

# CBC OFFICERS CLUB Incorporated

connecting former employees and families of

*The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited*

and its subsidiaries and affiliates

Find us at [www.CBCbank.com.au](http://www.CBCbank.com.au)

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[Secretary@CBCBank.com.au](mailto:Secretary@CBCBank.com.au)  
[Treasurer@CBCBank.com.au](mailto:Treasurer@CBCBank.com.au)

David Wyndham                      0405 047 518  
Fred Harvison RFD                0419 578 840  
Mary Lamborn  
Margaret Powell                    0405 391 777



Dear Member,

The next quarterly luncheon meeting will be held at **Barracks on Barrack**,  
5-7 Barrack Street, Sydney on **Monday 2nd December 2024**.

When admitted by Barracks please make your way up to **Level 1** (by lift or stairs) where Committee Members will check you in ready for the Meeting. The bar will be open at 11:30 a.m. ready for your lunch at 12:30.

Please ensure your name is quoted on your direct deposit, or promptly return the advice slip below with your cheque to reach Margaret **not later than Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November**.



Paul Brett and the Big Prawn, Ballina



Margaret Powell at the 1880 Ballina lighthouse



James Barnet, colonial architect designed the small lighthouse known to locals as the Ballina Headlight

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TO: Ms. Margaret Powell, Hon. Treasurer, PO Box 319, St. Ives NSW 2075 Phone 0405 391 777

FROM: Mrs Narelle Avis PHONE: 02 9523 5831 Email:

**I would like to attend the following meeting:**

**Monday 2nd December 2024** cost \$ 45

*Please advise Rowan Raymond-Jones on 0411 771 300 if you have any particular dietary requirements.*

**Annual membership now due (except Life Members)** \$ 15

I will **not** be attending the lunchtime CBC Officers Club meeting and tender an apology.

*(Please attach or email any news of general interest to members)*

**Total payment** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature .....

**If paying by Direct Deposit, quote your NAME or membership NUMBER, and please credit:-  
CBC OFFICERS CLUB INC. at NAB 339 George Street Sydney BSB 082-001 A/c 50-902-3440.**

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

It was so enjoyable to see such a good turn-up at the September luncheon. There were 47 of our members present for a delightful gathering of CBCers.

Nice to see Margaret present a Life Membership Certificate to Robyn Young (wife of Bob Young) and hear her history of CBC life and the amazing rules that applied toward personnel in the early years.

Great to also see the Long Distance Travellers who come to support our events. Your support is greatly appreciated as is that of The Locals who are always in attendance at our Sydney events. It is this spirit that makes our events so popular and enjoyable to attend.

I spoke briefly at the luncheon about the current bank balance and the longer term reality that we will eventually run out of cash as an organisation. The Committee, does not want to concern our members and this eventuality will likely not occur for some time but as prudent managers the Committee should rightly look ahead to the future where our finances are concerned and keep our members advised accordingly. Unlike the NAB Club we receive no support or subsidy from any organisation and so we need to live within our means within the overall need to provide our members with our usual standard of bon homme for all members spread across Australia in line with the original aims and objectives of the Club.

You may or may not be aware that we subsidise luncheons and often the bar bill at both our quarterly luncheons and Out of Sydney luncheons in addition to providing prizes at luncheons plus other facilities during any calendar year. In addition we still provide over 70 members with paper copies of our quarterly newsletter which now cost nearly \$7 each to send to each recipient. This is to overcome the fact that these members do not possess a computer. We know how much all members look forward to their quarterly dose of Ness Magic and we should acknowledge the great job the Team does in producing this very readable and informative publication. Our only income is the annual membership subscriptions we receive and any generous donations we may receive from time to time. We do not look to make any profit on any luncheon we hold.

We will continue to monitor our financial position and keep members informed as we progress things going forward. Be assured we do not want to change the way we do things and the standards we have established with any of the events we hold for our members.

Kind regards to all Members from the Committee,

*David*



**Robyn and Bob Young**

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Thanks to Bob Handel for designing and printing the souvenir menus

## CBC BALLINA LUNCHEON More photos on pages 8 & 9



Paul Brett, Kerri Kleidon, Ian Cooke (who presented the Lucky Door prizes), and Margaret Powell

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MINUTES OF C.B.C. OFFICERS CLUB INC  
Luncheon Meeting held at “Barracks on Barrack” 5-7 Barrack Street Sydney  
**2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

- OPENED** 12:26 by President David Wyndham, with a welcome to Members and guests.
- FINANCE** Treasurer Margaret Powell informed the Club that 47 Members were present, including 24 Life Members.  
TD is \$18,000 @ 5% (maturing 4<sup>th</sup> September) and Current Account balance is \$4,562.29 which will cover approximately \$2,205 for this luncheon.
- MEMBERSHIP** Currently 422 active Members including 156 with Life Membership.
- APOLOGIES** An apology was received from Mary LAMBORN.
- BIRTHDAYS** The Members sang Happy Birthday to the 14 Members present who had a birthday during the quarter.
- MEETING ADJOURNED** at 12:45 for consumption of the meal.
- MEETING RE-CONVENED** at 1:55.
- LUCKY DOOR PRIZES** Won by Alan Pitt, Alan Crane and Peter Beaumont.
- PRESENTATION** A Life Membership Certificate was presented to Robyn Young, who gave a short history of her CBC career.
- CLOSURE** Meeting closed at 2:15.

**LIST OF ATTENDEES**

Stuart Adey	Peter Beaumont	Vic Beecraft
Paul Brett	Ralph Buchanan	Jennifer Bullen
Philip Casey	Ian Christopherson	Bill Crandell
Alan Crane	Ed de Ridder	Bob Ellicott
Alan Gordon	Robert Handel	Doug Harding
Jennifer Hayne	Wally Henretty	John Howe
John Kenny	Ray Knight OAM	Dennis Lee
Richard McCredie	Geoff McIntyre AM	Neil McManis
Kim Naylor	John Ness	Richard Nott AM
Kerry O'Connor	Roslyn O'Connor	Lorraine Pejic
Alan Pitt	Margaret Powell	Richard Prideaux
Rowan Raymond-Jones	Chris Rush	Frank Scurr
Margaret Sewell	Peter Sewell	Gwen Smith
Bernie Stewart	Phil Treloar	Graeme Vine
Colin Ware	John Williams	David Wyndham
Robyn Young	Bob Young	Marlen Zilinsky

**SNIPPETS**

**Frank GERKE**

Frank’s correspondence has been returned “Not known at this Address”. His home phone line (now disconnected) is of no assistance and we do not have a mobile or Email address for him, so if anyone knows his whereabouts would they please let us know.

**David JOBSON.**



for sale in a shop near Mullumbimby for \$3,000. Pic sent by my brother today.

I remember Properties reminding us at the branches at merger, that if any staff member pinched the one from their branch they would be in big trouble!

I didn't, but when I visited Corowa 12 months later after I left, that branch one was gone.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:**

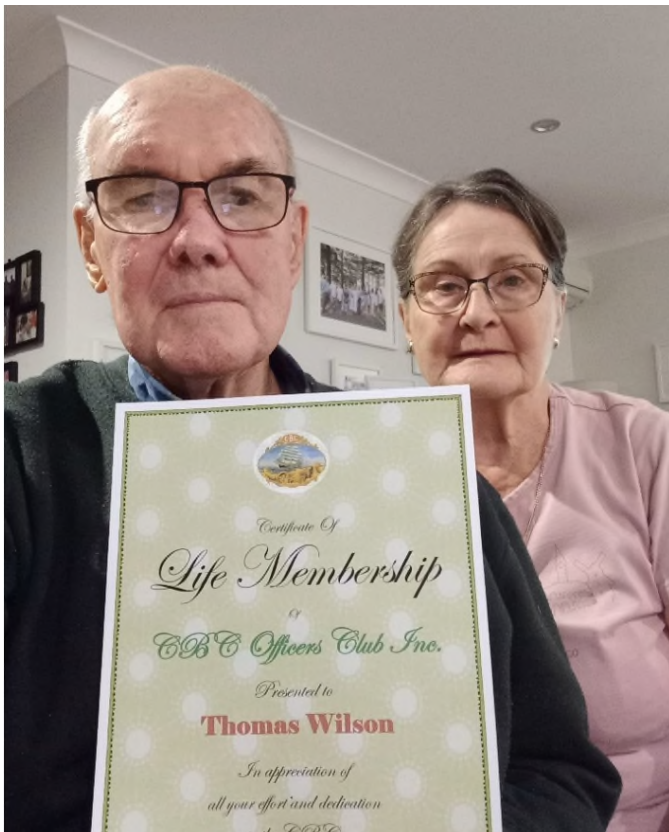
**Geoff CHAPMAN**

Geoff was due to attend the Ballina luncheon, but he couldn't because he ended up in the Ballina hospital.

Nonetheless after the luncheon Bob, Margaret and I visited the hospital where I presented his Life Membership Certificate to Geoff. He was very pleased to receive same and it was a special occasion for Geoff.

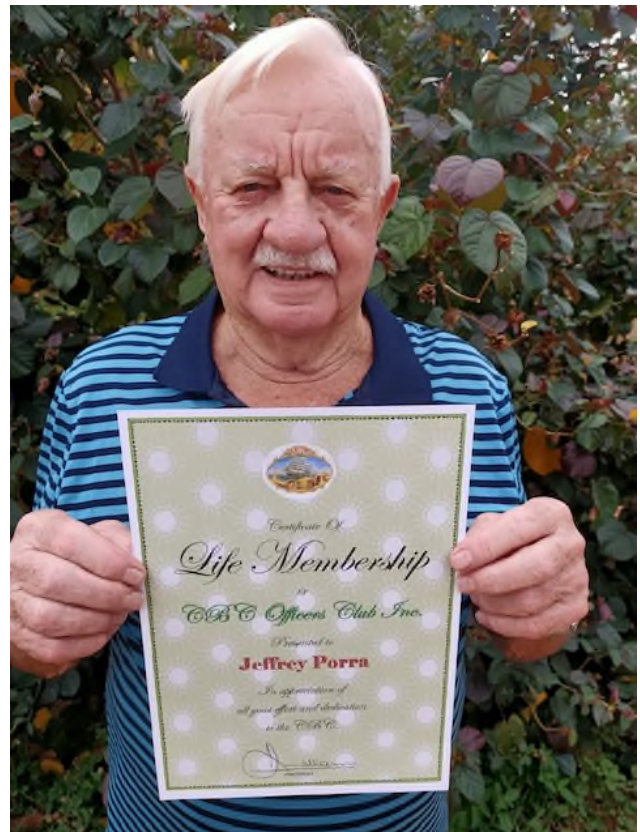
David Wyndham

**Thomas WILSON**



**Thomas Jasper & Joan Wilson live in Warners Bay. He started in 1961. Service included Inspector's Clerk and corporate Banking at HO**

**Jeff PORRA**



**Jeff Porra is from Wannanup, WA. He started in Horsham Vic in 1960 and served in Victorian branches**

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**They say lightning never strikes twice in the same place. For one Australian bank manager it was a different tale when his branch in Heathcote, Victoria, 70 kms from Bendigo, was to be robbed three times at gunpoint, by the same masked gang. Ex-bank manager Jeff Porra tells the real life story of the most terrifying half hour' of his life at the hands of thugs the press dubbed as the 'After Dark Bandits.'**

### **THREE TIMES UN-LUCKY!**

**By Jeff Porra**

One Friday afternoon in August 1978, I took our four children to Bendigo to stay with their aunt while I visited my wife who was seriously ill in Bendigo Base Hospital, suffering from pneumonia.

At around 5 pm that same afternoon at the aunt's place, on a television news flash, I saw that a local bank branch in Heathcote, Victoria had been robbed. It was my bank. I was the manager.

I hurriedly jumped into the car and took off for Heathcote at a fast pace to find the bank teeming with police and half the townspeople crowded around.

It transpired that at 4.45 p.m. a masked man walked into the bank wielding a revolver and with a bag, demanding money. He locked all the staff in the stationery room and fled with \$14,000 in cash.

He took the female teller's car heading to the local showground where an accomplice was waiting in another vehicle from where they drove out of town.

The staff were shaken but in good spirits. The following Monday my Regional manager telephoned to suggest, in strong terms, that regardless of my wife's serious illness, I was not to leave the bank premises during business hours ever again. It was an order from on high, he advised, I would be wise to obey.

Five months passed and I was attending a managers' conference in a Bendigo hotel. It was the week before Christmas. Afterwards, about seven managers adjourned to the lounge bar for drinks. We had hardly settled down when the hotel phone rang and the barman called for me by name. I felt the blood drain from my face. It was a Friday again, late afternoon. I exclaimed to my colleagues: 'Not my bank again!'

Sure enough, we had been robbed a second time, by the same bandit, wearing the same mask. The mask was that of an ugly old man's face made of latex with scraggy long hair. They can be bought at novelty shops.

This time round he had arrived in town with a vehicle towing a horse float. The races were on in Bendigo that day and horse floats in the main street were a common sight. He parked at the showgrounds again, hopped on a motorbike that had been in the horse float, rode to the bank and proceeded with the robbery.

On this occasion, the staff were even more shaken as he threatened them with the revolver which he had stolen from a bank in Gippsland, on a previous robbery. During the hold-up he asked the senior teller where the manager was, saying cheekily: 'Doesn't he ever work?' He fled with \$16,000 cash.

This time I was not castigated by bank hierarchy for not being on the premises - only because I was away on official bank business.

Life soon returned to as normal as possible, but we all had the uneasy feeling that this could happen yet again. The police still had no clues as to the bandit's identity.

At 9 a.m. on Friday, April 21, 1979 just four months later I received a phone call from the local State manager. He had just received a message from Head Office in Melbourne advising that an anonymous caller had warned that a bank in Heathcote would be robbed that day. I remember well my heavy reply: 'I bet it will be my bank again.'

As the day progressed, rather edgily. I did notice the police car patrolling up and down the main street on a regular basis which made us all feel a little better. My staff, nerves strained, were aware of the threat and we were all on the alert. that was about to unfold. *The next half hour was to be the most terrifying of my life*

At 4.30 p.m. Snr. Constable Koch had noticed something odd down the side street beside the bank. The bandit, had already gone into our garage at the rear of the bank property, donned his mask and was walking towards the front of the bank when he spotted the patrol car. He ducked behind a small tree just as the police car turned into the side street to investigate. As the police car pulled into the kerb the bandit wrenched open the driver's side door and grappled with Constable Koch. The policeman tried to draw his service revolver but the bandit dragged him out of the car onto the road where they wrestled. During the fierce struggle Koch was shot twice, once in the stomach and once in the side.

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He was dragged to his feet and frog-marched into the front door of the bank where he was shoved, bleeding profusely, onto a chair. The masked bandit was brandishing a large hunting knife in one hand and the revolver in the other. He ordered the staff to raise their hands and shouted: 'Where is the bloody manager this time?'

I was in the passageway between the bank and the bank-house residence, which adjoined, when Jan, our teller, called out my name and I knew by her voice, at that moment, that the raid was on. He was in the bank. I had no choice but to walk in and face him.

He was very agitated at this stage and threatened to shoot us all if we didn't hurry and get the money. I got my keys to the safe from my office and he marched the senior teller, Steve, and I into the strongroom where the safe was. I was shaking and fumbling the keys, trying to get them into the safe and he was yelling at us to hurry up.

He had a blue bag, which he ordered us to fill up. There was around \$30,000 in the safe.

Steve began to fill up the bag, placing one bundle in the bag and secreting one bundle up the back of the safe. I was thinking: 'If this fella sees this we are dead, for sure.' But he was too busy watching both us and the others in the banking area.

Finally he grabbed the bag with about \$18,000 cash in it and turning to Jan, demanded: 'Give me your car keys.'

Meanwhile Snr Constable Koch, half sitting, skimped, half lying in a pool of blood, was in bad way. He was calling out to me to get him some water. With the loss of blood he was dehydrating quickly.

The bandit was already backing out towards the front door when he told the staff junior: 'You can call the ambulance now.' With that he fled, driving the teller's car to the showgrounds, where it was later found abandoned.

Back at the bank, I had called my wife Marj to attend to the shot police officer. By this time he was in bad shape. As luck would have it in a small country town, the ambulance was parked directly across the road while the local ambulance driver was doing his shopping. Quickly alerted to the emergency he raced swiftly to Bendigo Base Hospital from where Snr. Constable Koch was flown to St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne. One bullet had lodged in an artery and was slowly travelling towards his heart.

Fortunately they operated successfully and saved his life, but he never worked again.

I was in a state of numbness. I spent some time in hospital suffering from shock and went on three months long service leave soon afterwards. My family were all terrified at the thought of living on the premises in the bank house after that - and we moved out to the local school principal's home.

But that was still not the end of it all.

The next day Heathcote was alive with police and detectives from Bendigo and Melbourne. The mobile crime scene caravan was set up in front of the police station.

A local police constable had been driving down the main street of Bendigo on the Saturday morning following the robbery when he saw a suspicious looking character, carrying a suitcase, duck into a laneway. He quickly gave chase and, when confronted, the man drew a pistol and threatened to shoot the policeman.

A struggle ensued and the constable was able to overpower the suspect. On examination, the suitcase he had been carrying was found to contain the bandit's mask, knife, bullets and the proceeds from the bank robbery.

He was promptly arrested and taken into custody.

Meanwhile, his twin brother rang police headquarters threatening to kill both me and my family. On the Monday morning our children had a police escort to school and were guarded all day. That afternoon, the twin brother walked into a suburban police station and gave himself up.

After questioning both brothers it was established that they had carried out 25 armed hold-ups throughout Victoria during a two year crime spree. They came to be known by the media as the 'After Dark Bandits' because most of their jobs were pulled off soon after darkness fell.

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## CBC BALLINA LUNCHEON

*The Officers Club has much pleasure in welcoming you to the Out of Sydney Luncheon at Ballina*

*21<sup>st</sup> October 2024*

Beresford	Pete	Johnston	Ian
Brett	Paul	Johnston	Jeff & Sue
Chancellor	Donald & Joanne	Jones	Laurie & Mary-Alice
<i>Chapman</i>	<i>Geoff</i>	Kleidon	Kerri & Des
Christopherson	Ian & Genevieve	Leeson	Darrell
Cooke	Ian & Jane	Lewczuk	Michael & Sandra
<i>Crowley</i>	<i>Vic</i>	Lindsay	David
Davies	Rod & Lyn	Mudford	David
Denley	Harry & Robyn	Nicol	Kevin & Sylvia
Drew	Terry	<i>Nott AM</i>	<i>Richard</i>
Durrington	Margaret	Owens	Peter
Durrington	Marcia	Phelan	Eddie & Glynis
Eke	Kevin & Kate	Phillips	Rodney & Marj
Ellwood	John & Wendy	Powell	Margaret
Gandey	John	Proudfoot	John & Angela
Harmond	Lillian	Sandstrom	Brian
Handel	Robert & Robyn.	Slater	Joy
Hawkins	Graham & Judy-Anne	Spann	Robin
Hawthorne	Stuart	Westaway	John & Anne
Hayes	Paul	Wicks	Des & Lyn
Hayward	John & Kay	Wigginton	Neil & Chris
<i>Hillenberg</i>	<i>Neuille &amp; Gail</i>	Wyndham	David & Maureen
Holston	Ian	<i>Short</i>	<i>Graham</i>

- *Those in red were not able to attend.*

We had 70 attendees at a very successful luncheon at Ballina Jockey Club on 21st October, 2024. Members came from various points in Queensland and all over New South Wales. The feedback at the luncheon and since has been very positive and it would seem the attendees thoroughly enjoyed their time together and of course had the opportunity to renew friendships. These friendships meant that attendees often had not seen one another for many years were able to catch-up on the past and more importantly plan to see one another in the future.

We must thank the following- Margaret Powell and Bob Handel for the extraordinary job they both did in arranging things with the Jockey Club and Bob also produced a special commemorative menu that added to the enjoyment of the occasion. We must also give special thanks and mention to both Jeff Johnston and Ian Holston. Jeff was able to have the club waive the usual \$1,000 booking fee for our occasion and Ian was able to obtain a supply of Madura Tea samples which were handed out to all attendees. Many thanks to you both. In addition it would be very remiss not to "Thank" the personnel at the Club who went out of their way to ensure the room looked its best and there was morning tea for attendees on arrival. The food and bar services during our luncheon were exceptional as was the quality of the food during our time at the club.

This co-operation and special effort always makes the hard work of organising these functions worthwhile. These functions are usually done by remote control and the level of co-operation with all involved makes the process so much easier. We always aim to provide attendees with the best possible venue, food and refreshments and the support given by those attending the Out of Sydney Luncheons is the diamond on top of the whole process. We could not have the success we have experienced over a number of the functions without the wonderful support of our members. Long may it continue.

We will be thinking about the next function for 2025 and any suggestions for a likely venue are always welcome.

With Christmas and the Festive Season approaching at a frightening rate the Committee would like to join me in wishing each and every one of you All the Best for this special time of the year and we look forward to a successful 2025 and good health to every one of you.

Kind Regards, David Wyndham





**Tables layout at the Ballina Jockey Club**



**Harry & Robyn Denley, Kate Eke & Kevin Eke,  
David & Maureen Wyndham**





Thanks to the catering team, Lyn Nevan & Michelle McElroy (daughter-in-law of our Gordon McElroy who retired from CBC Nowra) for providing a delicious lunch



David Wyndham's welcome speech.



David and Jeff Johnston with a gift of a signature bottle of wine for organising many of the attendees and procuring the function room at no cost to the club.



David presenting Ian Holston with a gift of a signature bottle of wine for organising many of the attendees and a gift of Madura tea caddies for each attendee..



Lillian Harmond, Paul Brett, Jane & Ian Cooke, Darryl Leeson, Margaret Powell, Bob and Robyn Handel



Keven Eke's thanks for arranging the day.

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### **CBC GOLDEN OLDIES CRICKET CLUB**

14 games for the season have been organised.

The first game was on 8<sup>th</sup> September against Mid North Coast at Tuncurry.

Our first match for season 2024/25 was against Mid North Coast at Tuncurry on 8th September, 2024. Mid North Coast won the toss and elected to bat. The CBC bowling was on the spot and kept Mid North Coast to a score of 9/127 from 40 overs. Martin Dubler picked up 2 wickets and was responsible for a run out. The remaining wickets were shared amongst the other bowlers.

Darryl Semmler, 18 (ret'd) and Steve Long, 15 got CBC off to a good start. John Granata, 11 and Rob Drummond, 35 both retired after adding some quick runs. Scott Marshall, 5 was the second wicket to fall and then David Flaks, 30 and Steve Allan, 12 took the CBC score to 2/130 after 28 overs.

A comfortable first up win. Martin Dubler was awarded Man Of The Match for his bowling and fielding. Rob Drummond won the Bradman stump for his 35.

Our second match was against Sri Lanka Lions at Woodlands Park, Wilberforce on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2024. After the good start to the season, it was a confident CBC team as the Lions had only won one match of the seven encounters to date.

The CBC won the toss and sent the Lions into bat. The recent dry spell meant the outfield was lightning fast. The Lions at drinks, 20 overs, were 6/100. A good run rate but in danger of not utilising their full quota of overs. However, their batsmen had other ideas and, although they were all out after 38 overs they had compiled a healthy 211.

The start of the CBC innings was not what was required and only 18 runs were on the board after the first 10 overs. It was even worse after 21 overs with the score 6/52. Ed Cross and Michael Kench added some much needed runs to both retire. When they returned to the crease, Michael was dismissed for 42. Darryl Semmler who opened and retired and Ed took the score to 9/150 after 50 overs. CBC were never in the hunt.

Michael Kench was voted Man Of The Match and collected the Bradman stump for his 42.

Our match against Central Coast on 13th October, 2024 was cancelled as the Central Coast could not field a team. The match has been re-scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

Then it was the CBC turn to not be able to field a team for our match against Gentlemen Of Nowra Eleven on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. An effort was made to change the date to either the Sunday before or after but neither date suited the G.O.N.E. programme.

We will be playing Sri Lanka Lions again on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 and then Port Jackson Cricket Club on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

Bradman Oval, Bowral has already been booked for 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2025 for the Intra Club match for the Johnny Taylor Memorial Trophy.

*Tony Adnum*

## IN MEMORIAM:

### MEMBERS

Ken RYAN  
John SIMPSON  
Bob CLARKE

### NON-MEMBERS

### FAMILY

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#### **KENNETH CHARLES RYAN 3 February 1941 - 25 August 2024**

David Wyndham

Life Member **Ken** commenced at Woodenbong 14<sup>th</sup> January 1957, thence Cronulla, Richmond, Cooma, Wauchope and Lidcombe after which various security positions in Head Office. He retired from Paralegal Services on 5th July 1996. Ken was past President of the CBC Golden Oldies Cricket Club (2014-2017) and as a keen cricketer, accompanied by Ruth, they visited Golden Oldies Cricket Festivals in New Zealand, Canada, Armidale and Adelaide. Ken was also a keen tennis player, associated with a Club at Hunters Hill. On behalf of the CBC Officers Club, I extend our sincerest condolences to Ruth and Ken's family.

#### **JOHN SIMPSON**

Tracey Lyons (Daughter)

#### **4 April 1933 - 25 September 2024**

It is with great sadness that I advise of my Dad's passing, peacefully, at the SAN hospital. He deeply missed our Mum, Tessa, who he survived for 8 years. Dad was an avid reader of all things CBC and was extremely proud of his long career.

#### **JAMES ROBERT CLARKE**

David Wyndham

#### **15 July 1943 - 5 November 2024**

Life Member **Bob** served from March 1959 until March 1985, commencing at Petersham thence Maroubra, Gymea, Sydney University, Cowra, Rose Bay, Padstow, Haymarket, Gymea, Kogarah, Elizabeth & King, Broadway, St. Leonards Centre Branch, Hurstville and Sydney Office. On behalf of the Club, we pass on our deepest condolences to Michelle and children Scott, Christie, Richard and Susie.

Thanks once again to all the contributors:

**Margaret Powell** for collecting funds and recording details in the database,  
**Rowan Raymond-Jones** for compiling the In Memoriam, Minutes of the September meeting and catering,  
**Bob Handel** for collating the Snippets and issuing the emailed newsletters, and  
**Wayne Linnert** for distributing the printed newsletters.

I hope there will be lots of new faces at the December Christmas luncheon which will be held at



**John Ness,**  
Newsletter Editor and Webmaster  
(the Octogenarian)