WELCOME TO OUR MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER!!

Secretary Reg’s Report on our 15TH May 2017 Meeting:

Today’s gathering attracted 50 members and President Graeme welcomed all, including the following members whom we had not seen for a while: Eamon Berne, Ray Brennan, Bill Chapman, Noel Fox, Alf McDermott, Phil Newsome, and Craig Smith.

The Loyal Toast to the Queen, and to the People of Australia followed.

Apologies:

Weren't received from: John Ball, Betty and Geoff Brown, Tony Brown, Noel Chie, Phil Cohen, Mike Cunneen, Vic East, John Freedman, Allan Gibson, Ron Hargrave, Paul Jepson, Alistair Johnston, Clive Lennon, Jenny Lennox, Janice McHenry, Phil Minett, Jim Richardson, Bev Shaw, John Turnbull, Angela Vallender, Brian White, and David Wright.

(Wow!!! That could have been a new record attendance if they had all turned up – Ed.)

Bereavements:

It is with regret I advise the passing of Os Gallagher aged 90 of South West Rocks on 12th April 2017. Os is survived by his wife Cath, and daughters Terry, Narelle and Louise. His funeral was held at Frederickton on Tuesday 18th April 2017. RIP Os.

Part of a Notice from the SMH 2nd May 2017 “McCarron, Alexander John. Late of Gymea & Kildare Tennis Court. Passed away peacefully, aged 85 years. Beloved wife of Jean (dec). Much loved father of Jenny and Susan. The funeral was at the Presbyterian Church Caringbah on 4th May.

Howard Tempest advises re Russell Hopwood “I received a call from his wife Julie to advise that he passed away early Sunday morning (7/5/17). Russell and I are old mates from school. We first met when our families moved to Forster in 1963 and we bussed it to and from Taree High School each day in 4th year. Before the year ended he joined up with the Bank of New South Wales but some years later resigned to take up employment with ANZ. I believe his last appointment was manager Tumut from where, some 20 plus years ago, he retired for health reasons and subsequently moved to Gin Gin in Queensland. Whilst our paths have only crossed twice in about 30 years we have maintained contact through Xmas mail and significant birthdays. I last spoke with him in January on his 70th birthday and whilst he was in good spirits he told me of his cancer issues and was receiving regular treatment. Russell and Julie have been residing in Burpengary QLD for the past 3 years.”

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Michael Hughes advised the passing of Dick Hughes on 11th May aged 84 of St Ives NSW. Dick is survived by his wife Margaret and their children, son Michael and daughter Catherine. Dick was a stalwart of the Retired Officers Club and highly respected both by his former banking colleagues and those in ANZROC that knew him from his very regular attendances at our luncheons until recent times. He will be missed by all. Dick's funeral was held at the Palm Chapel at Macquarie Park at 1.15pm on Wednesday, 17 May 2017.

Paul Mortimer Kelly passed away aged 78 years. Paul had been suffering from motor neurone disease. He will be remembered by many as an Esanda officer in the Bank, but as he is not a member of ANZROC I do not have further details. Paul is survived by his wife Glenys and children Melissa,

Our Condolences have been offered as appropriate.

TREASURERS REPORT:
On behalf of Mike Cunneen, Reg Smeaton reported on our sound financial position.

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

BIRTHDAY WISHES:
Best wishes were extended by VP Terry Auld to the May Birthday folk in attendance: Peter Douglas, Betty Gemmell, Peter Maber, Ann Morgan, Clive Neutze, Phil Newsome, Alan Single, Wilhelmina Smith, and Alasdair Steel.

In addition, absentee Betty Brown extends “a Happy Birthday wish to all my other May day mates including Ann M and Wili Smith.”

CORRESPONDENCE:
re Jim Nicholson entry in April Newsletter:
Correction advised by Stephen Nicholson “Just a small clarification - Dad was in the RAN contingent to the 1946 Victory Parade in London. He did not attend the Queen’s Coronation” as stated in our last newsletter.

Of Jim Nicholson OAM:

Irene Norris writes:
“...I was very saddened to read of the passing of Mr. Jim Nicholson. Mr. Nicholson was my Manager in the E.S. & A Bank from approximately 1964 through to Merger in 1970 then I continued to work for him from 1970 until I think he was seconded into Charge Card Services to set up the joint banking venture of “Bank Card” Mr. Nicholson was a person who made a large impact in my life. Whilst sometimes a hard taskmaster was always 100% fair and thoughtful to his staff.
I travelled N.S.W. in 1965/66 installing dual currency accounting machines in branches (over 90 in all) prior to decimal currency on 14/2/1966. Not a day would go by without Mr. Nicholson phoning me to see how I was coping. Travelling was not easy in those days. I did drive my VW beetle to most location (except perhaps Broken Hill) but accommodation in a lot of towns was a room in the local pub as the smaller towns did not have a motel. I know Mr. Nicholson was always concerned about my welfare.

He was a great letter writer, it was always joked in the old E.S & A that there was one person employed in Melbourne Headquarters (AHQ) especially to answer letters received from Jim Nicholson.

After his retirement we did keep in contact. He was sole carer for his late wife Joan for many years. We often had telephone chats but I always called him "Mr. Nicholson" this was the respect I felt for this man. May he R.I.P”.

**Alistair Johnston** writes: “It was sad to hear of the passing of Jim Nicholson on the 10th April. I had Jim as my manager during my time in Methods Department (a few years ago now). He always ran a very tight ship. It was also a coincidence that we were sitting at the same table for the ROC Luncheon, on the 10th April that Jim sat at for so many years. Members at the table were discussing Jim's absence and wondering how his health was. Of course we received an update on this later during the meeting.” (Jim had passed away that morning).

**Ron Miller** writes: “A real gentleman and a proud member of ANZROC over many years. He will be sadly missed. Please pass on my condolences to his family.

Of Os Gallagher

Albert Orszaczky writes: So sorry to hear this news. Os was my Manager during my term as Accountant at Campbelltown NSW branch during the second half of the 1970s. I have fond memories of him as being a thorough gentleman and a fine banker and inspirational mentor to many.

**Bill Chapman** writes: “So sorry to hear that Os had passed away. I worked with Os at Tullamore back in 1952/3 and boarded at the hotel with him for 12 months. He was one of nature’s gentlemen.”

**Ron Miller** writes “I am so sorry to hear that Os has passed away. Please give my condolences to Cath, Terry, Narelle, Louise and their families.”

Of Dick Hughes

**Ian Auld** writes: I was very sorry to learn of Dick’s passing. He was Groomsman at our wedding 61 years ago I agree with your comments. Dick enjoyed a chequered and respected branch and administrative career with a stint in London. He was not enjoying good health in recent times and sadly to say his passing was in many ways a regrettable relief. Vale old friend.

**Gary Mason** writes: Really sad news regarding Dick. A true gentleman in every sense. I admired the professional manner in which he always conducted himself; chaps like Dick gave Bankers a really solid reputation in the community.

**Mark Monaghan** writes: Very sad news, I worked for Dick when he ran Pitt and Hunter 1983-84 Quite a crew The Commercial Managers were Ken McCombe, Eric Myatt, Warren Taylor, Jeffrey Cox and Karl Mizens replaced one of them.

With thanks to Retired Editor Noel B!
Sick List:

- **Paul Conaghan** – as reported last month Paul is doing it tough right now. He is stable at home at the moment and on soft foods, but despite his bleak outlook he said he’s “not too bad”, and he is remaining positive. Best wishes Paul.

- **Phil Newsome** – he is progressing with his home dialysis treatment. It was good to see him at our lunch today.

- **Brian Burgess** – Brian contacted Mike Cunneen to say that he has had a re-occurrence of cancer, as has his wife. And to top things off his daughter also has cancer. The family certainly has a lot on its plate and we wish them all better health and happier days ahead.

- **Cleave Lennon** – Cleave is back in hospital with his lower leg problems. He had a quick phone chat to some of his former colleagues who attended the ROC lunch meeting today. As usual Cleave was chipper, but fed-up with his leg. We hope you have a quick recovery Cleave. **PS**: Cleave is back at home, under a strict antibiotic regime, and hoping to see some marked improvement with his legs.

* I made contact with the following people who enjoy the esteemed title of Honorary Member to check up on them in their birthday month and to extend happy birthday wishes:

- **Betty Gemmell** (100) – by all accounts Betty’s milestone birthday was quite busy. When I phoned there were about a dozen people in her Mosman unit, including local Council and newspaper representatives. She seemed surprised by all the attention, modestly overlooking what a great achievement reaching 100 years is. She said she would like to join us for our lunch meeting, and she did (with tremendous assistance from Ann and Alex Morgan).

- **Frank Blinman** (86) – Frank said he is “going slowly” with the aid of a stick and frame. But his life was turned upside down on 1st May when his wife passed away. She had been ill for some time but Frank is of course grieving at present. Please accept our condolences Frank, and best wishes to you for the year ahead.

- **Ian Fraser** (92) – Ian has just moved into care accommodation near Byron Bay. He has been stoically doing for himself, but the task was getting more difficult for him. We hope you had an enjoyable birthday Ian, and trust you will settle into your new abode well.

- **Ian Hiscock** (87) – Ian has had a particularly bad trot over the past year with cellulitis (which he’s had for many years), and heart issues. The latter have stabilised, but his reliance on a walking frame limits his mobility. He remains positive though.

- **Barry Hennessy** (83) – he said he has “been better, but OK”. His main concern at the time I phoned was his broken hot water service (the Autumn weather is starting to make hot showers almost essential eh Barry?). However, all is not lost because he had a win at Mornington! Also, he has taken up dancing, whereas previously his main exercise was walking to Woolies and the TAB. Keep up the good work Barry.

- **Colin Malone** (87) – Colin said he has breathing difficulties which are inconvenient and limit his activities, but he is battling on. He sends his best wishes to members and former colleagues.

- **Morrie Miles** (86) – Morrie is just recently home from hospital in Port Macquarie where he had surgery on his leg for skin cancers, including a skin graft. Otherwise he is OK, and still manages a game of bowls regularly. Unfortunately wife Val had a fall in the garden recently and broke her wrist. We hope for quick recoveries for you both.

- **Carl Owens** (85) – life for Carl is pretty good at the moment. He and wife Shirley visit home-town Orange periodically and still manage the occasional trip away along the coast.
• Terry Stapleton (87) – Terry said he is “lucky” to have reasonably good health (often you make your own luck, but with health good genes do help). He still has a hit of tennis and is enjoying life.

• Dick Walkom (86) – Dick said he is OK, and he keeps fit by walking his dog twice a day. He said he still drives, and will try to get to the Newcastle lunch on the 25th. We hope to see you then Dick.

• Ken White (84) – Ken celebrated his birthday at Bright (Vic) again this year (an annual trip). Unfortunately about 7 weeks ago he broke his wrist when he had a tumble playing some serious table tennis (you’re too competitive Ken!). He had a plate inserted and the accident has curtailed his activities somewhat.

• Dan Pawson (85) – Dan said he and wife Sue are both well, but acutely aware of the swift passing of time (as most retirees are!). He said they retired to his hometown Napier (NZ) 24 years ago, due to some extent to the humidity of Newcastle. They now live happily in a retirement village villa. Dan was planning to celebrate his birthday with some local Merlot. He sent his best wishes to all of us in the NSW ROC.

• Noel Cook (82) – Noel is “travelling well” and in good health. Travelling is the operative word because Noel and wife Betty have sailed on 44 cruises, and been to umpteen countries – that seems to be an ideal retirement.

• John Shepheard (80) – John had a stroke a while ago but he said despite a few inconveniences he is OK, and enjoying life on the mid-North Coast. He will be celebrating his birthday in the Hunter Valley, and then on to Canberra. Welcome to “The Hons” John.

• Ron Freeman (81) – Ron is well (he visits a kidney specialist regularly however) and he told me he celebrated his birthday in fine style. Next month he is moving into a retirement village complex at Port Macquarie. Ron said he retired 25 years ago, and he has since kept himself busy with bowls, volunteering and plenty of other activities.

• John Le Gras (81) – John’s health is OK, and voluntary work (Meals-on-Wheels for past 18 years), and a weekly game of bowls ensure he is occupied. He sent regards to all those who remember him.

• Peter Maber (81) – Peter is going well (he also looks well) and he is a regular at our lunch meetings. Today was no exception.

• Peter Douglass (81) – Another regular at our meetings and he also is in the pink. He joined us for our lunch today with another member, his wife Jan.

Also, members of our Committee have spoken with the following widows recently. They all said they enjoy reading our Newsletters (thank you ladies): Mrs May Davies, Mrs Maureen Davis, Mrs Kitty Farrow, Mrs Carole Green, Mrs Ronda Hitchcock, Mrs Margaret Hickey, Mrs Ros. Hayden, Mrs Lynne Hiscox, and Mrs Beverley Ryan (off to bowls!)

Dighto, you are a marvel! I know our members genuinely appreciate your work! (Ed)

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SOCIAL NOTES
Lithgow Small Arms Museum Tour

The visit was very enjoyable with beautiful weather, good company, and a very nice light luncheon provided after the tour. The generous country style hospitality of the volunteers and our bus driver was very refreshing, as was the drive around the key interest points in Lithgow including some very stately homes and the long defunct blast furnace as well as a trip up to the Hassans Walls Lookout for some spectacular views. The manufacturing skills and diversity of product from the factory was astounding as was the display of weaponry. Thank you, Ann Morgan for organising yet another enjoyable experience for the Club.

(Photos are on the blog site if you wish to have a look).
Feature in the Mosman Daily on Our Centenarian Betty Gemmell

“Mosman resident Elizabeth Gemmell was a pioneer for women in banking and now she is counting her years. Miss Gemmell turns 100 on Thursday (11th May 2017) having lived in Mosman for nearly seventy years.

She still lives independently, cooks her own meals, and loves knitting. Her doctor claims she is as mentally sharp as a 45 year old. “I read everything I can get my hands on” she said.

Miss Gemmell, known as Aunty Betty to her many nieces and nephews, can look back on an interesting career including serving as a teller with a regulation loaded gun under her counter. She joined the Bank of Australasia in 1940 in Deniliquin when women were employed (at half the salary) to make up for the men away at war. One of her first jobs was changing the ink in the ink wells.

Miss Gemmell said there was a lot of resentment towards working women and she “bent a lot of rules” to get the job done. After WWII Miss Gemmell was to marry her fiancé but he died from the effects of the war. “I never remarried, I was a one man woman” she said.

In 1954 she was transferred to Sydney and later appointed the first manager of the ANZ Staff Club. After 38 years with the bank she retired but remained active including as a volunteer.

Miss Gemmell admits she is a little shocked by her age having been the eldest of seven, five of whom have died of cancer. “I can only recommend everything in moderation” she said. Her motto is “Talk to each other more often” With her family, she will celebrate at the Mosman RSL Club on her birthday”

Betty is renowned for replacing her kitchen at the age of 96! That is optimism at its very best.

Betty in THAT uniform-and knitting recently. At our May Luncheon with Ken Byatt and Ann Morgan. And a rare photo of Alf McDermott and friends at the table behind Betty.

Our Birthday Girl reads her Certificate from the other Betty, Elizabeth II

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The Oldest Computer!
Had you heard that the oldest computer has now been traced back to Adam and Eve. It was, of course, an Apple. It had VERY limited memory. Just one BYTE, then everything CRASHED.

(With thanks to Brian Burgess)
JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Scott  ABRAHAM  29/06  Michelle  McClure  03/06  
Stuart  BROOKE  14/06  Neil  MERRICK  21/06  
Brian  BURGESS  08/06  John  MORSCHEL  18/06  
Jeff  COX  28/06  Doug  MOSS  09/06  
Russell  CROZIER  10/06  Ken  MURRAY  15/06  
Ivan  DEBELAK  24/06  Mal  NEWMAN  30/06  
George  FADDOUL  28/06  Bob  PALMER  19/06  
John  GANNON  16/06  Terry  PATTON  15/06  
Kerry  GILBERT  08/06  Greg  PIDCOCK  22/06  
Terry  GILCHRIST  19/06  Kevin  PRICE  30/6  
Bob  GRANT  01/06  Warren  RIEDEL  20/06  
John  GRAY  06/06  Kevin  SLOAN  27/06  
Graeme  HEWETT  20/06  Geoff  TAYLOR  23/06  
Ron  HINSON  10/06  Howard  TEMPEST  23/06  
Tony  HUNT  27/06  Angela  VALLENDER  15/06  
Tony  KNIGHT  05/06  Derek  WHITTLE  01/06  
Anthony  LEWIS  14/06  Vicki  WILKINSON  16/06  
Robyn  L'HUILLIER  30/06  Allan  WILLOUGHBY  24/06  

THE “HONS”

Keith (KJ)  ANDERSON  19/06  
Colin  BARTRIM  23/06  
Peter  BRADFORD  10/06  
John  CAIRNS  06/06  
John  FREEDMAN  25/06  
Bob  GARRETT  03/06  
Denis  LICKLEY  19/06  
Alf  McDERMOTT  17/06  
Jim  PEARSON  23/06  
Kevin  WATSON  01/06  

Congratulations to Keith ANDERSON, & Col BARTRIM who join the ‘Hons’ this month

I saw John Nicholson’s photo in last month’s Newsletter and dug this photo out of the achieves taken 65 years ago when working at Oxford Street branch. The two Undertakers- John Nicholson & Ian Auld.

Cheers Ian  
- Many thanks Ian...any more readers with favourite photos? Ed.
Dates for the Diary!

25th May 2017
Newcastle luncheon - from 11.45am at Cardiff RSL Club, Macquarie and Munibung Roads, CARDIFF. R S V P is essential to meet Club requirements. There will be a $15.00 charge on the day to help defray expenses. Train leaves Central at 9.15 am – check your local timetables and will be met at Cardiff Railway Station at 11.33 am. Contact Jim or Cheryl Richardson email: jimcher@exemail.com.au or mobile 0419 602 087. Our landline is 4943 8031, if using this number please call before 4th May or after 14th May.

6th June 2017
Tour of the Sydney Town Hall at a cost of $5.00 commencing at 10:30 am with an optional lunch afterwards at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel at the diner’s expense. Ann advises that this Outing is booked out. aamorgan@bigpond.net.au or 9970 8668.

19th June 2017
Luncheon at the CTA Club, MLC Centre Martin Place Sydney gather at 11:30 am for a 12:30 pm start to the meal. All members are welcome. Bookings are not required; it is always an enjoyable day with good food and lots of old friends and the occasional surprise visit by those who can’t make the meeting all the time.

28th July 2017
Canberra are holding a Christmas in July function at our usual venue, the Austrian Australian Club in Mawson. RSVP Albert Orszaczky phone: 6231 6198, email: orszo@bigpond.com or Bob Dyer phone: 6231 2371, email: rdyer@bigpond.net.au John Lucas phone: 6293 2532 or jandklucas@bigpond.com

9th August 2017
Tentative date set for our Partners’ Lunch at the TAFE at Ultimo, further details soon.

12th August 2017
Wagga Wagga Luncheon at RSL Wagga Wagga

30th October 2017
Tour of the Brisbane Waters with a 1.5 hour ferry trip and a lunch at Davistown RSL. The Ferry leaves Woy Woy at 10:15 am and cost to be advised. Contact Ann Morgan at aamorgan@bigpond.net.au or phone 9970 8668.

16th November 2017
Newcastle Luncheon at Cardiff RSL again with details closer to the event.

16th November 2017
Far North Coast ROC Christmas lunch is set down for Thursday at the RSL Bowls Club Ballina, contact is Brian Rawle 02 66876286 or elwar@bigpond.com

2nd December 2017
Wagga Wagga Christmas Luncheon at RSL

11th December 2017
Christmas Cocktail Function at ANZ 242 Pitt St Sydney

15th December 2017
Canberra Chapter Christmas Dinner at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla. RSVP to Albert Orszaczky phone: 6231 6198, email: orszo@bigpond.com or Bob Dyer phone: 6231 2371, email: rdyer@bigpond.net.au or John Lucas phone: 6293 2532, email: jandklucas@bigpond.com.

Remember the old ANZ Chequerboard? The Monthly (?) GMO Newsletter? And the weekly NSW Staff Club Newsletter? Anyone ever keep any?? Ed.
Ray Brennan captured a very rare photograph on a wall in Berry and comments as follows:

“I was recently wandering through Berry and noticed that the wall of an old building was etched “E. S. & A. C. Bank”. As an old Scottie staffer, I was curious, took a photo and came home to do some research.

The town of Berry was formerly known as Broughton Creek. It had been founded by Alexander Berry and his partner Edward Wollstonecraft about the mid 1800's. Mr. Berry changed the name of the town after the death of his brother, David in 1889 -- the local hospital is still called the “David Berry Hospital “ to this day.

E.S.& A. was founded in 1852 by Royal Charter as The English Scottish & Australian Chartered Bank Limited. In May 1893 the Bank had to close its doors for several months, as did many other colonial banks. It re-opened in August 1893 as The English Scottish and Australian Bank Limited.

In 1884 the Chartered Bank had bought land in Queen Street Berry from the Berry Estate for 500 pounds and on it erected a single fronted branch with residence attached at an all-up cost of approx. 5,000 pounds and opened in 1885 under first manager Alexander James Colley. The building was designed by William Wardell who also designed “the Gothic Bank “at 388 Collins Street Melbourne and several others.

During the war the branch closed and the building was purchased by Berry Municipal Council as a Council Chambers and residence. In 1948 the Council was amalgamated with Shoalhaven Council – the premises were leased back to the Bank in 1951 and ceased business as a branch in December 1972. Today the building houses the Berry Museum but still has the original name etched on the wall and is classified by the National Trust.”
A List of the Attendees at the 150th Anniversary Reunion Dinner of former Union Bank of Australia employees held on 7th July 1987 has been published on our Web site.

At another Dinner, Ex Bank of Australasia folk held a pre-merger dinner at Chatswood on 14th September 1951. As we know, in 1951, the Union Bank of Australia merged with the Bank of Australasia to become ANZ Bank. Former Bank of Australasia folk attending that Reunion, and who are still with us as ANZROC (NSW) members are:

R H (Russell) BETTS, N F (Noel) CHIE, D S (Don) DAVIS, R W (Roger) HICKMAN, John HUDSON, B J (Barry) SMITH and R C (Reg) TUXFORD.

E J (Betty) GEMMELL is a Bank of A’asia original, however it appears you missed the 1951 Dinner, Betty!

Barry Smith asks: "Are there any more of this breed out there?"

How about that!

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, British scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 200 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 150 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the British, in the weeks that followed, an American archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet, and shortly after a story published in the New York Times said: “American archaeologists, finding traces of 250-year-old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network 50 years earlier than the British”.

One week later, Australia’s Northern Territory Times reported the following: “After digging as deep as 30 feet in his backyard in Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory, Knackers Johnson, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely bugger-all. Knackers has therefore concluded that 250 years ago Australia had already gone wireless.” (Peter G).

What the world needs is more geniuses with humility, there are so few of us left.

(more thanks to Peter G!)

More nostalgia below. Mike Cunneen is yet to appear as our newest Life Member.