



Pittwater Mens Probus
Amicus et Dignus

Newsletter

Email: probus@pittwater.org.au

January 2017

Website: www.probus.pittwater.org.au

Presidents Message

It is nice to know that we are starting 2017 with planning for a busy program already well underway. In February we have our Trivia night and a visit to the site of the new Northern Beaches Hospital. For March we have a BBQ planned and a boat trip on Pittwater on Members boats.

Later in the year we are looking at a trip to the Temora Air show in November; visiting a multi-million dollar car show on the Central Coast; a 'Meet the Committee' lunch at Church Point and a ferry trip to Ettalong with lunch at the RSL.

Speakers planned for the next three months will cover the NSW Art Gallery, the place of Nuclear Power generation in Australia and the visit we had from Japanese subs during WW2. Five minute speakers will cover the NBN and yachting in the Bahamas.



And, of course, our regular events will continue – the investment group will make more (hypothetical) money and our Golfers will continue to hit off at Palm Beach on the 2nd Friday of each month.

Plenty of variety there!

So best wishes for a healthy and rewarding 2017 and I look forward to seeing you at many of these activities.

Bill Sherman

Future Speakers

January 2017		Les Moseley, a retired local school principal, will talk about the Guiding Highlight Collection of the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Les will also talk about the Archibald Prize. Les was for many years head of volunteer guides to the Gallery. His talk is purely personal and not in any official capacity.
February 2017	Martin Thomas has agreed to talk to us about nuclear power and where it could fit into Australia's energy needs. Martin has toured the world with Ziggy Switkowski looking at nuclear plants and has spoken widely on this topic.	
March 2017	Noel Phelan, a volunteer guide at the Sydney Maritime Museum, has agreed to talk about the Japanese submarines that invaded Sydney Harbour in 1942.	

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Speaker's Corner



December each year is "Presidents Pick".

President Bill Sherman described, complete with slides and videos, the many blends of whisky from around the world. Bill described how whisky is made and what makes one whisky different from another. The difference between single malt and blended whisky. How to enjoy whisky, that is how to drink it!

To top off the talk, Bill had a number of different samples to taste. A good quality blended Scottish whisky; a heavily peated whisky from the Scottish Isles; an Indian whisky; a Tasmanian single malt; a straight bourbon from the USA and a Moonshine for the brave.



Whisky Galore!



Guess who is first to the bar!



Now that is smooth.

To further appreciate the difference between Irish Whiskey versus Scotch Whisky make sure you read Editor's Corner below.

Pittwater Probus Christmas Lunch

The Annual Pittwater Probus Christmas Lunch was a huge success with nearly 70 members and guests present. Many thanks to Lunch Organiser Gordon Stokes.



**MC Brian Kennedy and Lunch Organiser Gordon Stokes
welcoming members and guests.**



Robyn and John Harston conducting the drawing of the Lucky Door Prizes.



I think this bottle needs to be opened up ...



...and poured out.



**Pittwater Probud Club proudly marks the occasion.
Thank you, Gordon.**

Now that's a hard question!



TRIVIA NIGHT

FEBRUARY 14, 2017. FROM 6 PM.

MONA VALE GOLF CLUB

DINNER (2 COURSES & COFFEE) \$32

PLEASE PAY AT THE JANUARY PROBUS MEETING

And there's more ...

Tuesday 21st February 2017	Visit to the Northern Beaches Hospital now under construction.
Thursday 23rd March 2017	Boating on Pittwater.
Wednesday 29th March 2017	The ever popular BBQ at the Flying Fox Park on Winnererremy Bay. Cost \$5 per head.
June 2017	Pittwater ferry trip to Ettalong and lunch at the Ettalong RSL Club.
October 2017	Join the Pittwater Probus Executive Committee for lunch at Church Point.
October 2017	The Past Presidents Lunch.
November 2017	Travel to Temora and witness the exciting Air Show.

5 Minute Speakers

January Meeting	Club members Michael Mannington and David Bennett will give a brief update on the NBN.
February Meeting	Club member Roman Zwolenski will talk about sailing in the Bahamas.

Signing up for the NBN



Australia's
broadband
network

The coming of the NBN to Pittwater is now a reality with the Avalon exchange users able to connect to the NBN. After much, often political discussion, this technology is now available to those who sign up to change.

For many, this will be an opportunity to review the provider options on offer. In many cases this will lead to a puzzling comparison between provider option costs and what the user requirements are.

The NBN is giving us a choice of some seventy different providers and confusion seems likely. For example should you continue with your current provider or is it time for a change to the seemingly more price competitive options by providers you are not familiar with?

Many residents feel on their own and are confused by a bombardment of advertising sometimes offering seemingly amazing bargains of unlimited calls and data speeds previously only to dream about.

Some NBN installs go smoothly however the majority are fraught with technical and administrative difficulties. This can mean delay of several days and in some cases weeks and the householder can be left with a swamp of problem issues that are beyond comprehension and sometimes beyond the abilities of the installation staff

During this time you may or may not have a phone and your internet is on hold.

To assist residents with the change over to the NBN there is a free presentation organised by Avalon Computer Pals in conjunction with The Northern Beaches Council.

NBN on the Northern Beaches by Michael Tyler

1.30PM Tuesday 31 January. Newport Community Centre.

Michael Tyler is the Community Affairs Manager for the Northern Beaches region. His presentation will be of interest to all of us using or about to use the NBN in Pittwater. Michael will bring us all up to date with the NBN and have a Q & A session after his presentation.

Bookings essential. Ring Peter on 8064 3574

Golf



The December game was rained out.

Next game Friday January 13th 10 00am Palm Beach Golf Club. All welcome.

Pittwater Probus Investment Group



The Pittwater Probus Investment Group hard at work planning the 2017 Investment Strategy.

Editor's Corner

Irish Whiskey vs Scotch Whisky

Although the alcoholic beverage known as whiskey is manufactured and devoured around the world, it was first distilled in Ireland. Whiskey production in Ireland resulted from the bread eating culture where the rural poor would grow grain, and use the mash from the grain to produce whiskey. However, Scotland is credited for refining the most popular grain spirit, and as you may have noticed, it is spelled as 'whisky' in Scotland, whereas the Irish prefer to spell it as 'whiskey'.

One of the key differences between Scotch whisky and Irish whiskey is the distillation process. While Scotch whisky is distilled only twice, Irish whiskey undergoes triple distillation, giving it a marked lightness, and this is done in pot stills that are thrice the size of normal copper stills, hence the uniquely fine drink that is Irish whiskey. Scotch whisky uses uninterrupted process stills.

While making Scotch whisky, the barley used is wholly malted, and it is first allowed to sprout, and then it is dried. Peat smoke is used in the drying process, which produces the distinctive Scotch aroma of the whisky. As for Irish whiskey, raw and malted barley is used in the pot still phase. The barley is dried in kilns that are covered, keeping the barley's natural flavour, resulting in a key quality of Irish whiskey.

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In making Irish whiskey, greater importance is attached to the distilling process, whereas for Scotch whisky, the emphasis is laid on the master blender's skills, where blended Scotch whisky is produced by mixing various mature malt and grain whiskies, hence the process of 'blending'. The Irish believe in the principle that the 'skill' is in forming the right distillates to begin with, a technique they refer to as 'vatting'. The aging time of the whiskeys differ as well. Scotch whisky is kept in the cask for a minimum of two years, while Irish whiskey is aged for a minimum of three years.

Also, depending on the region where the whiskey was produced, the label on the whiskey will represent that. Scotch whisky can only be labelled 'Scottish whisky' if it was produced and matured in Scotland. Likewise, the whiskey made in Ireland is the one labelled as 'Irish whiskey'.

An Irish alternative to whiskey is known as poitin (potcheen). **Poteen** is a raw spirit or 'moonshine' that was traditionally distilled from locally produced cereals (grain), sometimes barley and later from potatoes, which was introduced into Europe in the 16th century. The other two key ingredients were yeast and sugar. The term Poitín is a derivative of the Irish word pota, meaning "pot" and basically describes the little copper pot stills, in which people used to make it at home. This clear Irish spirit is famous for its alcohol strength. It can be made anywhere from 40% to up to 90% of alcohol by volume.



The Irish wake was created because of the after effects of Poitin

In Ireland, a wake is held for the dead, as there were doubts that the person was really dead and was just unconscious from drinking. Catatonic state brought on by lead poisoning, caused from drinking from pewter tankards, could also be mistaken for death. The burial delay was justified by the fact the dead could wake up at night and start knocking inside the coffin (an inside knock was built inside the coffin) and yell to get out. The poor unfortunate had then a chance to rejoin the others and drink more Poitín

Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc.

Meeting	13 th December 2016 Meeting opened by President Bill Sherman. 32 members present, 14 apologies. Julie Danks, President of Narrabeen Lakes Ladies Probus Club was a guest on the day.
Minutes	Minutes of the November meeting were published, Mvd. Bruce Farrar, 2 nd Ron Seldon, carried. No business arising.
Birthdays	Cliff Dunn, Graham Morgan, Bob Anderson, George Crowley, Laurie Magill, Graham Morley, Allan Smith, Warwick Dalzell.
Anniversaries	Nil.
Correspondence	PSP Inc. Merchandise Catalogue. Yearly account forms.
Treasurer's Report	Presented by David Varley Balance at 1/11/2016 \$3,730.71 Receipts: Subs \$40.00, Joining Fee \$20.00, Morning Tea \$88.00, Christmas Lunch \$3,025.00 Total \$3,173.00 Payments: Morning Teas \$120.00, Admin \$137.00 Total \$257.00 Balance at 30/11/2016 \$6,646.71 Mvd. David Varley, 2 nd John Owens, carried
Welfare Report	Cyril Webb enjoying a healthy life style. Ivan Patrick excellent recovery.
Activities	John Harston suggested a trip to the North Coast to visit a Car Museum. Premier's Gala Concert March 2017 to make bookings, Christmas Lunch 20 th at Mona Vale Golf Club, 67 members and friends have accepted. Trivia night 14 th February 2017.
Speakers	Brian Kennedy has organised the following speakers; January Les Mosely NSW Art Gallery Collection, February Martin Thomas Nuclear Energy Plants, March Noel Phelan Japanese Subs in Sydney Harbour.
IT Report	No report.
Golf	Golf at Palm Beach 15 th November at 10 am.
General Business	No General Business
Speaker	Being President's Day, Bill Sherman described the origins and blends of Whisky with slides, video and to the delight and pleasure to those members present, seven different whiskeys from around the world.
Next Meeting	10 th January 2017 Meeting Closed at 12.10 pm. Signed as a correct record.

Office Bearers for 2016/2017

President	Bill Sherman 9997 5532	Speaker Organiser	Brian Kennedy 9918 0937
Vice President	Ron Seldon 9918 0677	Editor	Warwick Dalzell 9997 4518
Secretary	Bruce Farrar 9971 2042	Communications & IT Officer	Michael Mannington 9973 1624
Treasurer	David Varley 9918 7154	Registrar	Trevor Stephens 9918 21 38
Assist. Treasurer	John Crawford 9979 6149	Assist. Registrar	Graeme Proctor 9999 2281
Welfare Officer	Bill Marshall 9999 5226	Auditor	Arthur Napper 9999 0233
Activities Officer	John Harston 9940 0446	Public Officer	Bill Henderson 9997 5723
Functions Organiser	Gordon Stokes 9999 2073	Golf Convenor	Alan Smith 9999 1334