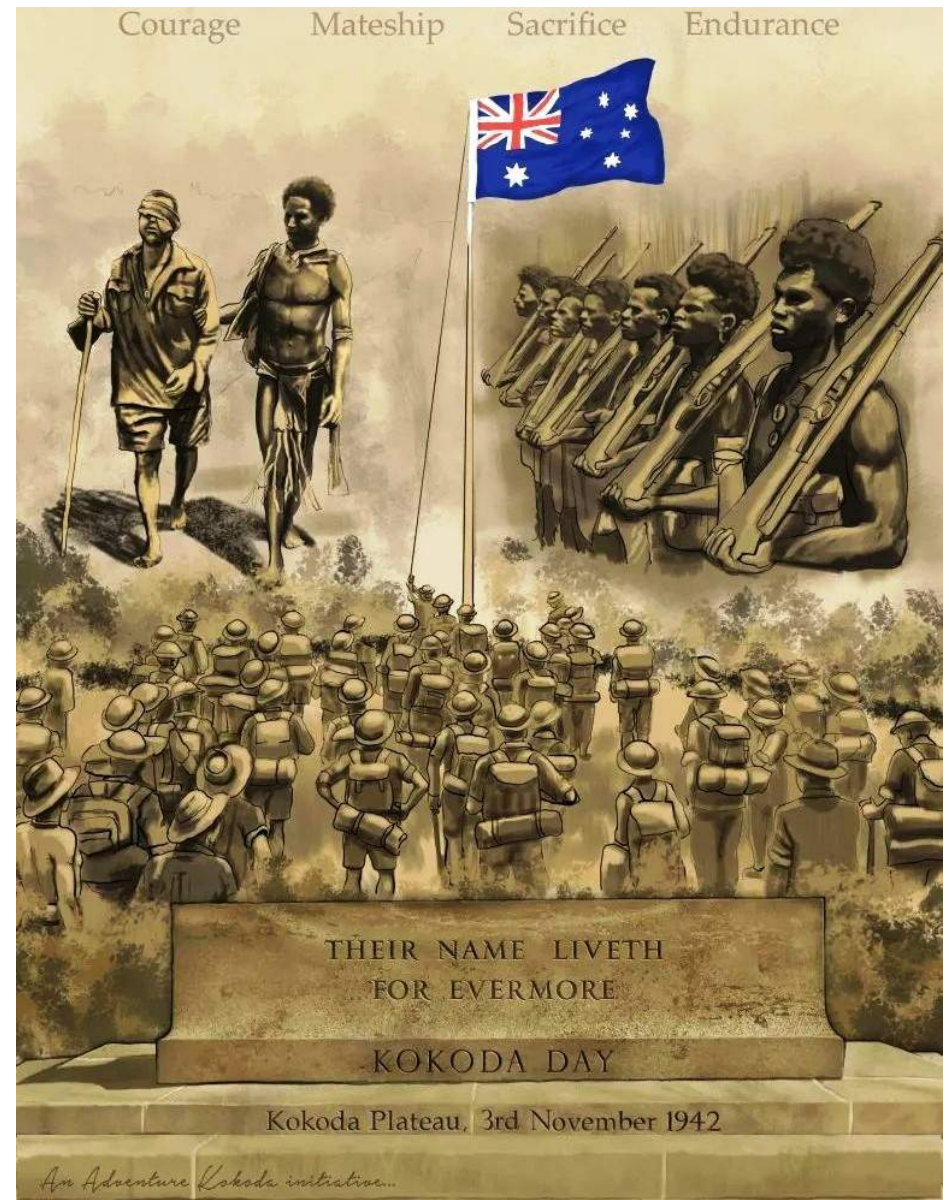
Our Christmas Function this year will be held on Wednesday, 7 December 2022, at The Grand Pittwater: North Ryde Community Club. Our function is timed to commence at 11.15 a.m. Drinks will be served at the lunchroom entrance from approximately 11.20 a.m. and lunch will commence at 12 noon. The cost is \$65 per person (which does not include any additional drinks ordered at the Bar). Members must register and pay by the Meeting on Monday, 14 November. This is our premier outing of the year and members and partners are encouraged to participate.

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 10 October, 11 music lovers enjoyed the music presented at Col and Jane Jones’s home. This month the meeting will be at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 14 November at the home of Andrew and Gillian Davidson. If you wish to attend, please add your details to the Secretary’s list at the November Meeting or contact Andrew.

Coffee Club—14 members and three guests met for coffee and chat on Friday, 14 October. You are all invited to meet ‘face to face’ to socialise at the Coffee Club, Carlingford Court, at 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 18 November.



At its peak strength, Maroubra Force consisted of the 39th Battalion, the 53rd Battalion, and the 21st Brigade (2/14th Battalion, 2/16th Battalion and 2/27th Battalion). The 53rd Militia Battalion saw action briefly during the Battle of Isurava but was defeated and subsequently withdrew greatly demoralized, especially after the commanding officer and many senior officers of the 53rd were killed in action. The Kokoda and Buna-Gona battles took a heavy toll on the soldiers of Maroubra Force.

WE PAUSE TO REMEMBER



This month celebrates two things—the 80th Anniversary of the raising of the Australian Flag at Kokoda Village on 3rd November 1942 and the 104th Anniversary of the end of World War I on the 11th November 1918. While the First World War was fought in Europe and a long way from the shores of Australia, the Second World War came on to Australian soil.

We must continually and humbly thank those Aussie Diggers who fought the enemy of the Famous Kokoda Track. Six hundred and twenty-five paid the supreme sacrifice and 1,600 were wounded. Kokoda Track is a jungle enclosed narrow pathway across the Owen Stanley Range over the roof of Papua New Guinea. It climbs from the hills north of Port Moresby and rises to a height of over 2200 metres. Distances on the track were measured, not in kilometres but in the days it took to travel through the rugged terrain from place to place up and down one precipitous slope after another. We remember also the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels from PNG who supported our troops so diligently, carrying supplies and ferrying the wounded back to medical help.

Maroubra Force was the name given to the Australian infantry force that defended Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea from the Japanese, and was involved in the Kokoda Track Campaign of the Pacific War, World War II. Why it was so named is not known. It was one of many units forming the body of the New Guinea Force, the main Allied army formation in the South West Pacific Area during 1942. Formed on 21 June 1942, it consisted of the Papuan Infantry Battalion, 39th Battalion and the 53rd Battalion and was under the command of Major General Basil Morris.

The 39th Battalion was sent overland via the Kokoda Track (see maps on page 11) to secure the Buna area and prepare to oppose an enemy advance. The Papuan Infantry Battalion of about 280 native troops with white officers, was already north of the Owen Stanley Range at the entrance of the Kokoda Track. On 21 July 1942, the Japanese landed on the northeast coast of Papua and the Papuan Infantry Battalion was overwhelmed by the Japanese troops, and the entrance was captured on 29 July 1942.

Maroubra Force then successfully fought a month long delaying action through the debilitating terrain of the Owen Stanley Range, before being reinforced and finally driving off the Japanese just outside of Port Moresby. Maroubra Force was relieved by the 16th and 25th Brigades, which undertook the subsequent counter-attack.

Cycle Group aka Wobblies—there were six riders for the Parramatta River Parks ride on 28 October 2022. After meeting at Mill Park Street, Rhodes, we crossed over the railway bridge to Meadowbank and rode via the Parramatta River Cycleway to Parramatta Park. The return trip was via Silverwater Bridge and the cycleway back to Rhodes where we had lunch (a total distance of 23 km).

The next ride will be Friday, 25 November 2022 meeting at Mill Park Street, Rhodes at 10.00 a.m. The ride will be through the Wetlands and the Armoury areas of the cycleway, returning to Rhodes for lunch. Unfortunately, I will not be able to join you on this ride.

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

Dining—lunch at West Pennant Hills Sports Club was moved to Carlingford Bowling Club, attended by 24 diners.

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.

Movie Group—the movie *Mrs Harris Goes to Paris* was thoroughly enjoyed by a group of 11 moviegoers at Event Cinemas, Macquarie Centre, on Tuesday 1 November, followed by lunch at Chantilly Café. Details of the next movie will be advised to members via email.

The Ramblers—on 25 October, four members and two guests enjoyed a ramble from Silverwater along the Parramatta River Walk to explore the grounds of the Newington Armory, returning to Silverwater via the Blaxland Riverside Park, followed by lunch at Dooleys Waterview Club.

For the next Ramble we will meet at 8.45 a.m. on Thursday, 1 December 2022 at Epping Station concourse to catch the Metro to Chatswood and then by Route 144 bus to Manly, to catch the 10.42 a.m. Route 161 bus to North Head. From North Head we will enjoy a lovely 5 km, mainly downhill, ramble back to Manly along sealed or well made paths and boardwalks. The ramble includes the views and wildflowers found along part of the Sanctuary Loop boardwalk, the North Head Barracks Precinct, the “secret path” through the landscaped grounds of the old St Patrick’s Seminary, and the Marine Parade walkway from Fairy Bower beach to Manly beach, for lunch after the ramble at the Fins and Ribs restaurant, 33 South Steyne. After lunch we will ramble along the Corso to catch the Manly Ferry to Circular Quay, and then by train back to Epping.

By Opal Card—owing to the inclement weather (70% rain forecasted for Richmond) the trip to Kurrajong for lunch was postponed to Tuesday, 29 November 2022. 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 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 to look at the Station's former layout for the train to Kurrajong that ran between 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.

Theatre—on Wednesday, 26 October theatregoers enjoyed *Glorious* by Peter Quilter at the Theatre On Chester. This completes the 2022 season. Details of the 2023 season will be provided as they become available.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome into our membership Bruce Shurley, a retired Computer Programmer, who resides with his wife Jenny at 3/18 Fourth Avenue Eastwood, phone 9858-7576.



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

Sadly I have to mention the passing of our dear Non-Active member Philip Jones on the 19th October 2022. Three members and two wives attended a wonderful Service of Thanksgiving. Our sympathy has been offered to Avril.

I have made contact with the following Non-Active members and all say they are coping with their various issues: Frank Johnson, Bruce Frost, Laurie Fuller, Alan Herron, Dick Nicholson, Denis Druce, Wal Williams, John Steele-Smith and Wal Williams. Tony Malin is not travelling so well after wife had a fall and is now in Rehab. Paul Woodward had a fall, was in hospital but now back in nursing home care. Owen Harrison is now home from hospital and feeling much better. Alf McDermott is feeling a little stronger but constantly under care of his Doctors.

We have two birthdays to celebrate with our Non-Active members—Laurie Fuller turned 95 on the 1st November and John Steele-Smith turned 93 on the 2nd November—well done members.

Now to our Active members: Keith Robinson was in Ryde Hospital with pneumonia and blood clot in leg but now home following Rehab. Yew Cheah is now in Rehab at Ryde, and Debu Makerji has now moved to Brisbane. Bernard Cupitt is having trouble with lung issues and is in RNS Hospital. Col Jones has been advised by Specialist that he will be undergoing heart surgery as soon as can be arranged. John Goodman is going Ok at present, and remains in care of his Doctor.

And now to celebrations—Peter Golding will turn 80 on the 18th November, Happy birthday Peter!!

MORNING TEA ROSTER FOR NOVEMBER

Wayne Steele is happy to do the pre-Meeting set up, so rostered members are only currently needed should be at the hall for serving and tidy-up. If you are unable to be present as rostered, please arrange a swap with another member and inform the Secretary.

Warren Martin John Oliver John Peters



TOUR NEWS

Hunter Valley Gardens—8–9 December 2022

This tour to the Hunter Valley Gardens will take in the gardens and the Christmas Lights Spectacular. The next day we will enjoy a dolphin-watching cruise on the Moonshadow Supercat on Port Stevens, before lunch at a local Club and return home to Epping. Overnight accommodation will be at the Wine Country Motor Inn in Cessnock. Pick up for the tour will be at the usual location in front of the Epping Club, time to be advised. Final payment is due now.

Consideration is being given to a 6-day tour to Darwin and surrounds from 30 July to 4 August 2023. It is priced at \$3499. Enquiries and expressions of interest to Wal: wwg@bigpond.com or 0429-484-639. Full details in the Newsletter if the tour goes ahead.

Bishop's Book Launch—20 December 2022

Since Bruce and Lindy Bishop closed their business, Bruce has been busy writing a book—a light hearted recollection of some amusing, awkward, and sometimes challenging incidents during 30 years 'on tour'.

Those who have travelled on Bishop's Adventure Tours are invited to its launch at Bangalay, Shoalhaven Heads, 3.00 p.m.–6.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 20 December. This will be a gathering of friends over afternoon tea and Christmas drinks and nibbles. Bookings please with Wal wwg@bigpond.com or 0429-484-639.