



# RETIRED OFFICERS CLUB (NSW)

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## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MARCH, 2013

The March gathering attracted 55 members and President Mike welcomed all, included in the welcome were the following members not seen for a while: Ron Hargrave, Les Rennie and Bob Janson. Also welcomed by Mike were two new members Barry Bailey and Mark Nightingale.

Mike’s welcome was followed by the Loyal Toast.

Apologies were received from: Noel Bowmer, Phil Cohen, Phil Minett, Clive Neutze and David Wright.

New Members Barry Bailey and Mark Nightingale gave a potted history of their time in the Bank and were very succinct in their delivery with no time gong necessary.

Barry has retired after 43 years, starting at Martin Place and George Streets branch on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 1970, and this was followed by a period of conscription in National Service which was cut to six months with the election of Gough Whitlam who abolished N.S. much to Barry’s delight. After a period at Sydney (K & G) Barry spent his time in general banking in the Sydney Metropolitan area both West and North Shore and then served in the Accounting and Control area under Bob Gilmour before becoming a Branch Manager at Smithfield, and Silverwater. Barry then did a stint as District Manager Business Bank Northern Suburbs and retired as Area Manager Western.

Mark joined the Bank at Dubbo on 3/1/1978 with Bruce Stacey as his first Manager. His career then encompassed retail roles in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, with a further role in Esanda. Mark was appointed as Manager Kiama where he served for several years finishing up in the Bank as Regional Executive for the South Coast. He has now moved on to a competitor Bank and is enjoying the experience. Mark was quick to acknowledge that the training, experience and comradeship he enjoyed in the ANZ was a comprehensive grounding for his current role outside the Bank.

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**Just been to the gym. They've got a new machine. Could only use it for half an hour as I started to feel sick. It's great though; it provides me with everything I need: Kit-Kats, Mars bars, Snickers, Potato chips, the lot."**

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### OUR PRESIDENT’S PREAMBLE

We had a great roll up of members at our March lunch. If you have not been to a lunch for some time please make an effort to attend. We promise you will have a good time. Our member Peter Goerman from Bateman’s Bay is doing a great job on our blog site. Thanks Peter. He does it all on the Internet from his home computer. Isn’t the Internet amazing?

If you have not visited the blog site please log on and have a look. Peter has added a new page called “miscellany”. On this page is a wonderful photo of the staff at Pitt and Hunter Street Branch from 1962. Photo was supplied by Rod Prosser... Thanks Rod. Heather Riach has supplied the list of names of those in the photo and had also supplied the photo..... Thanks Heather.

You can open the photo and then increase the size so you can have a good look at the faces of the men and women in the photo.

We hope to add other photos to this “miscellany” file in due course and I have quite a back log of photos members have sent to Noel Bottrell or to me over recent times and I will be working on adding these to our blog site in coming months.

If any member has a photo or an item that they feel may be of interest to our members please send a copy of them to either myself or to our Editor Noel and we will arrange for them (after editorial amendments if thought appropriate) to be put on the blog site.

For interest we can advise that since the blog site was opened a few months ago we have had over 2500 visitations to the site.

Our new Minister for Good Times Alex Morgan is keen to arrange a few outings this year so if any of you have any suggestions he would love to hear from you at: [aamorgan@bigpond.net.au](mailto:aamorgan@bigpond.net.au) Finally a last request for any unfinancial members to please pay overdue subscriptions. In a few weeks we will be checking the members register and any unfinancial members will cease to receive the Newsletter. We really don't want to do this to any of our members.

That's all from me this month.

Kind Regards

Mike C.

#### **FROM THE DESK OF SECRETARY REG.**

Mrs Roberta Bate wife of our member Reg Bate phoned Mike Cunneen recently and advised that her husband (aged 82) is suffering from well advanced Dementia and unfortunately is not able to remember anything. He was first diagnosed with Dementia in 2008 and had gone down fairly quickly since then.

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**Murphy, a furniture dealer from Dublin, decided to expand the line of furniture in his store, so he decided to go to Paris to see what he could find. After arriving in Paris, he visited some manufacturers and selected a line that he thought would sell well back home. To celebrate the new acquisition, he decided to visit a small bistro and have a glass of wine. As he sat enjoying his wine, he noticed that the small place was quite crowded, and that the other chair at his table was the only vacant seat in the house. Before long, a young Parisian girl came to his table, asked him something in French (which Murphy could not understand). So he motioned to the vacant chair and invited her to sit down. He tried to speak to her in English, but she did not speak his language. After a couple of minutes of trying to communicate with her, he took a napkin and drew a picture of a wine glass and showed it to her. She nodded, so he ordered a glass of wine for her. After sitting together at the table for a while, he took another napkin, and drew a picture of a plate with food on it, and she nodded. They left the bistro and found a quiet cafe that featured a small group playing romantic music. They ordered dinner, after which he took another napkin and drew a picture of a couple dancing. She nodded, and they got up to dance. They danced until the cafe closed and the band was packing up. Back at their table, the young lady took a napkin and drew a picture of a four-poster bed. To this day, Murphy has no idea how she figured out he was in the furniture business.**

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

**Warwick Lyons of Dalian, P. R. of China**

**Danny De Vere of Heathcote NSW**

**John Tyrrell of Narellan NSW**

**Ken D'Abrera of Milperra NSW**

**Barry Bailey of Winston Hills NSW**

**Noel Guillaume of Emu Plains NSW**

## **WELFARE**

**Our Welfare Officer Ken Dighton advises ....**

- **Betty Gemmell – “a bit wobbly on her pins” (mind is willing but body is weak), but bearing up.**
- **Mick Hiscox – was diagnosed pre-Christmas with grade 4 cancer. He recently finished a course of radiotherapy and he should have results in about 5 weeks’ time. Mid-way through chemotherapy which will continue for a few weeks yet. Mick is his usual up-beat self and is maintaining a good sense of humour. He sends thanks to all those who’ve taken the time to make contact with him, and he would welcome a call at any time(ask a Committee member for his phone number)**
- **Allan Aylward – post prostate surgery etc – going well and “doing things”**
- **John Freedman –Denis Lickley reports John is improving well after his stroke. In keeping with his past significant sporting prowess John is back on the water, but just “passing-up the drinks” at this stage!**
- **Barry Gibson – nice to see him back in health (and at our lunch) after serious complications with appendicitis recently.**
- **John Robson – according to Alasdair Steel, John is progressing well after prostate surgery, and he sends regards to all.**
- **Tony Dalton – Stuart Kitching reports that Tony has had some quite serious issues with his pancreas, exacerbated by what is thought to have been side effects from blood pressure medication.**

**Birthdays for HONS. - I made contact with our “elder statesmen and women” to check up on them in their Birthday month – & report as follows:**

- **Margaret Blackwood (91) – a bit slow but generally going along OK**
- **Doug Dowling (87) –bowel cancer surgery 6 months ago but recovering well. OK in general – sent regards to all**
- **Eric Harvey (87) – Q: How are you going Eric? A: Slowly. The “Local Council” (aka wife Kate) is keeping an eye on activities. On the whole OK.**
- **Ken Hill (82) – He is well and will try to come to a lunch**
- **Geoff Nelson (89) – he is well but a lack of mobility keeps him away from the City and ANZROC social activities. Sent regards to all.**

## **BEREAVEMENTS**

**Wes Sterland of Ballina NSW aged 82 passed away “at Ballina Hospital after a long illness bravely fought”. Wes was survived by his 5 children.**

**Secretary Reg apologises to all for the inclusion of Maxwell Campbell as being deceased in the AGM Report in our last Newsletter. Max is alive and well and he and his daughter Cathleen went to great lengths to assure me of this fact. Sorry to all those who knew Max and were misled and upset by the error. To Max and Cathleen's credit they derived more humour than rancour from the error, and have forgiven me my sins."**

## INTEREST RATES

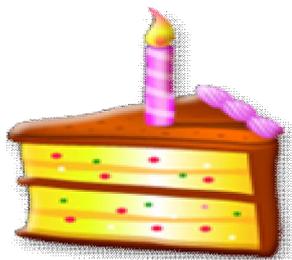
From 1/3/2013

Less than \$20,000

Greater than \$20,000

1.94%

2.48%



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Lenko	BAREVIC	16th <sup>h</sup>	Carmen	MOYLAN	28th
Bill	BRICKNELL	2nd	Des	NATION	17th
Peter	DAWSON	18th	Kevin	O'CONNELL	22nd
Peter	DEVOY	10th	Richard	PERKINS	2nd
Greg	EVANS	1st	John	PLATT	23rd
Dave C	FLEMING	29th	Jim	RICHARDSON	24th
Jeff	FRIEDMAN	16th	Mike	RILEY	13th
Mike	GRAY	10th	Bob	RISEBOROUGH	24th
George	HARLOE	27th	Ken	ROSE	8th
Jim	HEATH	6th	George	ROWE	4th
Alistair	JOHNSTON	24th	Neil	ROWLAND	23rd
Col	KILLER	6th	Graeme	SMITH	10th
Greg	LYTTLE	7th	Barry	THOMPSON	3rd
Con	LUCAS	5th	John	TURNBULL	7th
John	LUCAS	28th	John	TYRELL	1st
Ray	MACKIE	12th	Jackie	VULA	2nd
Digby	MILNE	25th	Ron	WELSH	2nd
Geoff	MINETT	14th	Ken	WHITECROSS	9th
John	MITCHELL	9th	Barry	WILEMAN	18th

## THE "HONS"

Stuart	ALLAN	27th
Arthur	BOWN	1 <sup>st</sup> **
Don	DAVIS	14th
Terry	GATTY	10th
Betty	HICKMAN	26th
John	McCRUDDEN	5th
Bruce	RIDER	26th
John	SCOTT	22nd
Aub	WALKER	29th

(\*\* denotes Life Member). There were no new "Hons" this month.

Birthday wishes were extended by Phil Newsome to Ken Byatt, Colin Clarke, Ian Jarratt, Bob Janson, Clieve Lennon, John Mair, Peter McCabe, John Mitchell, Reg Smeaton and John Tier.

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## **SOCIAL/SPORTING**

### **NEWCASTLE “CHAPTER” GET TOGETHER AND LUNCH**

“Doc” Wilson advised that the Newcastle Luncheon is on again at the Cardiff Leagues Club (Panthers) on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013, and any members wishing to attend will, (as usual), be made very welcome. Sydney members can catch a train to Cardiff from Central at 9:15 am where they will be met and transported to and from the lunch by our Newcastle colleagues. It is always a great day and worth the trip.

Clieve Lennon suggested that at some time in the future the Newcastle and Sydney members may like to meet in the middle at a place to be determined around Gosford/Central Coast. President Mike is to take this matter up with Doc Wilson.

The Illawarra Golf Day where players vied for the Fred Bannister Memorial Trophy and the Dick Kostrubiec Memorial Shield organized by Brian White, Phil Newsome and Laurie Sainsbury was a great success, with the unsettled weather very kind to us on the day. 64 golfers played on the day and a further 10 members were able to join us for lunch after the golf.

Lunch was followed by a minutes silence in memory of Fred Bannister, Dick Kostrubiec and our more recently departed Illawarra colleague Ralph Hawkins, after which prizes were awarded to deserving golfers and most were rewarded with a lucky door ticket raffle that seemed to capture most of those in the room. The most pleasurable award was to the winners on the day, the Condon family, who are all related directly or by marriage to Fred Bannister and participate every year. This is the first time they have taken out the trophy, although they have had podium finishes a couple of times in the past. Trophies were presented by Fred Bannister’s daughter Sue Condon to her family group, and Dick Kostrubiec’s widow Dianne to the runners up group of Reg and Brian Wilson, Robert Havasi, and Ron Hall. Both ladies expressed their pleasure at the opportunity to do so and their happiness about the memorial nature of the event.

Not quite a Sporting event but the Royal Easter Show is up there ,,, John Turnbull emails.....

“Thursday I went to the Show without high expectations, came home with two Blue Ribbons.

1st Place Sponge Sandwich (14 entries), I won this last year, so all is going well. The judge was very impressed with how light it was and when an Official pointed out that it was me, she said during the judging to everyone that I can come any time and cook at her place. Another lady judge (wasn’t doing it that day) congratulated me, told her I might give it away, she demanded that I keep doing it. She is connected with the Women’s Weekly and would like my recipes, respectfully said ‘One day’. I made it at 1.30am, left at 5.15am so I could drive into the ground at 7.30am, so a long day.

1st Place Rich Plain (Butter) Cake (18 entries). This was straight out of Mum’s 1946 cookbook, a wedding present from her Aunt who taught her to cook at age 10yro. The OLD recipes are ‘simply the best’! This was the only cake in a square tin, all were at one time. The round tins take away the skill to cook the cake, I have the judges now considering if the rules need to change. That will bugger up the newer cooks.

I was interviewed and had my photo taken with the cakes, so it might be used in RAS promotions! Also CH 10 filmed the judging, ‘The Project’ next Friday night, you may see me in the front row. I declined to be interviewed on TV”. (Well done John Congratulations, Fielders Corn Flour eh?)

## **OTHER MATTERS**

Alex Morgan, the “Minister for Good Times” raised several options for extra membership activity and received a solid show of hands for options such as a visit to Victoria Barracks and also Pinchgut (Fort Denison) among other ideas and would welcome any suggestions/preferences from members for other activities to be considered. He will also be looking at the Partners Luncheon and other ways to lead us astray over the coming months.

Noticed in the ANZROCVic Newsletter ....”Kevin Watson emailing from Perth sends his congratulations to John McPhee and his support team on the wonderful luncheon held to honour the coming 100th birthday of Charles Rennie. It was very well done indeed. The Bank made an excellent venue available for the event. Kevin was very pleased to see Charles again after so many years – particularly as he appeared not to have changed to any extent. It was great to see that he remains very active, in good health and still has a driving licence. It is very seldom that Kevin visits Melbourne but he is happy that he did so on this occasion, For Kevin it was a real trip down memory lane as he saw and talked with so many friends of yesteryear(s). There were too many to name but one who has a special place is Harry Carrodus who befriended a young 21 year old who arrived at GMO of the Bank of Australasia in March 1951. It was a joy to see him and Beryl again. The journey across this wide land was very worthwhile and made possible by Kevin’s old cricketing mate Bruce Tickell who cared for him between flights”.

Seen in the UK ANZ Pensioners Club Newsletter.....

‘Salute to the Men of Courage’ – John Cruickshank VC

Earlier this year, the London Daily Mail published a story entitled ‘Salute to the Men of Courage which mentioned some of the people who have been awarded the Victoria Cross and explained how the bravery behind our highest decoration for valour still proves inspirational. One of those highlighted was John Cruickshank, now 92 and living in Aberdeen who is a pensioner of the Bank, and is one of the oldest living recipients of the Victoria Cross. Then a Flight Lieutenant, John Cruickshank, was awarded the Victoria Cross in July 1944 for getting his flying boat crew safely home despite being badly wounded from 72 shrapnel wounds, including having pierced lungs, received from a direct hit in an attack on a U-boat. His citation ends “Throughout, he set an example of determination, fortitude and devotion to duty in keeping with the highest traditions of the Service”.

John Cruickshank left the RAF in 1946 to return to his banking career which included spells in the Commercial Bank of Scotland and Grindlays Bank.

He took his well-deserved retirement in 1976.

### **ANZROCNSW Blog site**

In consultation with ANZROC member Peter Goerman the installation of the ANZROCNSW Blog has been set up as blog site [anzroc.blogspot.com.au](http://anzroc.blogspot.com.au) , this has Newsletters for the last twelve months plus therein, together with function and other photographs, other items of interest; new material is being added often so while in the blog have a browse around.

This month March email members will receive their Newsletter via an email from the Editor advising that the Newsletter has gone up on the ANZROCNSW Blog; you then simply click on the link which will be listed in the email and will be able to view the current Newsletter etc.

Our trials have been successful but please get back to the Editor if any problems are experienced.

In connection with the blog Peter has emailed....”If more such photos become available (and why shouldn't they? why not photos of old branches which have since been pulled down or are now the locale of some other commercial activity, e.g. the Staff Training College at Haymarket which I once attended for a ledger examiner course is now - very appropriately - a pub), we could make the "miscellany" page an index page from which viewers could branch out to the various photos, stories, etc.

Back in the late 60s/early 70s, I was senior auditor on the then gigantic Bougainville Copper Project on which some four to five thousands expats worked at any one time on one-year contracts. Since the construction phase lasted for some three years and due to the remoteness of the project there was a huge turnover so that perhaps as many as twenty thousand people or more may have been working on that job even before it became an operational mine. I took it onto myself to set up a website at <http://www.riverbendnelligen.com/bougainville1.html> and blogs at <http://bclcomments.blogspot.com.au/> and <http://bougainvilleaftermath.blogspot.com.au/> which have been viewed by well over 60,000 people. Former employees have rung me from far and wide with emotions choking their voices, thanking me for all those memories which they could now share with their children and grandchildren. The ANZROC blog could become something of that sort! (yes Peter it has great possibilities to view the ANZROC NSW photos go to our blog at <http://anzroc.blogspot.com.au/> , then click on "Miscellany". Ed)

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There was a bit of confusion at the store this morning. When I was ready to pay for my groceries - the cashier said, "Strip down, facing me." Making a mental note to complain to my member of parliament about Security running amok, I did just as she had instructed. When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out that she was referring to my credit card. I have been asked to shop elsewhere in the future. They need to make their instructions to us Seniors a little clearer!

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## APRIL LUNCH

Our next monthly Lunch will be at our usual venue, CTA Club, Martin Place, Sydney, on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2013. Pre Lunch drinks from 11.45am, Lunch 12.45 pm. Meal cost is \$15 with you buying your own drinks from the bar, if it is the month of your Birthday you will be the guest of ANZROCNSW to cover the cost of your meal. Booking is not required, just come along, socialise & enjoy yourself. You will be made very welcome. These get-togethers are relaxed fun and a great link with friends & acquaintances throughout the year. If you haven't been for a while, do yourself a favour and join us. At the monthly Lunches it is traditional for new members to give a "this is my life" talk at a Lunch as soon as convenient after they join. This is entirely voluntary & there is no pressure to do so if the new member is not comfortable with this custom.

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A farmer named Paddy had a car accident. He was hit by a truck owned by the Eversweet Company. In court, the Eversweet Company's hot-shot solicitor was questioning Paddy. 'Didn't you say to the police at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine?'' asked the solicitor? Paddy responded: 'Well, I'll tell you what happened. I'd just loaded my fav'rit cow, Bessie, into da... ' 'I didn't ask for any details', the solicitor interrupted. 'Just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine!''? Paddy said, 'Well, I'd just got Bessie into da trailer and I was drivin' down da road.... ' The solicitor interrupted again and said, 'Your Honour, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the police on the scene that he was fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question. ' By this time, the Judge was fairly interested in Paddy's answer and said to the solicitor: 'I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favourite cow, Bessie'. Paddy thanked the Judge and proceeded.' Well as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my fav'rit cow, into de trailer and was drivin' her down de road when this huge Eversweet truck and trailer came

tundering tru a stop sign and hit me trailer right in da side. I was trown into oneditch and Bessie was trown into da udder. Begorrah I was hurt, very bad like, and didn't want to move. However, I could hear old Bessie moanin' and groanin'.. I knew she was in terrible pain just by her groans. Shortly after da accident, a policeman on a motorbike turned up. He could hear Bessie moanin' and groanin' too, so he went over to her. After he looked at her, and saw her condition, he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes. Den da policeman came across de road; gun still in hand, looked at me, and said, 'How are you feelin'?' Now wot da hell would you say?'

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Louise Nicholson (widow of Alan emails)í .öThank you for sending the Monthly Newsletter for January 2013. Within the Newsletter was an article from John Snelling regarding Alan and co- workers in the Staff Dept at ANZ. It was very kind of John to share his memory of a small part of Alan's life. As Alan's dementia deteriorated his memory became more vivid on times and life of yesteryear than on the present. So to that extent he was able to remember quite vividly his ANZ days, and the Newsletter was a cherished trigger for his memory. The last couple of months of his life I had to read the Newsletter to him, as he did not have the capacity to do that anymore. So, thank you for the Newsletters, for they made him feel his life seemed normal, in what was a difficult and confusing time, particularly the last six months of his life.”

Paul Jacka emails re the Tamworth Branch photos....”I think that the 4th on the left is John Wellburn and the 8th is Geoff Peake”.

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"My memory really sucks Mildred, so I changed my password to "incorrect." That way when I log in with the wrong password, the computer will tell me... "Your password is incorrect"

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Cheers

Noel

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### ANZROC NSW 2013 Annual Membership Subscriptions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$5.00 Annual Subscription. Pease forward to Noel Fox, Treasurer, P O Box 363, Collaroy Beach, NSW, 2097. (Our Treasurer asks that staples not be used, as his tender hands are not up to the task of removal!!)