



# RETIRED OFFICERS CLUB (NSW)

**PRESIDENT**

**Mike Cunneen**  
27 Leicester Street  
Epping NSW 2121  
Tel. 9876 6969  
mikecunneen@  
optusnet.com.au

**SECRETARY**

**Reg. Smeaton**  
48 McKenzie Ave.  
Wollongong 2500  
Tel. 4228 6951  
reg.kini@bigpond.com

**TREASURER**

**Noel Fox**  
P.O. Box 363 ,  
Collaroy Beach , 2097  
Tel.9982 5459  
nantfox@bigpond.com

**EDITOR**

**Noel Bottrell**  
14 Cliff Street  
Coledale 2515  
Tel: 4268 0850  
noboty2003@yahoo  
.com.au

**WELFARE OFFICER**

**Barry Smith**  
7 Waterview Street  
Seaforth 2092  
Tel. 9948 5037  
baznwil@bigpond.com

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER, 2012

The October Lunch on 15<sup>th</sup> October attracted 50 members, President Mike welcomed all, included in the welcome were the following members “not seen for awhile”, Jim Bickerton, Peter Dufty, Alan Edmonds, Dave C Fleming, Col. Malone, Phil Minett, Bruce Stevens, Peter Willis, and Graham (Doc.) Wilson.

Mike’s welcome was followed by the Loyal Toast.

### APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Col. Bartrim, Noel Bowmer, Bill Chapman, Philip Cohen (golfing in Victoria), Vic. East, Paul Jepson, Jim Nicholson, Barry and Wilhelmina Smith (cruising the Pacific), and Alasdair Steel.

### RETIRED STAFF INTEREST RATES

From 01/10/2012

Less than \$20,000	2.25%
Greater than \$20,000	2.89%

### OUR PRESIDENTIAL PREAMBLE



Roy Riley and the late Jim Warn many years ago.



Roy at the last ANZROC NSW Lunch he attended in 2006.

I have just returned home after attending our Life Member Roy Riley’s funeral service today. Our Club was well represented and our member John Ball spoke very eloquently at the service giving his reflections on Roy’s life.

Many of you will remember Roy was the Bank’s Shipboard Agency Officer for 10 years and he just loved “working for the Bank” at sea having served for the last year or so of the Second World War in the British Navy prior to moving to Sydney and joining the ANZ Bank. The saying goes that Roy used to put on his Personal Appraisal Report each year under the heading of: “His ambitions”.....” to be buried at sea.” We were told at his funeral today this will now happen.

Roy was our Club Secretary, Records Officer and Newsletter Editor for many years in the 1980's and 1990's for which he was granted Life Membership of our Club. In the early 1990's The Bank gave the Retired Officers Club a computer and Roy as our Secretary was "asked" to learn how to use it. Roy being someone who was always up for a challenge took to learning how to use a computer with great gusto and spent many hours mastering the joys of computing. Initially the computer was housed in the Staff Club rooms at Martin Place and many a lunch time instruction session was held with Roy, Gary Tetley's son in law Darren (who is a computer whiz kid) and a bumbling Mike Cunneen as the backstop. After some months Roy told us he was now "computer literate" and the computer was moved to Roy's home and he continued to do all his Retired Officers computer duties from his home.

Vale Roy Riley.  
That's all from me this month.  
Kind Regards  
Mike C.

## **WHERE ARE THEY NOW**

Kevin Cameron says by email....."I have moved (with my wife Jannette) back to Wagga Wagga after 3 years in Hobart helping with 5 grandchildren. We now reside at "The Grange", a 55's and over lifestyle village. Regards to all ANROC members."

From John Collins in Runcorn Qld by email...."19½ years service in NSW followed by a further 19½ in Queensland about covers my career. Still manage to keep in touch intermittently with a few from the Overseas Department at S(M & G) (Owen Haynes, Ian Jarrett and Bill Martin). I keep abreast of happenings and old work colleagues with your Newsletter being sent on to me by David Steele. One of my interests at present is enjoying a game of Bridge at Sunnybank Bridge Club with my wife, Clare, my usual partner. In conversation recently during a game discovered that our former secretary Sue Ross's father Raymond Alexander had a rather distinguished and interesting career with ANZ with the majority of his service in NSW. She mentioned that she had put together a piece on his career and I immediately thought it could be of interest for those who might have worked with him." (The abridged compilation by Sue Ross is to be found later in this Newsletter...Ed)

John Kenny a former Banker employed as an expatriate in Fiji established a web site a few years ago that may appeal to those with an interest in Fiji dating back to the seventies. The address is [www.fijiconnection.net](http://www.fijiconnection.net) and there is a link to John Kenny at that site if you wish to contact him. He would welcome any interested people.

Terry Patton emails from Tweed Heads....."Have been up here for over 20 years now and must say it is great place to live. Been married for 16 years. Play bowls twice a week; I see Bob Palmer whenever he is up this way. Only other Banker is Tony Rowley who plays bowls at my club. I look forward to reading the Newsletter."

From Bob Grant by email...."I thought it time to give you an update from Nelson Bay. All is well here at the moment. We have had a few dramas over recent months when my wife (Nell) had some heart problems. She passed out several times, the last few in hospital, where she was being monitored. Just as well she was in hospital because on one occasion her heart stopped beating for 2 minutes. She now has a pacemaker and is going well. We recently went to Canberra during Floriade and apart from the flowers saw the Cross at the Australian War Memorial which is on loan from Vietnam in memory of the Battle of Long Tan. It was important to us as I lost a brother in that conflict. Whilst in Canberra we met up with old banking friends Norm and Marg Toma from Tasmania who may be known to some of you

as Norm worked in Business Bank in Preston (Vic) for a few years and originally came from Bendigo.

My twin brother Jack and his wife Robyn paid us a visit recently and we visited them in Berwick (Vic) earlier in the year. That is the extent of our travels this year.

I hope to make the trek to Sydney for your Christmas function as it enjoyed it very much last year and look forward to meeting some of you at the Newcastle function in a couple of weeks. Kind regards to all.”

## **BEREAVEMENTS**

A period of silence was observed at the request of President Mike to honour the passing of the following, they have been mentioned in past Newsletters, but this is the first opportunity we have had as a group to afford them the respect and remembrance due to them due to recent away functions.

J.K. (Keith) Thurgate passed away on Wednesday 1st August, aged 91. Keith was ex Union Bank, joined 1936, retired 1977. after being Branch Manager at Narromine and Broken Hill?

Audrey Jean Dawson passed away on 20/7/2012. Audrey was the widow of the late Bernie Dawson

Jack Hoffman passed away aged 90, at Hornsby Hospital.

Roy Riley passed away 8<sup>th</sup> October 2012 after a long battle with illness. Roy was a Life Member of the Club, and was well remembered by all who knew him. Roy was best known in the Bank for his Shipboard Agency role which he did for many years, to the envy of a large number of his contemporaries. He was a gentleman in every respect and will be missed by those who knew him. John Ball spoke at the lunch of his and his wife’s long relationship with Roy and also Patricia before she passed away, with stories of his generosity, naval service and Banking career that were of interest to us all. Roy’s funeral was held at Northbridge Uniting Church on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

Condolence letters have been sent as appropriate.

## **WELFARE**

Barry Smith visited Roy Riley at St Davids Nursing Home, Forestville on 30<sup>th</sup> September prior to his passing away on 8<sup>th</sup> October and was able to have a meaningful discussion with Roy.

Alf McDermott reports that Jan Guthrie, (Lloyd’s wife) recently suffered a heart attack while they were holidaying in the USA, but after a brief stay in hospital, it is understood they are continuing their holiday. A more leisurely lifestyle is the plan on their return home.

Ian Jarratt reports that Doug Wright (Ex Bills Dept) had heart by-pass surgery at Nth Gosford Hospital in September& is recovering well.

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-A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

-Jokes about German Sausage are the wurst!!!!

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"I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they're going to feel all day. "

~Frank Sinatra

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may create the illusion that you are tougher, smarter, faster and better looking than most people.

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## **SOCIAL/SPORTING**

Early notice is given that the 2013 Fred Bannister Golf Day will be held at Port Kembla Golf Club course on Monday 25th Feb,2013. Mark your diaries...further details to issue in the November Newsletter.

Vic East (aged 75) of Jamberoo has finally pulled the plug on a lifetime of hockey at a very high level. His swan song was in the runner up team for the Australian Masters National Titles (in the over 70's category) in Hobart this month. W.A. defeated N.S.W. 1:0 in the final!! Congratulations Vic from all we more sedentary members, you surely deserve our admiration for your staying power.

Doc. Wilson spoke at the lunch to remind us all of the Newcastle Christmas gathering on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012, and asks that any members who would like to attend & not yet booked in, please advise your intentions to him on 02 4948 6936 or Jim Richardson at: [jimcher@exemail.com.au](mailto:jimcher@exemail.com.au) . Regrettably there will not be sufficient time for this reminder to reach those who receive this Newsletter by "snail" mail.

Ann Pereira emails from Port Macquarie regarding their Christmas Lunch....."That time of year again! Christmas is approaching and this year we are getting in early so I hope you have time to join our Christmas gathering.

Here are the details: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2012, Pier One, Port Macquarie Panthers, Park St; Port Macquarie, 11.45am for 12.30 sit-down, \$30.00 per person  
RSVP 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2012

Thank you and I hope to see you all there."

(If any members would like more information Ann can be contacted on 02 6586 4420...Ed)

## **BIRTHDAY WISHES**

Birthday wishes were extended by VP Phil Newsome to John Ball, Jim Corrigan, Peter Duffy, Stuart Kitching, Mike Cunneen and Brian Liebert.

Due to a technical problem we are unable to bring you the November birthdays in this Newsletter, (we will include the November Birthdays in our next Newsletter....Ed)

## **OTHER MATTERS**

Vice President Graeme Bool spoke of the continuing need to build up our membership, and of the need to let our former colleagues know of ANZROC and what membership entails. He suggests that we all endeavour to bring a non member retired officer to a luncheon to introduce them to ANZROC and hopefully recruit them to the Club. It is an opportunity for camaraderie and fellowship that many are unaware of; It is desirable that a minimum of 15 years service be completed, but not mandatory, and all applications will receive consideration irrespective of tenure etc. Graeme also added the following request...."If members have changed their email address or now have access to email for receipt of the monthly Newsletter please advise us. The more we can forward Newsletters by email the more we reduce the work load of the Committee & also reduce our mailing cost."

## 2012 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.

Our annual Christmas get together is on Monday 3rd December at 20 Martin Place, Sydney Both Mr John Morschel, Chairman of ANZ Bank, and the Hon Warwick Smith AM NSW State Chairman, have indicated that they wish to be with us.

This popular function is a wonderful way to catch up with past workmates and friends...and chat one on one with the senior personnel from the Bank. Timing will be 12:00pm for 12:30pm 'till closure of the bar at 2pm, the Bank will then put out tea/coffee and Xmas pies and we vacate the premises by 2:30pm.

Your booking slip is at the end of this Newsletter, please note that numbers are limited so don't delaying with your booking and payment.

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Annual subscriptions \$5 are now due, please use the payment slip at end of this Newsletter. Members who have not responded by 31/3/13 will no longer be on the News mailing list.

**New Bank Appointment**



**MR. R. V. ALEXANDER**, who has been district manager in the chief manager's office of Australia and New Zealand Bank, Ltd., for the past three years, and who has been appointed manager of the Martin Place and George Street (Sydney) branch of the bank. He will return to Australia in November to take up his new appointment. His successor in New Zealand will be Mr. J. C. Macvean, who is at present deputy London manager of the bank.

*Dad's retirement, Sydney October, 1959.*



**Managed branch he joined as junior**

Mr T. H. Giles (Chief Manager for NSW) making presentation to Mr R. V. Alexander (retiring Manager S.M&G). Others in the picture, from left to right: Mrs Alexander, Mr C. A. Germon, Mrs Giles and Mr D. G. Woodrow.

**MR. R. V. ALEXANDER**, after a most distinguished career in the Bank of Australasia and then in the A.N.Z., parted company with an old friend — the Bank — at a farewell evening organised by the Staff of S. (M. & G.) on October 1.

As a token of the esteem in which he was held, Mr Alexander was presented with a fine landscape in oils.

In making the presentation, the Chief Manager for NSW, Mr T. H. Giles, outlined to the 100 guests, the varied positions Mr Alexander had held since he joined the service of the Bank of Australasia in 1915.

Mr Alexander, accepting the painting, admitted that it was indeed extraordinary for an officer to join a branch the size of Martin-place and George-st. as a

lad in his early banking career and rise to the status of manager of the same branch some 40 years later.

In addressing the officers present collectively, in particular the younger ones, Mr Alexander offered this advice:

"Work hard, be patient, and do not neglect your duty to the bank as your employer."

Notable guests included Miss M. Mortimer and Miss D. Rannard (both now retired), who worked with Mr Alexander as a young man and later when he returned to the branch as manager.

## Raymond Vinter ALEXANDER 1899 – 1963

A life time in the Bank of Australasia and ANZ Bank as seen through the memory of his daughter – Sue Ross nee Alexander.

Raymond Vinter Alexander was born in Brisbane on the 20 Sept 1899. Ray finished his high school education in Bairnsdale Vic. and joined the Bank of Australasia in Sale as a “Supernumerary” in October 1915 at the grand salary of 100 Pounds per year. In 1916 he passed the Preliminary Examination of the Bankers’ Institute of Australasia. To the family’s knowledge this was the only “formal tertiary” education he ever received – outside Bank training sessions.

1915 - 1921	Joined the Bank in Sale Vic. as a Supernumerary, was also at Mirboo North and Morwell.
1921 –1943	Transferred to Sydney and worked as a clerk in Sydney (branch unknown). During 1931 – 1934 employees’ salaries were reduced during the Great Depression. It was during this period that the Bank of Australasia was forced to reduce the pay of its officers by 10% due to a decision in 1931 by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. The Bank did not welcome this decision but felt it had to carry out the pay cut because other banks had already done so. Married Heather Ramage Dawson in Sydney on 1 <sup>st</sup> June 1929. My Mother always contented that “the Bank stood by its employees during the Depression”, and this is indeed the case as evidenced by the relatively small number of staff dismissals by the Bank of Australasia during the Depression. 1936 Appointed Accountant, Pitt Street, Sydney 1937 Appointed Manager, Manly – new branch. I believe this was one of the happiest times of Dad’s career, although he would say that he regretted not working in a country branch. During this time Dad joined the Volunteer Air Observers Corps as Chief Observer. The observer’s post was on top of the Hotel Manly – looking up the harbour and out to sea. My father was a keen gardener and prided himself on his luscious tomatoes. However when the Yugoslavian tomato gardeners from Dee Why came in at Christmas time with long wooden boxes full of tomatoes he had to hide his tomato growing prowess. I can also remember the largest box of Winning Post chocolates I had ever seen given to him. Those were the days!
1943	Appointed Sub Manager, Brisbane. Dad use to go out inspecting country branches.
1945	Appointed Sub Manager, Sydney
1951	Appointed Inspector, Victoria. So that I could “finish” my education I was put into boarding school for the last six months of 1953 at Ruyton Girls School (Kew Vic.). However the only spare bed was the Sick Room – which suited me fine – better than sleeping out on the enclosed verandas as did the rest of the senior boarders!
1953	Appointed Inspector, NSW. Mum and Dad had bought a new home at Killara, on Sydney’s North Shore complete with new furniture and fittings. The carpet came from the UK. When it arrived we had moved to Wellington NZ!
1954	District Manager, Wellington, NZ
1957	Manager Sydney (M&G)
1959	Retired in 1959 on the grand sum of Pounds <u>3,600 per year</u> plus allowances. I remember attending Dad’s farewell in the chambers of the Martin Place Branch, attended by many colleagues. I believe his personal secretary was there. She expressed her good wishes for his retirement and added “Mr Alexander was a gentleman to work for”. I thought that was a lovely thing to say about my Dad.. Dad always contended that business would never “go over the Bridge” – how wrong he was!
1963	Dad died of a heart attack on the bowling green. I was in the UK on a working holiday at the time but caught the next plane home. I felt very sad that I did not have the opportunity to say “good bye” – being Dad’s girl.

## NEXT LUNCH

The November monthly Lunch will be at our usual and very convenient venue, the CTA Club, Martin Place, Sydney, on Monday November 19th 2012. Pre Lunch drinks from 11.45am, Lunch 12.45 pm, meal cost for members is \$15; as an added bonus, if it is the month of your Birthday you are the guest of ANZROC for the meal. Booking is not required, just come along, socialise & enjoy yourself. You will be made very welcome. These get-togethers are relaxed fun, well worth the effort to attend, and a great link with friends & acquaintances.

If you haven't been for a while, do yourself a favour and join in.

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.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Warren Taylor emails to say....."Sad to learn of the passing of Roy Riley. As IBD I had administrative responsibility for all shipboard Agencies out of Sydney, it gave me the opportunity of first meeting Roy way back in the early 1960's and then in 1968 of having the pleasure of being his Assistant on board the S.S. Himalaya for a two week cruise around some of the Pacific Islands.

Through his appointed posting of Shipboard Agency Officer Roy conducted around 100 shipboard agencies for the bank.

Roy was a thorough English gentleman, having migrated from the UK, as he stated a ten pound pom, and proved to be a great ambassador for the bank; an admired and respected colleague.

Roy through his posting was well known throughout the Pacific basin and within P & O. His knowledge of the Pacific Islands ports was such that he was frequently requested (ordered) to be on the "Bridge" early am when entering these ports; as well as assisting the Purser's office in preparing the Shore Tip newsletters for each port visited.

Roy was a talented pianist utilising his skills on board ship playing for First Class passengers each evening before and after dinner.

Roy once expressed displeasure to me; Personnel Department had queried his annual Personnel Report, for against "Aspiration" he had inserted "To be buried at sea." Vale Roy."

John Nicholson of Barrington writes....."I was sorry to learn of the death of John Holberton in August last. In many ways he was my boss for a lot of years. He was Chief Manager, International, AHQ in 1968 when I travelled with him to Japan on a trip preparing the way for a high level visit by Charles Rennie, then the Bank's Chief General Manager. Although I was only the 'bag carrier', it was a most interesting and enjoyable trip and both John and Mr Rennie made it so. The last time I spoke to John was not long after his wife had died and he said he was very lonely. John lived in Melbourne when I last spoke to him, which would be about three years ago. As far as I know he did not work in NSW although he was a regular visitor from AHQ. He joined the Union Bank and was Travel Manager at Brisbane Queen and Creek Streets in the early days. I had a short spell at AHQ in 1957 but can't recall him being there at that stage. He was still at International AHQ in 1975 when I was in Hong Kong - I know because he used to ring me at 9 a.m. Melbourne, time completely overlooking it was only 7 a.m. in Hong Kong!! John was a big man about 6' 8" and about 18 stone. It was funny to watch in Japan as he towered over so many people. I lost track of him after I left the International Division NSW but I believe he became an AGM. If you have access to Joe Pitman he may be able to fill you in on John's early life and Warren Taylor may be able to assist with more info on his International career.

I have since received the very sad message about the death of Roy Riley. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the funeral as much as I would have liked to be there.

On a lighter note, congratulations to Mr Rennie on approaching the century mark. Both he and John were exceptionally understanding and kind to me & my family when Pam, my first wife, was terminally ill and we were based a long way from home."

An email from Barry & Wilhelmina Smith....."Please tender our apologies at October Lunch, we will be on the Pacific Jewel for 17days, returning Tues 23rd, last port of call will be Norfolk Is. By the way, Eric Black was ex Union Bank."

Debbie Wileman says by email...."Very sad to hear. I worked with Roy Riley at Martin Place in the 80's. He was a true gentleman - an end of an era. Very interesting to talk to and always looked great for his age. Regards to all."

John Becroft emails to say..."Perhaps the news is already with you but I thought it appropriate to pass on Roy's passing just in case not. Roy is a long standing member of our Church having been the organist for many years. He & I shared a cabin on our trip on the P&O Arcadia where he taught me the intricacies of taking over the shipboard agency job. He was a great friend and his vibrancy and enthusiasm will be missed."

By email from Gary Mason....."I was on a Shipboard Agency with Roy in 1971 – the P & O Liner "Canberra" (Sydney to London). He was a very good ambassador for ANZ."

Ron Miller emails....."I am very sorry to hear that Roy has passed away. He was always cheerful and a thorough gentleman in the truest sense. Nothing was ever a trouble. He will be missed. Please pass on my sincere sympathy to his family. Unfortunately I have a specialist appointment on 17/10 and will not be able to attend his service."

## TRAVEL TIPS

Intrepid Travel via ANZ Staff Club .....To celebrate the launch of their Brochures, Intrepid are offering 20% off a great range of trips. For more information visit:  
[www.intrepidtravel.com/ANZ-staff club](http://www.intrepidtravel.com/ANZ-staff-club) then go to...>> Shop>>Travel offers

## THE LAST WORDS

A final thought - "Greece is collapsing, the Iranians are getting aggressive, and Rome is in disarray. ....Welcome back to 430 BC!!!!!"

Cheers

Noel

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## Annual Christmas Function 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 and Annual Membership Subscriptions

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E/mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$25.00 Function and/or \$5.00 Annual Subscription (Delete as applicable)

Please forward to Noel Fox, Treasurer, P O Box 363, Collaroy Beach, NSW, 2097