

## **ANZ RETIRED OFFICERS' CLUB (N.S.W.)**

ABN 19 337 817 538

<https://www.anzrocnsw.net>

### **Club Contact**

#### **SECRETARY**

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*Welcome to our January 2026*

## **NEWSLETTER**



### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - ANZROC(NSW) JANUARY 2026**

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2026.

Hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year Celebration.

My tenure as your President for the last two years will come to an end at the AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

It has been a pleasure serving as President.

Your committee is working hard planning the year ahead with some social functions outside the usual bi-monthly luncheons at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel.

Please book now for our forthcoming AGM lunch, if not already done. Come along and give your committee some suggestions for future functions in 2026. It's also a great time to catch up with fellow retirees from the Bank.

Have you paid your 2026 membership? Some 70% of members have paid. If not, please assist the Secretary and Treasurer by paying your \$10.00 membership now. If making a direct deposit at a Branch, please email the Club Secretary and confirm payment.

Philip

### **BEREAVEMENTS**

#### **HONORARY & CLUB LIFE MEMBER MIKE CUNNEEN.**

We were sadly advised by his family that our esteem and very well-known Honorary and Club Life member & Past Club President Mike Cunneen passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> December aged 83 years.

Mike's health had deteriorated over the last few years and substantially during 2025 and he was in a care facility at the time of his death.

Mike was a very proud Scottie (ES&A) Officer who had a long banking career of nearly 40+ years in ES&A & then in the ANZ Group, he would be very well known to many Retired ANZ Officers who either knew or worked with him during his long career.

Club Past President and Welfare Officer Terry Auld worked with Mike at ES&A Bankstown and Club Past President and Secretary Graeme Bool worked with Mike in NSW Lending Centre in M&P Sts. in mid 80's.

Mike gave exemplary service to ANZROC(NSW) and was a Club stalwart having served on the committee for more than 25 years He moved up through the ranks of committee member, Vice President and then President and was Treasurer for several years before he could no longer come into the city for meetings and luncheons. We have lost a great Club man.

Mike's wife Fran survives him.

Funeral arrangements advised by the Family were:

Funeral 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026

St Gerards Catholic Church

543 North Rocks Road

Carlingford NSW 2118.

10.30am

Wake which followed the funeral at: -

Muirfield Golf Club

58 Barclay Road

North Rocks.

12.30pm

Sincere condolences to Mike's wife Fran and all his family at this very sad time.

RIP Mike you will be missed.



**MIKE CUNNEEN**  
**LIFE MEMBER**



### **HONORARY MEMBER LESLIE RENNIE.**

We were sadly informed that Honorary member Leslie Rennie passed away on 19 December 2025 aged 89 years.

Les would be well remembered by many retired officers who either worked with or knew him from his ANZ career.

Les was a regular attendee at ANZROC Newcastle luncheons until his health position meant he could not attend.

### ***Funeral Notice from SMH.***

### **RENNIE, Leslie Sydney**

Passed away peacefully on 19 December 2025 Late of Balgowlah Aged 89 years.

Much loved and loving husband of Maureen for 66 years. Devoted and nurturing father of Stuart, Adam (dec), Simone, and father-in-law of Sharna. Proud Pappy to Sophie and Chris, Lucinda and Aran, Camille and Jonny and great grandfather of Aggy and Sonny. Dear brother of Charles and Alexander (both dec) and Eleanor. Also remembered lovingly by Catherine.

A Funeral Service for Leslie was held at St Cecilia's Church, Wanganella Street, Balgowlah at 10.30am on Monday 29 December 2025 then to Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery.

Sincere condolences to his wife Maureen and all family at this very sad time.

RIP Les.



## HONORARY MEMBER COLIN GEORGE WALKER.

We were sadly informed that our Honorary member Colin George Walker passed away on 7 December aged 88 years.

Colin was from the Riverina district of NSW and lived in Leeton, had a long & distinguished career in ANZ, and would be well known & respected by many retired officers who worked with him or knew him during his banking career.

Sincere condolences to all of Colin's family at this very sad time.

RIP Colin



In loving memory of

*Colin George Walker*

10.01.1937 - 07.12.2025



Passed away peacefully at Leeton District Hospital.

Late of Canal Road, Merungle Hill.

Beloved husband to Jean.

Dearly loved father to Robert and Verity.

Cherished Pop to his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Eldest son of George & Julia Walker (both dec'd),

and brother to his 8 siblings and their respective families.

**Aged 88 years.**

A Service of Celebration for the life and love of **Colin Walker** will be held in **St. Peter's Anglican Church, Leeton** on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025**.

Following the service commencing at **11.00am**, the funeral will proceed to the **Leeton Lawn Cemetery**.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

57 Kurrajong Avenue,  
Leeton NSW 2705  
02 69533499



Les Watkins & Son  
EST.1908

## HONORARY MEMBER NOEL COOK

We were sadly informed that our respected Honorary member Noel Cook passed away on 11 January 26 aged 90 years.

Noel had a very long and distinguished career in ANZ Group entities and would be well known by many retired officers who either worked with or knew him during his banking career.

Noel joined the bank at Byron Bay at age 19 then Albion Park for five years. His first managerial appointment was Dickson at age of 27 (very young) and other managerial appointments were Coraki, Grafton, Belmont, and Armidale where he retired at age 55 and moved to Belmont.

Noel has been a very good supporter of the Retired Officers group and he and his wife were regular attendees at the Newcastle luncheons over the years.

Funeral arrangements for Noel were: -

**Wednesday 28 January 2026**

**12.30pm**

**Pettigrew Family Funerals**

**444 Pacific Highway, BELMONT.**

Sincere condolences to Noel's wife Betty and all his family at this very sad time.

RIP Noel.





**FORMAL NOTICE CLUB 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)& LUNCHEON**

**DATE: MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2026.**

**VENUE: CASTLEREAGH BOUTIQUE HOTEL 169 CASTLEREAGH ST SYDNEY (around the corner from ANZ Tower).**

The Club is urgently looking for members to join the Club Committee to assist in driving the Club forward in 2026 and beyond.

All positions are declared vacant at the AGM and a formal process in terms of the Club Constitution is then conducted to elect the new committee for 2026.

Club President Phil Cohen has served his 2<sup>nd</sup> year as President and in terms of club constitution:

**SECTION 5 OFFICE BEARERS.**

**ITEM C STATES: -**

The President shall be eligible for re-election for a second one-year term (giving a total Presidential term of 2 years) if he or she wishes to do so.

Having now served his two years, Phil will step back to Immediate Past President role on the committee.

The Club therefore requires a new President for 2026.

For positions of: -

- **President**
- **Vice President**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**

and in terms of the Club Constitution Item 5, Officer Bearers nominations must be lodged on the form provided by the Club and be signed by two members together with the individual being nominated and be lodged with the Club Secretary prior to the AGM. Secretary has forms if required.

Some members of the Club Committee in 2025 have advised that they will stepping down from their roles at the AGM, so the Club needs new members to fill these roles. It would be great to see some members who have not been on the committee before joining previous (current)? members to assist in driving the Club forward with new ideas.

You do not have to be Metro based for most positions, as with modern technology in this IT world we now operate in, you can participate from home and join in monthly committee meetings In ANZ Tower via Microsoft teams which the Tower operates on. ANZ IT staff are always on hand to assist on the day if required.

Members, it is your Club and if you are available to join the committee, please contact the President, Immediate Past President, Secretary, or any other existing committee member for details of the various positions and related duties.

**CLUB COMMITTEE ANZ RETIRED OFFICERS' CLUB (N.S.W.)**

**NOTICE TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS: ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2026**

Club Committee greatly appreciates the members who have responded to the initial notices issued mid-November 25 and also included in the November NL and have paid their 2026 Subs of \$10.00 into Club bank account. This is a small amount for members to pay and gives support to the Club's operations.

Formal Notice is again included in this Newsletter for members who are yet to pay.

**FOR MEMBERS WHO ARE STILL YET TO PAY THEIR ANNUAL SUBS & ARE NOT EXEMPT. IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED IF YOU COULD DO THIS NOW AS IT IS A BIG TASK FOR THE CLUB COMMITTEE TO KEEP TRACK OF PAYMENTS, HAVE THEM RECORDED ON MEMBERS SOFTWARE DATA BASE AND FOLLOW UP WITH THOSE MEMBERS WHO ARE STILL YET TO PAY.**



## NOTE.

Annual Subscriptions are payable by members aged under <80 years in terms of the Club Constitution.

## EXEMPTIONS.

- **Honorary members and widows/widowers of former members are exempt.**
- **Any members who will obtain honorary status during 2026 are also exempt.**
- **Life members are exempt.**

**Payment of \$10 Subs direct into Clubs Bank account would be appreciated.**

**Details are: -**

<b>Bank</b>	<b>ANZ</b>
<b>Branch</b>	<b>Martin Place &amp; Pitt Sts Sydney (Previously King &amp; George Sts)</b>
<b>Account Name</b>	<b>ANZROC(NSW)</b>
<b>BSB:</b>	<b>012006</b>
<b>Account No</b>	<b>008906464</b>

If you pay via EFT, please record your name as reference. If you pay over the counter at a branch please record your telephone number on your transaction as the reference, (the system will not recognise your name).

Many thanks to all members for their support of the Club.

## NEW MEMBERS

Great news, we had four new club members join in December 2025.

### **James Ilett.**

James resides at Ashfield in Sydney and had 16 years ANZ service from 1980 to 1996.

### **Marilyn Featon.**

Marilyn resides at Chittaway Bay on the Central Coast and had 18 years ANZ service from 1990 to 2008.

### **Gil Le.**

Gil resides in Wollongong and had 12 years ANZ service from 2001 to 2013.

### **Laurie OBrien.**

Laurie resides at Wamberal on the Central Coast and had 20 years ANZ/ESANDA service. A big welcome to James, Marilyn, Gil and Laurie to ANZROC (NSW)

## **New club member to start 2026.**

### **Warren Bobin.**

Warren resides at Shell Cove (Shellharbour) south of Wollongong and had 25 years ANZ service in two stints.

Warren, a big welcome to ANZROC(NSW).

## A BIT OF HUMOUR TO BREAKUP THE NEWS

Why do you need a jeweller on New Year's Eve? To ring in the New Year!

What do cows say on January 1st? Happy Moo Year!

What did the little champagne bottle call his father? Pop!

What's a New Year's resolution? Something that goes in one year and out the other.

My New Year's resolution is to help all my friends gain ten pounds, so I look skinnier.

I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.

I can't believe it's been a year since I didn't become a better person.

What do you call someone afraid of the old year? Auld lang syne-phobia.

I can't wait to impress my friends with my improved memory in 2026 if I remember it.



## FEBRUARY 2026 BIRTHDAYS

**TO ALL MEMBERS WHO ARE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY 2026.**

**BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM ALL CLUB MEMBERS.**

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Barry	BAILEY	15th
Graeme	BOOL	8th
Peter	BOX	12th
Colin	CLARKE	18th
Chris	COLLINS	14th
John	FARRUGIA	23rd
Pam	GRIFFITHS	1st
Louise	HALLGATH	1st
John	HARRISON	19th
Gail	HELT	3rd
Cheryl	IRELAND	5th

Krystina	IVANCEVIC	22nd
Liz	JOYCE	23rd
Michael	MARONEY	15th
Peter	MAROTTA	14th
Jeff	MASON	1st
Mal	PFEIFFER	18th
Mike	PRANCE	28th
Julie	SLATER	19th
John	STAVERT	11th
Wayne	SUMMERS	19th
Karen	SVENNE	28th

### THE HONS

Terry	AULD	22nd
Geoff	BOYTON	13th
Ray	BRENNAN	17th
Kevin	BUGG	11th
Ken	BYATT	16th
Earle	COCHRANE	17th
Ted	COLLISON	3rd
Lyn	CONOMOS	20th
Bob	JANSON	23rd
Bob	JOHNSTON	21st
Lyall	KEPPIE	1st
Dermot	LEWIS	13th
Barry	MACARTHUR	16th

Rino	MARIANI	1st
Bob	MINER	7th
John L	MITCHELL	22nd
Bob	NAISMITH	9th
Col	PAFF	7th
John	PIPER	1st
Alan	SKIDMORE	3rd
Bob	SKIDMORE	5th
Warren	TAYLOR	28th
John	TIER	20th
Al (Alastair)	TURNBULL	17th
Judith	WILLIS	28th

We welcome Geoff Boyton and Ted Collison to the Hons this month.

### PHIL COHEN.

**Quick calls to some of the HONS who have birthdays scheduled in February 2026.**

#### **Terry Auld**

Terry is one of the Club's Co-Welfare Officers. Health OK. Just a few hassles still with a knee problem needing physio. Not able to get back to tennis again twice weekly as previously. Also, looks after his garden. Has a small consultancy business which takes up about 3 days per week. Does some babysitting for grandchildren although they are getting nearly old enough to look after themselves while parents absent. Enjoys, meeting up with friends and Ex ANZ Bankers for coffee or a meal.

#### **Geoff Boyton**

Welcome to the HONS in February 2026.

Thanks, Geoff for your service as Committee Member of the ANZROC(NSW) Newcastle Committee for some 10 years.

Health good. Keeps busy in his own man shed working with timber making letter and planter boxes. Looking to expand the size of his shed for more room. Also, busy as Honorary Secretary/Treasurer of the Newcastle Lions as well as Trustee for 10 years for the Lions Australia Diabetes Foundation into research which commenced in 1993. Enjoys looking after his gardens and lawns

#### **Ray Brennan**

Ray has mobility restrictions and problems with his balance and therefore has had to give up driving sometime back. Therefore, Sylvia is his dedicated driver. When I spoke with Ray, mid- January, he was undergoing Chemo again for liver cancer once a week which takes a couple of days to recover.

Therefore, has time at home to continue with his interest in share trading.

#### **Ken Byatt**

Spoke with Ken Mid-January while on holidays at South West Rocks. He is the ANZROC(NSW) Records Officer and Auditor for the Club & is also a Life member of the Club and has done a great job for a number of years now. Health, not too bad, although his knee gives him a little trouble still from time to time. Enjoys playing bowls twice weekly. Enjoys doing crossword puzzles.

#### **Ted Collison**

Welcome to the HONS in February 2026.

Health good. Fills his time in playing golf 3.5 days a week, Also, involved with local veteran's group and tours all over NSW playing golf at other courses where possible.

Rest of his free time is taken up looking after his garden and lawns. Also helping out local neighbours with odd jobs.

#### **Lyn Conomos**

Had a nice long conversation with Lyn.

#### **Bob Johnston**

Unable to make any contact with Bob, although I am aware he is a resident in a local nursing home. All the best Bob.

#### **Lyll Keppie**

Unsuccessful making contact with Lyll in early January. However, a telephone message enabled me to make contact with his son Adam who texted me as follows: "Hi Philip, Lyll has been recuperating from an illness but will be back home in a week or so. Thanks Adam". On behalf of the Club, I passed on my best wishes for a speedy recovery.

#### **Dermot Lewis**

Health good. Still active volunteering with the local Meals On Wheels Organisation each Friday delivering meals to their homes. As a wood turner is involved with local Men's Shed although not as much now. The local community found out Dermot was a JP and as such he is in big demand in his local area in South Australia volunteering every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at the local library and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at the local Court House. Likes tinkering with things that need fixing. Enjoys catching up with friends locally. Has family nearby, but also all over Australia as well as Overseas.

#### **Bob Miner**

Attempted again this year to contact Bob, but his landline appears disconnected and we do not have an email address in our records. If any member knows of contact details (mobile or email address) please notify Club Secretary Graeme Bool. If you are aware of Bob's current circumstances, please let us know.

### **Bob Naismith**

Health still good except for the ongoing hearing and eyesight problems. Back in May 2025, moved residence to Urunga NSW closer to where he has family with a nice view of the river. Purchased a house that has had very little maintenance with the garden for many years, so presently spending his time landscaping and planting. Has also built a fernery.

### **Col Paff**

Unable to make contact with Col on his landline, although I have left a message. Maybe absent on holidays.

### **Al (Alistair) Turnbull**

Health still good. Still plays 9 holes of golf one day a week. Needs to go for his first driving test since first getting his license many years ago. Did a cruise last October with Denise from Singapore to Sydney to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Congratulations. Hopes to organize a couple more cruises this year.

## **TERRY AULD - WELFARE REPORT – DECEMBER 2025**

### **Ian Stewart**

Ian advised that his general health is okay, although his mobility is a problem following his fall around August/September last year when he fractured a vertebra. However, he gets around reasonably well with the assistance of a walking stick.

He had a quiet Family Birthday and recently enjoyed Christmas celebrations with his Family at his daughter's home.

Ian advised that he joined the ES&A Bank and enjoyed 22 years with the merged organization, including two years as Assistant Representative in Japan. He resigned in 1976 and spent eight years with Bankers Trust Co. before joining Fuji Bank.

He commented on the recent passing of Mike Cunneen who he advised had convinced him to join ANZROC(NSW) when he retired. We both agreed that he would be sadly missed.

### **Jim Richards**

Jim advised that he still has mobility issues and moves around with the assistance of a walker.

He lives in a Retirement Village in Wagga Wagga but moved into the Nursing Care part of the facility last year due to his mobility restrictions. He advised that he is being well cared for.

Jim said he had a quiet Birthday celebration with his daughters and also had a very enjoyable Christmas with family at his son's home.

### **Ken Abrahams**

Ken advised he is keeping well other than the usual aches common in our age demographics.

I caught up with Ken at the December Christmas Function and he looked well.

He had a nice Birthday celebration and an enjoyable Family Christmas.

Ken is a regular attendee at our bi-monthly lunches and is looking forward to the February lunch.

He also retains his unrestricted driver's license.

### **Arthur Crittenden**

Arthur turned 91 this December Birthday. He advised he is keeping reasonably well but is slowing down.

He still resides in his own home at Forster but avails of a Health Care package which includes house cleaning and lawn mowing. He said he still cooks 1-2 evening meals each week but also subscribes to Light & Easy. All which makes living at home much easier.

He also had his unrestricted driver's license renewed one month ago.

Arthur lives at Foster and advises that he was the Manager in Foster between 1974-1979. He said that when he moved into the Bank house, he was amused to find it located between the Catholic Church and The Masonic Club

He had a quiet Birthday and enjoyed a Christmas Eve celebration with some close Friends.

### **Noel Dirou**

Noel turned 95 this December Birthday and thanked us for his Birthday Card.

He advised that he had a fall at home in early November which fractured six ribs and put him in hospital for five days. Fortunately, his son Michael resides with him as his carer and was on hand to drive him to the hospital.

Noel said he is recovering but his mobility is not the best and a walker helps him navigate around home. Otherwise, his health is not too bad, he eats well and still has the occasional red wine.

His Family are gathering from around Australia on Saturday week (10<sup>th</sup> January) to celebrate his 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Noel and his son Michael celebrated a quiet Christmas.

Noel also mentioned that he had finally given up his driver's license.



### **Bill Kynaston**

Bill turned 100 this December Birthday and is now our only centurion member. He said the body is slowing up but the mind is still working well. Bill, from our conversation, I can certainly verify that the mind is working very well.

He received a very nice letter from our new CEO which Bill felt sure had been composed personally by the CEO.

He also thanked the Club for the excellent Hamper he received. Bill said he and his nephew had opened it, but at this stage had only removed one item. The excellent French Champagne which was on ice for his actual celebration.

His actual Birthday was the day after my call and he commented that "to his surprise" his Granddaughter had arranged a celebration with family at 1pm on his Birthday. An event he was looking forward to.

Bill said he enjoys getting the monthly newsletter and sends his best regards to those members who still remember him.

### **Peter Murray**

Peter turned 92 this December Birthday, He sent me a message thanking us for his Birthday Card and regards to everyone at ANZROC(NSW).

He advised that he is still standing upright, although noticing a decline and that he is unable to do many things that he once took for granted.

On the plus side he still has his unrestricted license which gives him some flexibility.

### **Rod Prosser**

Rod advised that his mobility is not good and he has not been able to play golf for approximately five years which he misses. He has been a member of Toukley Golf Club for 21 years and occasionally on a Friday will still meet some of his old golfing partners for a drink at the club. He still enjoys gardening and has a restricted driver's license and is currently trying to have the distance increased to allow easier access to Gosford Hospital.

He enjoyed both his December Birthday and Christmas with family.

## **UPCOMING FUNCTION DATES**



### **SYDNEY**

Our first bi-monthly luncheon for 2026 and club AGM

will be at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel Sydney

169 Castlereagh St (around the corner from ANZ tower)

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Details and booking requirements are on page 19 of this newsletter.

### **BALLINA FAR NORTH COAST**

Far North Coast ANZROC co-ordinator Brian Rawle advised they will be having their 2025 delayed lunch on Thursday 5th March 2026 at Cherry St Bowls Club - 11.30am for friendship - 12.30pm lunch.

Anyone not receiving an invitation by mail can contact me. Brian Rawle [elwarmb@gmail.com](mailto:elwarmb@gmail.com) or 0266189197 or 0492943034.

## **COMPLETED FUNCTIONS**

### **Club Cocktail Function ANZ Tower 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.**

Thanks again to the very generous support of ANZ HQ and Executive Assistant to Group Head Technology Amanda Clarke, the Club was again able to have our annual Christmas Cocktail function in ANZ Tower Sydney on 3 December 2025.

A very good turn-up by members including from interstate, Newcastle, Central Coast, Wollongong, and South Coast who travelled some distance to attend, and usual attendee Bob Parsons from WA who together with our Metro members and all had a very enjoyable time meeting up with old ANZ colleagues.

President Phil welcomed all to the function and thanked all members for their support of the club in 2025 and looked forward to 2026 with confidence as ANZ HQ has again provided all ANZROC" s in Australia

with an annual subsidy which is greatly appreciated and allows all clubs to subsidise functions for members again in 2026.

Past President and Welfare Officer Terry Auld closed the function and made special mention for the outstanding support and efforts of Amanda Clarke for arranging our function again this year. Thank you, Amanda. A very enjoyable function and we are very appreciative of the support of the Bank's HQ to ANZ Retired Officers.

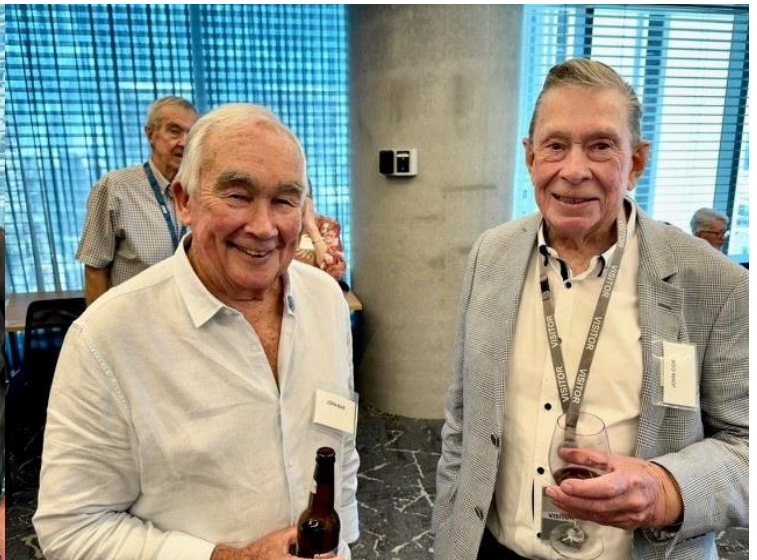
We hope that our members and their families had a Happy and Safe Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2026.

A full set of photos taken at the function are up on the web site for viewing.

A few can be found below.



ANGELO BRIGANTI IAN JARRATT KARL MIZENS JOHN RYAN



JOHN MAIR

JOHN COX



RINO MARIANI ALISTAIR JOHNSTON TERRY AULD BOB PARSONS



JAN DOUGLASS

ANGELA VALLENDER

## Coffs Harbour.

Co-ordinator Geoff Pollack advised that local members and partners enjoyed a very successful and enjoyable Christmas luncheon at Jetty Beach House Restaurant Coffs Harbour on 27 November 25.

Geoff said that members were very appreciative of the subsidy support from ANZROC(NSW) for members at the luncheon.

A couple of photos taken on the day can be found below.





## Wagga Wagga.

Co-Ordinator Keith Anderson

Some photos from our Wagga gathering.

Attendees - Kevin & Janette Cameron, John & Norma Gray, Chris & Gwenda Hardy, Bob & Jacqui Stempel, Tony Williams, John Coldwell & Lynn, John & Jenny Ristivojevic, (John Risto), Keith & Dorothy Anderson. We celebrated Kevin Cameron's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday by the obligatory rendition of Happy Birthday. Kevin had turned 90 a few days before our gathering. It was one of the best gatherings we have had for a while. I was successful in having John Risto and John Coldwell come along both of whom I had not met face to face for over 40 years.

Cheers Keith.





## Illawarra Christmas Luncheon.

Coordinator and Life Member Reg Smeaton advised: -

The function was said to be a success by those that attended. We had 57 members and partners attend, with the food up to standard and the company loud and well connected. The venue is such that mingling is quite easy, so there was quite a bit of good and varied conversation enjoyed by all before settling down for a meal. By pub standards, it must be said that the meals were well above standard fare. President Phil Cohen took photographs of the day, so expect them on the web site in due course.

Laurie Sainsbury acted as emcee where apologies were given for Pat Walsh, John and Anne Odewhan, and Stuart Joyce. Laurie also mentioned the sad passing of Phil Newsome and Tim Ireland from our Illawarra cohort in the last 12 months. He expressed the members thanks to ANZROC(NSW) for their support and generous subsidy. Laurie then called on President Phil Cohen to say a few words. Phil thanked Reg Smeaton and Helen Newsome for organising the day and gave Christmas and New Year good wishes to all present. Reminded us of the Sydney Luncheons and how welcome we would be to attend.

Lucky door prizes were drawn then comprising ANZ Merchandising material donated by our 96 Crown Street Wollongong staff. Meals were consumed with vigour, interspersed with excessive shop talk of the good old days and the day drew to a close with the promise of a repeat for next year.

Regards

Reg Smeaton

Full set photos taken at the function are up on the web site for viewing, a few can be found below.





### Canberra Christmas Function.

Co-Ordinator Albert Orszaczky advised: -

A most enjoyable and successful function held last night (12<sup>th</sup> December at Royal Canberra Golf Club) in Canberra despite our low numbers. It seems that being so close to Christmas it has clashed with other Christmas events and commitments for some of our members. Nevertheless, our core group was in attendance, including regulars Maxine and Paul Helmling who now reside in Victor Harbour S.A. and were back in Canberra visiting family and friends for Christmas.

A full set of photos taken at the function are up on web site for viewing (Past Events) and 4 are below.



LEANNE HIRZEL

LYN & GREG LANCE



SHERYL & BOB DYER

MATT HIRZEL



GREG LANCE

MARCIA & GEOFF CUPITT



ALBERT & SANDRA  
ORSZACZKY

RON & CAROLYN SKEEN  
MAXINE HELMLING

### Esanda Christmas Function.

Co-Ordinator Bob Jones welcomed 14 to the Annual Esanda Christmas Luncheon which was held at the Aurora Rooftop Hotel in Sydney on 27<sup>th</sup> November. A great time was held by all with much reminiscing of good times had in Esanda back in the 80's and 90's.

A photo from the luncheon can be found below and it is also on the website.



L to R

Clive Read

Harry Hammond

Max Morris

George Harlow

Graham Kirchner

Steve Cross

Alan Hyatt

Laurie O'Brien

Craig Stubbs

Bert Wood

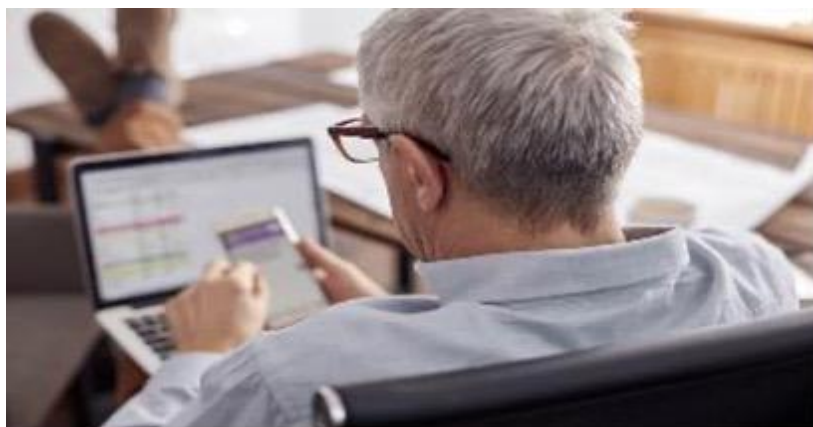
Bob Jones

Doug Richardson



Brian Manual and Craig Smith were also present but didn't make it into the photo.

### Correspondence/emails & letters received from members.



#### On Mike Cunneen.

##### Gary Mason wrote: -

Sad news indeed Graeme,

Mike was a valued colleague during my time in Sydney - and served as a dedicated officer and esteemed friend of a large number of fellow staff members.

Thanks for many fond memories, Mike.

A gentle soul at rest.

Gary.

##### Stephen Sargent wrote: -

Hi Graeme and fellow retired members.

It is with great sadness to learn of the passing of Mike.

I met him during my time while working in the Bankstown Area.

In 1979 he employed a young woman, Lauren Sargent (nee Moore) who continues to be my wife since 1983, so I have a lot to thank him for! He was a humble and caring man who helped a lot of staff in the Bankstown Area in his role as Personnel Manager.

Rest peacefully Mike.

Regards.

Stephen and Lauren Sargent

**Col Jefferies wrote: -**

Rely Very sad. He was a great guy who always looked after others.

Will miss him very much.

Colin Jefferies.

**Mark Monaghan wrote: -**

Thank you, Graeme,

This is very sad news. What a wonderful man Mike was.

Whether in his long career in the Bank or post during his great contribution to ANZROC, he was always there with a friendly word. Always a delight to be around.

RIP Mike.

Best regards,

Mark.

**Tony Knight wrote: -**

Graeme,

A great loss – condolences to Fran and family.

Worked with and socialised with Mike on many occasions. He was a true supporter of those less fortunate, evidenced by his longstanding work with Legacy. Could always be relied upon to “go beyond” with his support of staff who were struggling and later with his commitment to ANZROC. A dedicated gentleman!

When the Pope visited Sydney in 1986, we twisted the arm of Bank Executive to let us use the Bank Box at SCG to entertain young people with a disability – the bank laid on food and soft drink, thus a good night was had by all and greatly appreciated by the organisations who cared for the young adults

Sadly missed.

Regards,

Tony Knight

**Ray Brennan wrote: -**

GB,

Very sad news indeed. Mike and his brothers (Steve, Tony, and Chris) and sister, Pat came down from Newcastle in 1962 when their father took up the role to be the boss of the Sydney Banana Market. We worked together there for quite a while till I got transferred to S (K & G).

A group formed Mike, Steve, Doug Richardson and Bob Page and we regularly played Golf at those great Championship courses – Studley Park, Oran Park and “Royal Mongrel Park“, After a few beers it was back to the Cunneen household in Centennial Ave Lane Cove for a few more and a game of cards.

Some of the best memories of my life.

Rest in peace old mate.

Ray Brennan.

**Mark Burns wrote: -**

Very sad news indeed Graeme.

Mike was my first accountant at Burwood when I joined the Bank in 1974 and was not only a big influence on my career but also personally. He will be sadly missed, I am sure. RIP Mike.

Sincere

Mark Burns.

**Warren Riedel wrote: -**

Vale Mike Cunneen, a truly wonderful man.

Warren Riedel.

**Sharon Hawkins wrote: -**

Thank you for letting me know. My husband worked with Mike at one stage. Ralph had a very high regard for Mike. My condolences to the family.

Sharon Hawkins.

**Col, Bartrim wrote: -**

“Vale Mike Cunneen, a thoroughly good bloke.”

Col B.

**John Tuck wrote: -**

Mike Cunneen, a great man. He signed me up to ANZROC on a visit to Coffs, some years ago. I hadn't seen him for many years, but he remembered me immediately.  
We often chatted on the late afternoon train trip from the city via Strathfield. We were connected by our former Scottie memories.

RIP Mike

**Ken Dighton wrote: -**

Not unexpected news Graeme, but very sad, nonetheless.

Cheers,

KD.

**Anna 'Carniato wrote: -**

That is so sad, he was such a gentle, kind man.

God bless him and his family.

Kind Regards Anna

**Phil Cohen wrote: -**

Good morning, Graeme,

Very sad news indeed.

Not only have I known Mike over many years on the ANZROC(NSW) Committee I also worked with Mike for some three years side by side when he and I helped open the new ANZ Bankstown Area Office.

He was the Area Office Admin Manager, and I was Manager International Services.

He was very dedicated worker and supporter of ANZROC(NSW).

Philip Cohen.

**Ian Jarratt wrote: -**

Hello Graeme,

Sorry to hear of Mike Cunneen's passing.

Mike was a stalwart of the ANZROC committee and took over from me as Treasurer many years ago. We had been friends for many years, and I send Gwen and my sympathy to Fran and their family.

Ian Jarratt.

**David Johnson wrote: -**

Graeme

So saddened to get the news. I had the great pleasure of working with him for a short while at Bankstown and then again whilst he was at 20 Martin Place branch.

David Johnson.

**Craig Smith wrote: -**

Hi Graeme,

So sad to hear about the passing of Mike Cunneen, he approved by housing loan in 1984, and I worked with him on the committee for ANZ Staff Club.

He had already retired from the Bank at that stage but still provided great assistance and support to ANZ Staff Cub. I met up with Mike again when I retired and witnessed the work he did for ANZROC(NSW)

Craig.

**Colin Gildart wrote: -**

Very Sad news indeed.

Mike was one of the genuine nice guys. Always cheerful, helpful, and friendly.

A good life. Rip Mike.

Regards,

Colin.

**Alastair Turnbull wrote: -**

Hi Graeme,

Very sad news indeed. Mike was the one to greet me when I attended my first ANZROC luncheon and reminded me straight away that he and I were both on the ANZ NSW Social Club Committee way back in the 70's or 80's.

A great loss and my condolences to his family.

Kind regards.

Al Turnbull.

**Peter & Jan Douglass wrote: -**

Hi Graeme,

Very sorry to hear of Mikes passing.

We had a long association.

Regards

Peter and Jan.

**Irene Norris wrote: -**

Such sad news. A wonderful man.

My sincere condolences to the entire family. Will be sadly missed. RIP Mike

Irene Norris.

**Karl Mizens wrote: -**

Sad to hear of Mikes passing.

Worked with Mike at S(M&P) and in his leadership role he was popular with staff and was a very capable banker.

He was very active in local community roles to assist in their charitable events.

**Elaine Davis wrote: -**

Dear Graeme,

Thank you for this sad news of Mike Cuneen passing away recently.

My father Bruce Grimison and I knew Mike during our ES&A Bank days, and I offer my condolences to his family at this time.

Rest in peace Mike.

Kind regards

Elaine Davis

**Ian Auld wrote: -**

Sorry to learn of Mike's passing.

He followed me as Staff Cub President in 1979/80 and stood again as President 1992, always a willing worker with a happy disposition. Vale old friend.

Ian Auld.

**Colin Brewer wrote: -**

A lovely Guy, not many like him.

Colin B.

**Alistair Johnston wrote: -**

Hello Graeme,

Very sad to hear the news of Mike's passing. I know he has been in declining health for some time.

I have known Mike for many years, being a fellow Scottie. First worked with him when we were Tellers at the old ES&A branch at Bathurst St, Town Hall. - a very interesting period in our banking history. He was also a reference point over the years, due to his staff and ANZROC involvement. I know Mike's wife, Fran, as we have been in choirs together in past years.

Kind regards

Alistair Johnston

**Violet Peloe wrote: -**

Hi Graeme,

Thank you for the sad news of Mike's passing. I have known Mike for decades from when he served on the ANZ Staff Committee with Betty Gemmel and so many other staff, including myself.

Hopefully, I will be able to attend his funeral on Tuesday, 20 Jan 2026.

God bless his soul. RIP Mike.

Violet Peloe.

**Albert Orszaczky wrote: -**

Hello Graeme

Sad news indeed to lose such a well-respected member and strong contributor and supporter of ANZROC (NSW). I recall that our paths crossed a few times during our banking careers - firstly when I was Accountant at Campbelltown branch in the mid-1970s and Mike was the Operations Manager (or Accountant) at the Bankstown Area branch, and again in the early 1980s when I was a Department Head at S(P&H) and he was the Accountant at S(M&P).

I was later transferred to Canberra City branch in late 1982 and managed to catch up with Mike at the Christmas Cocktail functions in Sydney on several occasions. During his term as ANZROC Treasurer, I found him very helpful and efficient with payment of the Bank subsidy for our Canberra functions. He will certainly be missed by his family and friends, as well as the ANZROC Committee and membership. No doubt ANZROC will be well represented at the funeral next week. Vale and Rest in Peace, Mike!

Regards, Albert O.



## On Alasdair Steel

### Peter Murray wrote: -

Hi Graeme,

Sorry, this is a bit late, but I wanted to tell you that I had attended Alasdair's funeral.

Our paths had never crossed at ANZ, but I had first met Alasdair at Air Force Association National Service Branch of which he and I were members. We both served in the RAAF as National Servicemen in the 1951-1957 scheme, Alasdair in 1957 at Canberra, me at Bankstown in 1951.

Just as an historical aside, Bankstown was both a military as well as a civil facility in those days Besides the RAAF, de Havilland and Fairey Clyde used to service the Fleet Air Arm aircraft there, in the days when the Navy had an aircraft carrier!

Anyway, Alasdair was a thorough gentleman and nice bloke, and I will miss his good company.

Kind Regards,

Peter.

### Ken Byatt wrote: -

Graeme,

Sad news indeed, particularly as he was the last of the Scotties who lunched at the CTA. To me he was always "Stainless" (for obvious reasons), and I am trying to think of the others. Alf Evans, Alf McDermott, Jim Nicholson, Noel Bowmer, are four who come to mind, and I had worked with all four at various times. Alasdair was always a cheerful soul with a ready smile. Will be sorely missed.

Ken



**To all our Hon's who are celebrating a birthday in February 2026.**

## **RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM HON MEMBERS, GENERAL OR WHO HAD BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER & JANUARY 2025 AND RECEIVED BIRTHDAY CARD WISHES FROM THE CLUB.**

### Honorary Member Colin Stoner wrote: -

Our President said in August, what a wet month.

I was doing a two-week fund raiser for the RFDS where we raised \$56,000. It was a bad one for the first time. The second week was wet with five bush camps, wet ground, a tent disaster and dirt roads. It was called off one day short. Of 31 riders, I was the only one with a bad flu and limped home in the pouring rain. Lithgow Bells Line of Road was closed as trees were down in heavy rain and I had to use Mt Victoria. Arrived home at 11pm, ate and then had a shower, first one for 3 days as I was sleeping in bike gear for warmth.

Only did 350k of available 800K.

Was booked to join two

grandchildren in Darwin on the way around Australia for a week and against advice used a mask and took



HONORARY MEMBER COL STONER



about four days of thirty in clear skies to come good. Spent three days in a 4WD in Litchfield and then flew into Kakadu where I saw crocs, water buffalo's and South Alligator River. I was very impressed with Litchfield, it's a credit to NT. Hope to line up again this year as this is only long ride I still do. I am well aware that I will have to pull the plug someday but would love to make 90.

Colin Stoner.

## **ANZ Retired Officers' Club (NSW)**

### **ANZROC(NSW) CLUB MEMBERS.**



**CASTLEREAGH BOUTIQUE HOTEL**



**CELLOS ROOM 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR.**

**THE CLUB'S 1<sup>ST</sup> BI-MONTHLY LUNCHEON FOR 2026 AND CLUB AGM WILL BE HELD AT THE CASTLEREAGH BOUTIQUE HOTEL SYDNEY WITH DETAILS: -**

**DATE: MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**  
**TIME 12 NOON FOR 12.30PM LUNCHEON.**  
**VENUE CASTLEREAGH BOUTIQUE HOTEL – 169 CASTLEREAGH STREET SYDNEY AROUND THE CNR FROM ANZ TOWER. CELLOS ROOM 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR.**

ENTRY TO THE 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR IS ONLY PERMITTED AFTER 12 NOON SO FOR EARLY ARRIVALS THE BAR ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR WILL BE OPEN FROM 10.00AM.

**THE MEAL COST FOR THE AGM WILL BE COVERED BY THE CLUB WITH BEVERAGES FOR MEMBERS OWN ACCOUNT.**

#### **BOOKINGS**

➤ **CLUB MEMBERS YOU MUST PRE BOOK.**  
**BOOKINGS FOR THIS LUNCHEON - BOOKINGS ARE TO BE MADE VIA: -**

WELFARE OFFICER  
TERRY AULD  
EMAIL: [tauld60@gmail.com](mailto:tauld60@gmail.com)  
MOBILE: 0402-111-323

CLUB SECRETARY  
GRAEME BOOL.  
EMAIL: [graemebool@outlook.com](mailto:graemebool@outlook.com)  
MOBILE: 0427-125-327

IF YOU RING ON MOBILES & IT IS UNANSWERED, PLEASE LEAVE MESSAGE.  
**CUT OFF DATE FOR BOOKINGS IS 11 FEBRUARY AS WE NEED TO INFORM BOUTIQUE OF FINAL NO'S BY THAT DATE.**

**Members this is our first Newsletter for 2026.**  
**Enjoy the read and we wish all a Happy New Year.**

**Club Committee.**