

physically capable. If you are unable to be present as rostered, arrange a swap with another member and inform the Secretary [pipetersoz@gmail.com](mailto:pipetersoz@gmail.com)

## June

John Donohoe      Steve Drury      Graeme Durie

## July

Wal Gallagher      Mark Gibbs      Neil Gillies



## TOUR NEWS

### Parkes—5–10 November 2023

A tour to the ‘Golden West’, based on Parkes, has been organised for November. Twenty seats have been secured on a coach we will be sharing with Oakhill Dural Probus Club. Accommodation will be at the North Parkes Motel and we are assured of exceptional friendly country hospitality.

Parkes is named after Sir Henry Parkes, the ‘father of federation’ and the tour involves visits to the Parkes Centre, the Dish and the collection of Elvis memorabilia in Parkes; and visits to surrounding towns.

- Day 1—Journey to Parkes with stops in the Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Bathurst and Orange to the North Parkes Motel for five nights.
- Day 2—a town tour of Forbes, Ben Hall, Aussie Biscuits and McFeeter’s Motor Museum.
- Day 3—Parkes and the Dish (Parkes Radio Telescope & CSIRO Visitors Centre).
- Day 4—Canowindra, Eugowra, Cowra and Grenfell, including a stop at the Japanese Gardens and the WW2 Prison Camp site.
- Day 5—Dubbo, the Western Plains Zoo and the Dubbo Flying Doctors Visitors Centre.
- Day 6—Journey home with morning tea and lunch provided.

The tour price is \$1295 per person twin share with a single supplement of \$300, and includes all meals and accommodation.

Additional seats are now available on the coach and deposits of \$100 are payable now. This can be in cash at the meeting or by EFT to Probus account (with a confirming email to Wal Gallagher [wwg@bigpond.com](mailto:wwg@bigpond.com)).

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

## Epping and District Probus Club Inc.



President	Col Jones	9871-2933/0419-017-365
Secretary	John Peters	9869-1957/
Welfare Officer	Ray Palmer OAM	9836-4516/0407-230-908
Postal Address: PO Box 855, Epping NSW 1710		

## JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT’S PATTTER

Last month I promised some changes and more excitement at our regular meetings. If you didn’t join our members & friends last month you missed a great morning of fellowship, friendship and fun. Your Management Committee drew upon many resources to ensure belonging to Epping and District Probus Club Inc. benefits our community and friends. We showcased our Club to 11 or more local Clubs and expanded new membership opportunities. We haven’t stopped yet, so expect the unexpected. We’ll never miss an opportunity to grow our membership and suggest improvements.

As your elected President, I must admit I’m very proud of the Club and its members. I suffered a health setback recently and personally experienced the friendly support of my Probus friends. The May meeting was a success and everything through to July and beyond is looking exciting. I must thank all those who make this happen. Take a look at our events calendar and bring yourself & friends to our offered events.

### MEETINGS

#### May

Mike Monro AM was our guest speaker last month, when his published topic was “The Last Bushrangers”. However, the talk could well have been titled “This is Your Life” or “The Black Sheep of my Family”. Mike began by telling us in great detail his childhood and the difficulties he faced due to the behaviour of both his parents.

Around the age of 3 Mick’s parents split up and his mother, Beryl, left home with Mick and went to Mosman, where she became a housekeeper in a Marist Brothers Monastery. Mick lived there with his mother for about 10 years in a very small room. But, finally, this work at the Monastery took its toll on Beryl and she took to drinking alcohol. Also, during this time, Mick rarely saw his father, Mick.

Sadly, Beryl became a chronic alcoholic and young Mike was called on deal with the situation. So here he was, separated from his dad and his mum a chronic alcohol. What a situation for a teenager! Of course, his mum was a

Jekyll and Hyde character—when sober she was a well-read woman with a great sense of humour and an incredible work ethic but when under the influence of alcohol she was verbally abusive to her son and this eventually became physical abuse. It was during this abuse, Beryl told Mike that “he was from a family of mutilators and bushrangers on his father’s side”.

Naturally Mike did not comprehend this—it was just another form of name calling. He never questioned it. However, the truth did come out when his dad, Mick, lay dying. His great uncles, Patrick and James Kenniff, were convicted of murdering a policeman and a station manager. Mick then went on to tell Mike that his family name is not Munro but Kenniff. Mike’s grandfather, also Patrick Kenniff, changed his name to Henry Munro illegally to hide the shame. So here was Mike, in his twenties, working in the Media World, known as Mike Munro under the by-line in newspapers of Sydney and Melbourne for almost 10 years. He was also “Mike Munro” on television and regularly on *60 Minutes* on Sunday night. Naturally Mike’s mind snapped at what his dad had to say. He could not take it all in. His mind was swirling. For 8 years he had been married to Lea, so she also had a false name. Did he believe his father? Was he telling the truth? Mike knew him to lie.

Mike then continued telling us about how he became involved in the Media World. He began at the age of 17 as a copy boy on the *Daily Mirror*. He progressed to an apprentice cadet, spending 10 years in the newspaper industry before moving to television as a weather reporter. TV took him and his wife to New York before they returned to Australia, where he became well known as a reporter on *Willesee* and *60 Minutes*. He then became host of *A Current Affair* and *Sunday Night*. For 13 years he presented *This is Your Life*.

Never-the-less, the secret revealed by his dad never left his mind and he decided to research the story of his great uncles—to visit Ireland and Queensland, where the crimes took place within the Carnarvon Ranges south-west of Rockhampton.

Mike’s great great grandfather, Patrick Cunniffe, had migrated from Ireland with his wife Mary aboard *Hotspur* in 1863 with seven children including Mike’s great grandfather 7 year-old William. Patrick and Mary could read but not write, so Cunniffe became Kenniff.

From his research Mike eventually wrote the book *The Last Bushrangers*—the story of the exploits of his great uncles and the consequences of their criminal behaviour.

In 2012, he funded a ‘teaser’ pilot about the Kenniffs for television. Mike was in contact many people from the area where his great uncles operated. He spoke to relatives of those involved with the Kenniffs as well as the local historian at Roma. In 2013, Mike first visited the wild and isolated Carnarvon Ranges with the historian as his guide. By 2015, the pilot was finished and because he was not longer under any contract in TV, Mike

Day Outing to Leura on Monday, 19 June. For full details please see the “Day Outings” report elsewhere in this Newsletter. There will be an Opal Card trip on Monday, 24 July 2023 with lunch at Randwick (full details in the next Newsletter).

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

**S**adly I wish to report the passing of our Dear Non-Active Member Alf McDermott. The celebration of his life will be held on Thursday next the 8<sup>th</sup> of June at 12 noon South Chapel Northern Suburbs Crematorium Delhi Road.

I made contact with the following Non-Active Members and all say they are coping at the moment: Dennis Druce, Bruce Frost, John Goodman, Owen Harrison, Alan Herron, Tony Malin, Dick Nicholson, Tony Chaine, Ray Thorpe, Wal Williams and Paul Woodward. I visited Yew Cheah at his home and he is slowly improving following his stroke and heart issues. Doug Sneddon is feeling a little more comfort in his leg and having ongoing treatment with home visits. No contact was made with Frank Johnson.

And now to our Active Members: Brian Haywood had a fall outside home causing a break to his femur. He was admitted to the San and will endure further Rehab. President Col Jones needed to be admitted to the San for a few days but thankfully he is now home with ongoing investigations.

We have a busy birthday month of June—Alan Herron turns 91 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Dick Nicholson 89 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Yew Cheah 80 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Ray Thorpe 95 on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Paul Woodward 95 on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and Active Member Robert Chow 80 on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The Club wishes you all a Happy Birthday.

## MEETING DAY LADIES COFFEE

**S**ome ladies who regularly like to join us to hear our guest speaker at 11.00 a.m. meet at 10 o’clock at the Darcy Street Project Coffee shop. They are more than happy for other ladies to join them. The shop is located on the edge of Boronia Park and access is from the northern end of Victoria Avenue (the short section between Bridge Street and the Park) or the bottom of Coles Car Park.

## MORNING TEA ROSTER

**W**ayne Steele is happy to do the pre-Meeting set up, so rostered members only currently need to be at the hall for serving and tidy-up. Rostered members are to assist putting tables and chairs away after the meeting if

will catch the light rail from Marion light rail stop to Central Station, and then by train back to Epping. Please give Rick Collins a call on 0411-611-338 if you would like to come or if you have any queries.

**Theatre**—Wal Gallagher has tickets (\$25 each) for the remaining plays, presented at the Theatre on Chester in 2023 as follows: on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August *The Peach Season* by Debra Oswald and on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November *Clue* by Sandy Rustin.

Wal is also taking bookings for Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera *Iolanthe*. 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 each. Contact Wal Gallagher on 0429-484-639.

**Cycle Group aka Wobblies**—there were seven riders for the Narrabeen Lagoon run on Friday, 19 May 2023. After meeting at Billarong Playground, the Peleton set off on our two laps of the Lagoon. On part of the pathway around the lagoon they have added a new route closer to the water and also a new cycle bridge has been built next to Pittwater Road (may have caused just a little confusion !!!!!). Brunch/coffee was at H2O café on the Lagoon foreshore. Total distance ridden was 18 km. It should probably be noted that on this ride I tried out a borrowed, electric bike—quick and easy! A couple of days later I succumbed and purchased a hybrid electric bike!

The next ride will be Friday, 23 June 2023 for the Parramatta River Parks run, meeting at Mill Park Street, Rhodes at 10.00 a.m. The ride will be along the Parramatta River Cycleway, crossing over Silverwater Bridge and on to Parramatta Park. The return trip will be via Meadowbank, over the railway bridge, to Mill Park Street for coffee/lunch (approximately 28 km).

Please contact Steve Drury if you wish to participate or need more information. Contact details are: email [sandbdrury@gmail.com](mailto:sandbdrury@gmail.com) or phone 9872-7447 or mobile 0487785444.

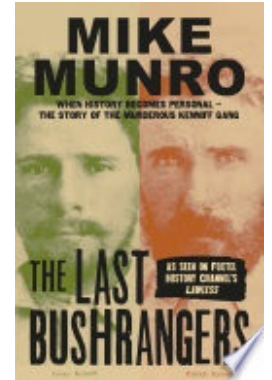
**By Opal Card**—three members and a wife enjoyed the bus/train trip from Epping/Parramatta to Cronulla for a fish lunch at the South Beach Seafood Company's shop on Monday, 22 May 2023. The day did not start well as the scheduled bus from Epping was cancelled and a wait of almost 25 minutes before one did arrive. However, the group was able to join the Route M92 bus in Parramatta only ¼ of an hour behind time. Lunch was finished in time to join the scheduled train from Cronulla. One member so enjoyed the bus trip from Parramatta that he decided to alight at Sutherland and join the bus back to Parramatta. The rest continued on to Central Station and enjoyed the now completely open Central Walk, while on the way they observed at least two trains at Sydney Metro Trains Facility (SMTF) South.

There will be no By Opal Card outing in June. For those interested in train travel, lunch or an interesting attraction please consider attending the

approached Foxtel's History Channel to show the pilot. However, the Channel preferred documentaries as part of a series and the Kenniffs would only be a one-off episode and thus too expensive for Foxtel. Also, Foxtel were sceptical on how a series on bushrangers would rate. Thus the documentary stalled but not for long. A small production company in Melbourne, Genepool Productions, run by a husband (a cameraman) and his wife, pitched an idea to Foxtel for a four-part series on bushrangers with the proviso that the stories would be based on the science of archaeology and forensic pathology. Thus the documentary was produced and Mike became the host of the *Lawless* series. The episodes dealt with the Kenniffs, Ned Kelly, Ben Hall and Captain Moonlite. The former was the most difficult because of the isolation of the Carnarvon Ranges. There were still not many sealed roads, shops or motels in the middle of the two huge national parks Mount Moffat and Carnarvon.

We very sincerely thank Mike for coming and in great detail telling us about his growing up, his career in the Media World, the discovery of the name change as well as the story of his “black sheep” great uncles.

Editor's Note—Acknowledgement is made here of Mike's book and any extracts taken from it to prepare this report. It is a great read and if you want to fill in the gaps buy the book.



## June

Rod Best is our guest speaker today, his topic being “An Historic event in Pennant Hills in 1905”. It will whet your appetite for further information. Rod is a retired lawyer who specialised in the field of child protection. Rod was awarded the Australian honour of a Public Service Medal in 2004 and was made an honorary life member of The Law Society of NSW in 2017.

He is also interested in Australian social history and is Chair, Beecroft Cheltenham History Group and Director Fellowship of First Fleeters. For the last 5 years of his working life Rod was with Life Without Barriers. He continues as an active volunteer in community support as President of the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust.

## July

Barry Pareezer will be our guest speaker next month on Monday, 10 July 2023, when his topics will be “The collision between HMAS *Voyager* and HMAS *Melbourne*” and “How to write your life story”. Barry grew up in country NSW and joined the Navy in 1963. As Chief Petty Officer he was

serving on *Melbourne* when it collided with *Voyager* and was on HMAS *Perth* in Vietnam when it was hit by a missile or by gunfire.

After the Navy, Barry served as a detective in the New South Wales Police Force ending his law-enforcement career with the rank of Superintendent. He then moved on to work in the Asia Pacific region and the People's Republic of China with a global security and investigation team in the computer industry.

A significant part of his presentation will be an encouragement to everyone to write their autobiography for the benefit of their families and tips on how to do this.

## DAY OUTINGS

### June

This month's outing will be held on Monday, 19 June 2023 and will be a visit to the Bygone Beauties Tea Rooms for Devonshire tea and a visit to the Teapot Museum. The Museum is home to the world's largest private collection of tea wares including more than 5,500 teapots from all over the world spanning 5 centuries.

We will assemble at the Epping Station Concourse at 8.45 a.m. to catch the 8.56 a.m. train, arriving at Strathfield Station at 9.11 a.m. We will then board the 9.31 a.m. train from platform 3, to arrive at Leura at 11.13 a.m. We will book in for Devonshire tea at 11.30 a.m., which will entitle us to free entry to the Museum. The cost of the Devonshire tea is \$17 per person. Lunch in Leura will be arranged.

Please advise the Outings Co-ordinator on or before Monday, 5 June if you wish to join this outing. As Russell will be away, Jane Jones has agreed to lead the visit. Her contact number is 0438-306-410.

### July

Next month's outing will be on Monday, 17 July 2023 and will be a Christmas-in-July celebration at The Fiddler at Rouse Hill (at the corner of Commercial and Windsor Roads). You will receive a welcome drink, a traditional, two-course Christmas luncheon and entertainment. Doors will open at 11.45 a.m. The cost is \$55 per person. Please advise the Outings Co-ordinator on or before Monday, 5 June if you wish to join this outing. Car-pooling is advised.

### August

The outing in August will be on Tuesday, 22 August 2023, and will be a walking tour of central Maitland. The town of Maitland (originally known

as West Maitland) was a private town, unplanned and surveyed only as land-holders subdivided their holdings for sale. The walking tour is about 3.5 km in length and takes in 35 heritage properties. Lunch in Maitland will be arranged. Car-pooling is advised. This outing will be organised and led by Ross Beattie.

If not paying cash, 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](mailto:Russell.Gough51@gmail.com)

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

The following 'Other Activities' are planned for this month. It goes without saying all activities are conditional on compliance with any relevant Covid-19 restrictions. If you plan to attend an outdoor activity and rain develops or heatwave is forecast on the day before the outing commences, please check by phone the activities organiser as early as possible on the day.

**Old Codgers Music Group**—there will be no meeting in June. The next meeting will be in July. Further detail will be in the July Newsletter.

**Coffee Club**—members, wives, partners, and guests are all invited to meet again 'face to face' to socialise over tea, coffee, etc., at the Coffee Club, Carlingford Court, at 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 9 June. Contact Ray Palmer, phone 9836-4516 if you have any questions.

**Dining**—11 diners enjoyed lunch on the outside deck at Drummoyne Sailing Club on Tuesday, 16 May. Details of a June lunch will be circulated via email.

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.

**Movie Group**—details of the next movie will be advised to members via email.

**The Ramblers**—on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, 11 happy Ramblers enjoyed an interesting ramble from Meadowbank Station, across the Parramatta River bridge pathway and the Bennelong Bridge to Wentworth Point and the Olympic Wharf for the ferry to Meadowbank. Lunch was at the Fork and Spoon restaurant where we were joined by one additional attendee.

The June Ramble will meet at 8.45am on Thursday, 29 June at Epping Station Concourse to catch the 9.01 a.m. train to West Ryde, where we will catch the Route 500X bus to Birkenhead Point. From Birkenhead Point we will enjoy a 4.7 km scenic ramble over the Iron Cove Bridge, along the southern shore of Iron Cove to the Hawthorne Canal Reserve, and then along the Reserve to Marion Street, Leichhardt. After the ramble we will have lunch at the Little Sicily restaurant, 194 Marion Street, Leichhardt. After lunch we