# MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Retired Members Association November 2021 www.cwuretiredmembers.org

# Welcome to your November 2021 Newsletter.

WOULD LIKE TO START MY FINAL ARTICLE FOR THE YEAR, FOR A MOMENT REFLECTING ON THE PAST YEAR. I WAS GOING OVER MY NOTES FOR THIS TIME LAST YEAR. I ENDED THE ARTICLE BY SAYING, "FINGERS CROSSED THAT 2021 WILL BE A BETTER YEAR THAN WHAT WE ENDURED IN 2020".

John Lane

Well, 2021 was not a better year. The year commenced with the relaxation of health regulations, but then the delta variant came along in June. So, we had four months of lockdown along with far a higher infection rate and sadly more hospitalisations and deaths than the first wave of COVID19 in 2020. Given this experience, I am not sure how I should conclude this year's article.

However, the coming year shows more promise; now, we have a vaccine and promising anti-viral treatments to reduce health complications associated with the virus.

Our Association has continued to function despite not having regular social events and a trip-away. I thank members for their attendance at general meetings.

#### March 2022 Trip Away

A disappointment for us this year was the cancellation of our trip away to the Murray Valley region. I remind you all that this trip away is still on for October 2022. However, most members have indicated they will be going. Good news and I thank the members for their support.

The committee has decided there should be a shorter trip early in 2022. So, we settled on a trip to the Southern Highlands in March 2022. Unlike our recent trips away, this is not a package tour. Instead, it is one we have put together. We will be visiting plenty of exciting places and learning about the Southern Highlands region, which is just on our doorstep.

The trip starts on Sunday 13th March and goes through to Friday 18th March 2022.

We are staying at the Springs Resort Motel, adjacent to and part of the Mittagong RSL Club. The motel is accommodation only; however, we can have breakfast and dinner in the club at our own expense. Lunch is included on three out of the four days while we are touring. These are full-on lunches, something you may wish to consider when ordering your breakfast and dinner meals in the club. Of course, the cost includes entrance fees for all places we visit. I anticipate, most members will travel to the motel either by train or car. Fellow travellers will meet those travelling via train to assist them and their luggage to arrive at the Springs Resort Motel accommodation.

#### **Continued on Page 7**







### **Retired Members Association**



# **November 2021 General Meeting**

# Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> November2021, commences at 10.30am

The November 2021 General Meeting will be a hybrid meeting with members in person at Petersham RSL Club and will also be open for members via Zoom. If you wish to attend in person, please advise Colin McQueen (contact details below).

Joining the general meeting via video conference? You can join using a PC or Mac; most personal computers have an inbuilt camera and microphone.

You can also use your smartphone (iPhone or Android) but first you will need to download the Zoom Video Conference app. <u>Andriod: Google Play Store.</u> <u>Iphone: App</u> <u>store.</u> The app is free. You can also attend using your home phone or just dial in with your mobile. Of course, there will be no video. You will be emailed a dial-in phone number togther with Meeting ID and passcode (access is via phone's keypad).

Members who receive their newsletter via email, will receive a prior invitation. Members who have attended recently a meeting via Zoom will be sent Zoom access codes on the Monday prior to the meeting. Otherwise, you will receive an invitation via email on Monday prior. When you reply, you will receive an email with Zoom link to access the General Meeting. The email is sent to you on the prior Wednesday afternoon or evening.

The Zoom Video Conference will open at 10.15 am to allow you to setup your PC and have a brief chat with other members before the meeting commences.

# Retired Members Association Office Bearers



# Committee

Alan Bassman, John McAuliffe, Trevor Anderson, John Bryce, Allan Fairbairn, Steve Flynn, Vince Haywood, Terry Livingstone, Arthur McCarroll, Paul Rewhorn, Ron Milosh, Garry Masman, Warren Morley.



### **Retired Members Association - Newsletter**

www.cwuretiredmembers.org







The Retired Members Association is sad to report the passing of Grahame Ellis. Grahame passed away overnight on Wednesday, 17TH November 2021. Grahame finally lost his battle with cancer; he had been having treatment over the past year. The retired mmebers Association will advise of the funeral details once they are known.

Grahame had been a member of the Retired Members Association for over eighteen years.

Grahame commenced with the PMG on the 2nd of December 1957. He was a 1958 Technician in Training. After his initial training, Grahame received an assignment to the Kempsey Division.

He would become a fixture as the Senior Technician in the Taree Carrier Room for many decades.

He managed the maintenance of both the trunk and local transmission networks. The transmission technologies included Open Wire, Radio Transmission, Coaxial Cable, carrier line and multiplex, optical fibre, and Media (Television Transmitters and Repeaters).

As the transmission technology evolved, such as from analogue to digital, Grahame would readily adapt. Grahame became Area Field Manager for the Mid and Far North Coast areas before his retirement in 1998.

Grahame was a loving husband to his wife Margaret of 59 years. A loving father of Andy and Jason who both worked in Country Installation and NDC.. He was well respected colleague to his workmates, a cherished friend.

The Retired Members Association extends its condolences and sympathy to Grahame's wife Margaret, sons Andy and Jason, other family members and his many friends and former workmates on the North Coast and elsewhere.

The Association would like to thank member, Shaun Higgins for advising the Association of Grahame's passing.







The Retired Members Association is sad to report the passing of Robin (Rob) Joseph Lovell. Rob passed away suddenly on Monday, 25th October 2021. Rob's health had deteriorated over the previous six months. Rob's funeral service was at Woronora Memorial Park, Sutherland, on the 3rd November 2021.

Rob was a member of the Retired Members Association for over seventeen years.

Rob was born on 26th April 1937, the third of four children. Rob grew up in Sans Souci, Kogarah Bay and eventually Peakhurst.

Rob was a 1953 Technician in Training. His first assignment was with Country Installation with postings to various locations throughout regional NSW. Places included Ivanhoe, Armidale and Blayney. Rob was later to transfer to customer maintenance working at Paddington and City South on area maintenance.

During his time with Country Installation, Rob met Laurel, a telephonist at Blayney. Rob and Laurel were married. Unfortunately, Laurel sadly passed away in 2006 after a long illness.

Later Rod was to meet partner Judy. Rob was a keen sportsman enjoying golf, darts, snooker and fishing. Rob excelled at golf. There are many golf clubs in regional NSW that have Rob's name on their walls.

The Retired Members Association extends its condolences and sympathy to Rob's family, friends, and former workmates. Judy Nicole and Phillip survive Rob.





# Welfare News

Peter Hack

This month, I will start my members' health report, passing on personal condolences to three members who have passed away recently. **Phil Orchard**, who was in a nursing home in Melbourne; Phil had turned 100 years old. **Ross Keys** passed away after a long battle with cancer. Ross Keys would have been 76 on the 27TH of October 2021. Finally, I remember Keith MacRae also had a short battle with cancer.

We had another member **Rod Lovell** who passed away on the 25<sup>TH</sup> of October 2021. There is a tribute to Rod in this month's newsletter.

I have spoken with **Pam MacRae**, who is missing Keith. Pam and Keith had been married for 60 years. I also talked to Helen Wilson; Helen and her daughter Anne had just visited Col in his nursing home. Their first visit since the lockdown.

Now COVID19 health restrictions are easing, **Diane Cutting** can resume her weekly visit with lan. I can report that **Sam Caltabiano** is doing well. **Kathy Hickey** has had her first outing since the end of the lockdown. Lunch with her daughter.

**Peggy visited Col Cooper** on the 27th of October 2021; Col is having his good and not so good days. **Alan Gilks** has had a hospital visit, where they changed his medication. **Jim Spencer** had a visit with his wife, **Anne.** 

**John Loudon** is having a battle with doctors over his health records. On the first of next month, it will be a year since he lost his wife, **Heather**.

**Toni Stevens** is in St George Hospital following a procedure. **Alan Stevens** is also waiting to undergo a procedure.

I have spoken with Peter Clarke, Jim Cheeseman, Irene Clifford, Mary Kovacs, Dick Javes, Ron Milosh, Eddie Parrot, and Russel Crombie-Brown.

Country Installation Office Party

The Silly Season has rolled around again, and it is time to have a couple of drinks with some old workmates.

This year the Country Installation Office Party will be conducted as follows:-

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year

D-HO-H

Thursday, 23RD December 2021 When:- 1200 for 1230 hrs Crystal Palace Hotel

Peter Clarke 0419 394 349 Email:- hipshot@bigpond.com **Retired Members Association - Newsletter** 

www.cwuretiredmembers.org



# A reminder that the Retired Members Association's Christmas Lunch is just a few weeks away. The Christmas Lunch is on Tuesday, 7<sup>TH</sup> December 2021.

We gather for lunch around noon at the Petersham RSL.

It's a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends over a three-course lunch. *Petersham RSL (7 Regent Street) is just 200m from Petersham Railway Station.* There is now a lift at Petersham Railway. As you reach the top of Petersham Station, looking towards the City, turn right and walk to the pedestrian crossing, cross over and take a few more steps and you will see Petersham RSL on your left.

The cost of the lunch is \$55 per head and includes lucky door prizes. An electronic payment can be made (see adjacent for payment details). Please also remember to email, text or call John Lane to advise you are coming to the lunch



(contact information is on page 2 of the newsletter). If you have a special dietary requirement, please let John Lane know.

# **Important Notice**

Please note that under current health regulations regarding COVID19, Petersham RSL is considered a non essential business site. What does this mean?

You need to show proof that you hve two doses of a COVID19 vaccine. You can download your vaccination status to your Services NSW app on your smartphone or show your vaccination certificate on entering the club. You can post a cheque to the Secretary, address shown on page 2 of the newsletter. Please make sure you make the cheque payable to the Retired Members Association

#### OR

Bank Transfers (electronic payments) Great Southern Bank BSB 814-282, eSaver Account No: 10642769. Please include your surname on the electronic payment reference.

#### **Buses from City to Petersham**

Route: 412				
11.29 am 11.44 am	11.35 am 11.50 am	12.00 pm 12.15 pm		
Museum Stn (Castlereagh Street)	Central (George Street, Railway Square)	Petersham (Trafalgar Street)		

The Trafalgar Street Bus stop is located close to both Petersham RSL and Station



### **Retired Members Association - Newsletter**

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# Southern Highlands - Trip Away



**The full cost of the trip is \$695 per person**. Accommodation is booked, you will need to pay for the accommodation component on an individual basis on your arrival.

**The cost for various vendors (coach and attractions) is \$245.** For all other monies, I ask you to pay direct to us, allowing us to handle directly with the vendors).

# *I am asking interested members to please pay a \$100 deposit, or you can pay the total amount of \$245.*

Instructions on how to pay direct is on this page. Please contact me by mobile, text or email when you are making your payment.

# Sunday 13th March *until* Friday 18th March 2022

#### <u>Monday</u>

Look at history of Berrima Gaol - Tour Joadja Shale Mining Village and Joadja Creek township - BBQ Lunch - Berrima Courthouse and Museum

#### <u>Tuesday</u>

Fitzroy Falls - Kangaroo Village - Cambewarra Lookout - Bradman Museum at Bowral

#### Wednesday

Tour of Shrine of Lady of Mercy - Zen Oasis Berrima with Banquet Vegetarian Lunch - Southern Highlands Regional Gallery at Bowral Thursday

# Aviation Museum at Albion Park - Jamberoo Pub for

Presentation and lunch - Tour of the Cheese Factory at Robertson - Visit Mount Gibraltar

> You can post a cheque to the Secretary, address shown on page 2 of the newsletter. Please make sure you make the cheque payable to the Retired Members Association

#### OR

Bank Transfers (electronic payments) Great Southern Bank BSB 814-282, eSaver Account No: 10642769. Please include your surname on the electronic payment reference.

# Staying at the Springs Resort Motel, Mittagong





### Welcome to your November 2021 Newsletter (Cont'd).

We will have a coach for four days to visit the various attractions. Please see the notice in this newsletter showing the multiple attractions for each day of the trip.

The cost of the trip is \$695 per person. Although I have booked the accommodation, I will ask people to pay for their accommodation on an individual basis on arrival. For all other monies, I invite you to pay direct to us, allowing us to handle directly with the various vendors (coach and attractions). I am asking interested members to please pay a \$100 deposit, or you can pay the total amount of \$245, as per the regular instructions found within this newsletter. Already, we have forty-two members who have registered. Therefore, if you are interested, please book with me ASAP. The number of available seats on the coach will determine our ultimate number.

The good news is that it's not long before Christmas and the New Year, then soon after, you can look forward to a trip away. I look forward to hearing from all interested parties. For more information see page 6

#### **Christmas Lunch**

The Christmas lunch is our last social event of the year and is traditionally the most popular. The *Christmas Party is on Tuesday, 7th December 2021.* The Petersham RSL Club has gone over and beyond itself this year; the club is giving us a choice of three main courses instead of our usual two menu offerings. I suggest you go straight to the Christmas Lunch notice in this newsletter and there you can read all the information to allow you to make a booking.

The bookings have been climbing over the past week, so please do not miss out. The caterers need to know our numbers the week before. Our Christmas lunch will be the last at this venue as the club moves to new premises across the road in early 2022. For detailed information, see page 5.

#### Association Name Survey Results

Well, the Association has surveyed a name for our Association. The committee is well pleased that 142 of you participated in the survey. We are leaving the survey open for a further week to compensate for the fact that the October edition of the newsletter was a few days later than initially intended. following reasons:

- On the question of officially altering our constitution to cover all ex-employees of the telecommunications industry, we were almost unanimous in including all exemployees.
- By far, the most popular choice for a name change was "Retired Telecommunications Employees Association".
- The choice on a tagline was a whole lot closer, and the committee is yet to decide which tagline to choose if indeed we choose one at all.

The process going forward is that we will have the appropriate notices of motion to vote on at our general meeting in February 2022. Therefore, the February edition of the newsletter will be out in time to comply with our constitutional processes.

Who came up with the most popular name title? The story is an interesting one. On the very day the survey was planned to start, Bruce Noake, Assistant Secretary, sent out an urgent *"Stop the Press"* message. He had some type of epiphany overnight and came up with this name change idea. Blimey! Maybe he is Santa Clause and not just the bloke who goes and hides in the toilets just before Santa arrives each year at our Christmas lunch. Well, done, Bruce; you are a genius and thank you, and to Col McQueen, for redrafting the survey form.

You will find more details on the *Name Change Survey* on page 10.

#### **Continued on Page 8**



### Welcome to your November 2021 Newsletter (Cont'd).

#### Membership Recruitment Drive

Since we started a recruitment drive six or eight weeks ago, five new members have joined us.

Please allow me to introduce them:

John (Jack) Raymond Auckett. John worked at the Wireless Network Delivery. Ted Golding, the Manager Network Operations Metropolitan and Country NSW. Peter Bayfield from the Subscriber Maintenance Redfern District and then PABX Maintenance Redfern. Emmanuel Calleja from Redfern Exchange and Redfern AFG. Finally, and not least, Aris Apergis who worked at Doodey Street and Sydenham Workshops before going to the city to work in the customer area.

I welcome all five new members to our Association and hope they will join us at a future general meeting or social function.

Thank you to those members who have heeded our call to invite new members to contact their former workmates and ask them to join us.

Your effort is greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank those who have made suggestions on how to recruit new members. I particularly want to thank Chris Cartledge, who made six recommendations; the committee adopted all the recommendations at its November meeting.

In this month's newsletter, you will find an application form. You can email our newsletter to prospective new members for them to complete the application form. It will be necessary for them to print the application page and complete it by pen. They can then email or post the form to our Secretary, Bruce Muirhead.

Email: muirhead@bigpond.com Post: 22 Cameron Avenue, Baulkham Hills. 2153

However, you will receive with this issue newsletter <sup>1</sup> a pdf form attachment. The new member simply opens the file and applies the "Submit" button; the pdf form automatically emails to Bruce Muirhead's email address. We are currently building a web-based application form. It should be available early in the new year.

Please remind a prospective member that it is a onceonly subscription of just \$20 only for a lifetime of membership.

#### Venue for General Meetings

Next year, we expect we will return to near normal without the prospect of having lockdowns. However, we are likely to find it challenging to secure a meeting location in the city in 2022. For this reason, we have decided to stay with Petersham RSL. The club meets our constitutional requirements regarding proximity to Sydney (four stations from Redfern and now there is a lift at Petersham); the club is a very close distance (200 metres) to the Petersham Railway Station. In addition, the club has been very good to us over the past years, particularly during times of restrictions.

The club has a good, varied and affordable lunch menu to enjoy after our general meeting. Members would remember that finding a place to eat in the city was increasingly tricky and involved a fair walk across town from the meeting venue. The Petersham RSL has waved its fees for the hire of a function room for our Christmas luncheon each year.

I know at times, we have perhaps tested the patience of members with technical issues around Zoom Video Conferencing. In addition, we have had the occasional problem of echo as we have transitioned from all attending via Zoom to hybrid meetings, with members in attendance at the Petersham RSL and others remotely via Zoom.

We have purchased improved sound equipment to deal with echo, a by-product of holding hybrid general meetings. We are now trying to improve video to show clearer images of members at Petersham and use the projection screen at Petersham to display members attending on Zoom. Thanks to Paul and Col, who have worked tirelessly together in ironing out bugs and improving the technologies to a much more presentable level.

**Continued on Page 9** 

### Welcome to your November 2021 Newsletter (Cont'd).

Despite the problems, the use of Zoom has allowed many country members to attend our general meetings. Therefore, I would like to assure our country members that we will continue to use Zoom throughout 2022.

For our Sydney members, I encourage you to attend our general meetings in person. The general meetings offer a terrific opportunity to come together and enjoy a meal and drinks after the meeting.

One last thing to mention is that we still intend to hold our two regional meetings in 2022; they will be at the same venues as last year, with our much-improved technology.

#### More on Petersham RSL Club

Many of you know that the RSL club is relocating to a new building opposite its current location, expected to occur in March; I propose holding our one day social at this pleasant new location; we can all check it out. Fingers crossed; this all happens as planned for us to have the social in April 2022. We will advertise in the first newsletter edition in 2022.

#### **Bush Fire Season**

Some of you may have recently seen a story on the **7.30** current affairs programme where the presenter travelled to the South Coast to catch up with the locals two years after the bush fires that caused much devastation. An unfortunate component to the story was to do with homeowners' insurance. We have all heard about people without no insurance on their properties. However, many people on the South Coast found themselves underinsured and were unaware they were in this circumstance. Two years later, many are staying in sheds and caravans, with the prospect of doing the same for years to come becuase they cannot afford the rebuilding costs.

We all know the insurance companies will increase their premiums (often by a double percentage figure) each year. The insurance companies attain their high premiums by increasing the insurance coverage, and arguably there is some price overcharging. Therefore, there is the temptation for you to decrease your coverage amount to lower your premium. However, there is the risk that your lower coverage value is far less than you will need to rebuild your home.

Remember, rebuilding will require the removal of building remains, new home constructions have higher specifications, there is the increasing cost of materials, and the shortage of tradespeople and hence higher labour costs.

If you consider your premium is too high, contact your insurance company and tell them their premium is too high. You may find them prepared to lower your premium without the need to reduce your coverage amount. With my insurer, I know I can speak to them on the phone, and they usually ask me a series of questions about the profile of my house, how many bedrooms, bathrooms, etc? They put this into a model along with your postcode and come up with the recommended coverage amount. If you are in doubt, I suggest you go through this exercise. It does not take long, and as the saying goes, it is better to be safe than sorry. The most complacent action you can take is to think it will never happen to me. Well, I must remind vou that one of our members lost his home in the Blue Mountains to bush fires about four or five years ago. There could well be other members who were in this circumstance.

# Don't forget to clean out your gutters before the bush fires hit.

### Finally

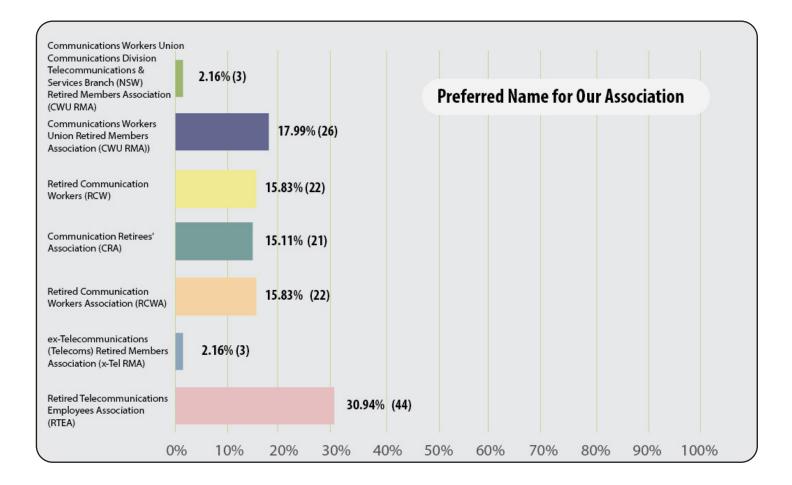
As I mentioned, the committee has worked well through what has been a challenging year. So again, I thank each committee member for their hard work and dedication.

Over the past couple of years, fresh faces on our executive and committee have reinvigorated our Association. Therefore, if you would like to contribute, please nominate for a position. This month's newsletter includes a nomination form which will also be on our website.

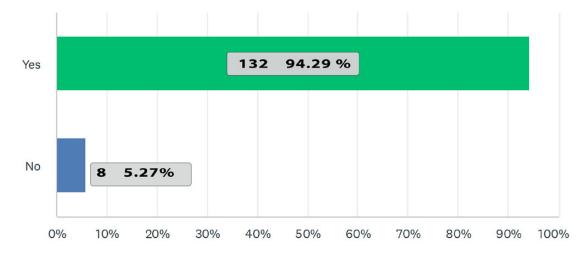
Now, I take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a safe and happy festive season. Fingers crossed that 2022 will be a better year than what we have endured in 2021.



# Name Change Survey Results









# Bill "Bunny" Johnson

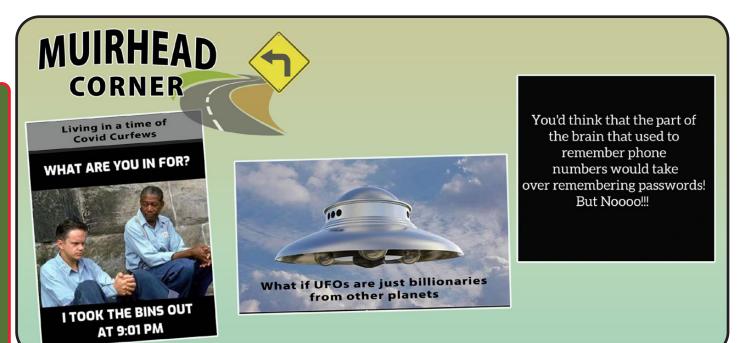


John Lane's mention of Frank Hyde in a past newsletter issue has prompted feedback from members.

Neil Johnson sent us a photo of the 1939 Balmain Premiership winning side. Neil's uncle Bill "Bunny" Johnson was on the winning side. Neil's uncle (red circle) is directly behind the captain. Frank Hyde is on the captain's left side.

Neil mentions that his uncle organised a boat to take the team on a picnic to Middle Harbour on the 3<sup>RD</sup> of September 1939. It turned out; the date was a very significant date in history.

Thanks, Neil, for sharing the photo.





#### **RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION: APPLICATION FORM**

Step 1 - Application				
First Name	Last Name			
Spouse/Partner Name (the Retired Members Assocation has regular social functions to which Spouses and Partners are welcomed).	Date of Birth (Optional). You may wish to only provide year and/ or month of your birth details.			
Address (First Line)	Suburb/Town/City			
Address (Second Line)	Postcode State			
Contacr Phone Number	Monthly Newsletter Preference (Except December and January) Email Post None			
Email Address				
I would like to purchase a name badge at \$15 (includes postage). Yes	Name on Badge			

#### Step 2 – Work History

Brief Description of your work history in Telecommunications Industry

#### Step 3 – Payment

A membership payment together with postal edition of the newsletter and badge payments (only if later two items are applicable) can be made by posting a cheque to the Secretary, or via electronic transfer.

#### Cheque payments are payable to CWU Retired Members Association and post to:

Secretary, CWU Retired Members Association 22 Cameron Avenue, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

#### Bank Transfers (electronic payments) Great Southern Bank

BSB 814-282,

eSaver Account No: 10642769.

Please include your surname on the electronic payment reference.

#### Payments preferences are:

Membership plus free Newsletter via email (Note this is a once only membership payment)	\$20	
Membership plus the current year's Newslett via Post	ter \$35	
Membership plus Name Badge	\$35	
Membership plus Name Badge plus the current year's Newsletter	\$50	

I wish to apply for membership of the Retired Members Association. I understand that by completing this application form and making payment, I agree to abide by the constitution of the Association. Please tick if you agree.

You can read and download (pdf) the Retired Members Association's constitution at: http://www.cwuretired.org/docs/CONSTITUTION.pdf

Retired Members' New Member Application Form - Issue 1: 25 October 2021



### Retired Members Assocation Executive and Committee Nomination Form

## **CWU RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION**

NSW TELECOMMUNICATION AND SERVICES BRANCH

#### Nomination Form Executive and Committee Positions for 2021

#### NOTE TO CANDIDATES AND NOMINATORS – GENERAL INFORMATION

- » The Candidate and the two Nominators must be members of the Retired Members Association.
- » The Candidate must be nominated by members of the Retired Members Association.
- » The Candidate must agree to the nomination by signing this form
- » The election applies for ALL positions on the Management Committee.
- » A separate nomination form is required for candidates who are applying for election to multiple positions.
- » The completed form must be lodged with the nominated Returning Officer prior to the Retired MembersAssociations's Annual Meeting for 2021 to be held on Thursday, 25th February 2021, commencing 10.30 am or via post or email to the Secretary

Position Nominated For: Secre		nt Positions are: President, Vice President (2 positions) tary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and mittee (15 postions)	
Nominee Full Name			
		l Accept the nomination (sign above)	
I nominate the above member First Nominator		]	
	Print Full Name	(sign above)	
I nominate the above member Second Nominator			
	Print Full Name	(sign above)	

Please complete and print the form mail or email a copy to: SECRETARY Bruce Muirhead 22 Cameron Avenue,

Baulkham Hills NSW 2153. muirhead@bigpond.com Phone 02 9639 0990