



**Pittwater Mens Probus**  
Amicus et Dignus

## Newsletter

Email: [probus@pittwater.org.au](mailto:probus@pittwater.org.au)

**March 2017**

Website: [www.probus.pittwater.org.au](http://www.probus.pittwater.org.au)

### Presidents Message

The latest list of discounts available to Probus Members has been published– and it is pretty good.

As you would expect there are a lot of travel discounts, such as 20% off Captain Cook Cruises on Sydney Harbour and 7.5% off APT (thinking of doing a canal cruise in Europe?). And, of course, there is the Probus Travel Insurance available as well. Incidentally, they are offering a multi trip insurance now as well as single trip cover for people who expect more than one trip in any year.

Other discounts may be of more interest. They are available from suppliers as diverse as Car Search Brokers, probate lawyers, online books and pet supplies. The Ambassador Card, for example, is available for \$22 instead of the usual \$199 which gives you discounted access to some 1,650 restaurants, hotels and cinemas etc.

The full list and how to access them is on the PSPL website at [www.probussouthpacific.org/lifestyle](http://www.probussouthpacific.org/lifestyle) under Members Services.

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I have always found the heading 'President's Message' seriously pompous (it was inherited!) but it does provide a way to speak to all Members and in this, my last one, I would like to use that opportunity to wish my successor all the best for his year in office and to express the hope that he enjoys the job as much as I have.

Bill Sherman

### Golf



The team had 6 starters on a very hot day with rain forecast.

The results were:

1. John Owens with 25 Stableford Points.
2. Geoff Richards with 20 Stableford Points
3. David Varley and Allan Smith with 17 Stableford Points each.

Next game, Friday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 00 am at Palm Beach Golf Club. Lunch after at Club Palm Beach. All welcome.

[www.probus.pittwater.org.au](http://www.probus.pittwater.org.au)

## Speaker's Corner

One of the most controversial topics in Australia today is the use or misuse of nuclear energy. This was addressed by Martin Thomas in his talk last month. When some people consider nuclear power their minds automatically equate it with the production of atomic bombs or Chernobyl or Three Mile Island, the latter two being accidents with disastrous consequences.

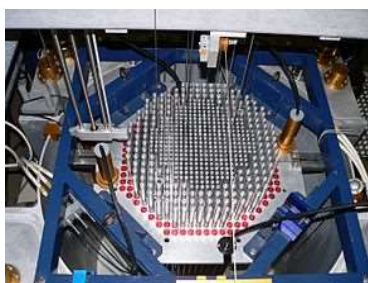
The energy source for nuclear energy is of course Uranium. Uranium is a scarce resource, its supply is estimated to last only for the next 30 to 60 years depending on the actual demand.

Australia has the largest amount of known uranium resources in the world, amounting to 31 percent of the global total yet it is illegal to use it to produce nuclear energy in this country. It does, however, mine and export uranium to many countries world-wide. Australian policy is that Australian uranium can only be sold to countries with which Australia has a nuclear cooperation agreement, to make sure that countries are committed to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.



Martin then gave us some statistics which help us to envisage the pros and cons of this type of energy. Of the thirty countries in which nuclear power plants operate, only France, Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine use them as the source for a majority of electricity, although many other countries have a significant nuclear power generation capacity. (For France, the figure is about 75% -with substantial exports to its neighbours).

Nuclear power generation does emit relatively low amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The emissions of greenhouse gases and therefore the contribution of nuclear power plants to climate change is therefore relatively little.



It is possible to generate a high amount of electrical energy in one single plant. On the other hand, the problem of radioactive waste is still an unsolved one. The waste from nuclear energy is extremely dangerous and it has to be carefully looked after for several thousand years (10,000 years according to United States Environmental Protection Agency standards). Martin

showed us some of the different methods used for storage.

Despite a generally high security standard, as we know, accidents can still happen. It is technically impossible to build a plant with 100% security. A small probability of failure will always last. The consequences of an accident can be absolutely devastating. Nuclear power has unwarrantedly gained a reputation for dangerous radiation and resulting deaths. However, the truth is that nuclear power, including the tragedy of Chernobyl, is by a huge margin less dangerous than all fossil fuel generation and also less than hydro and all renewables.

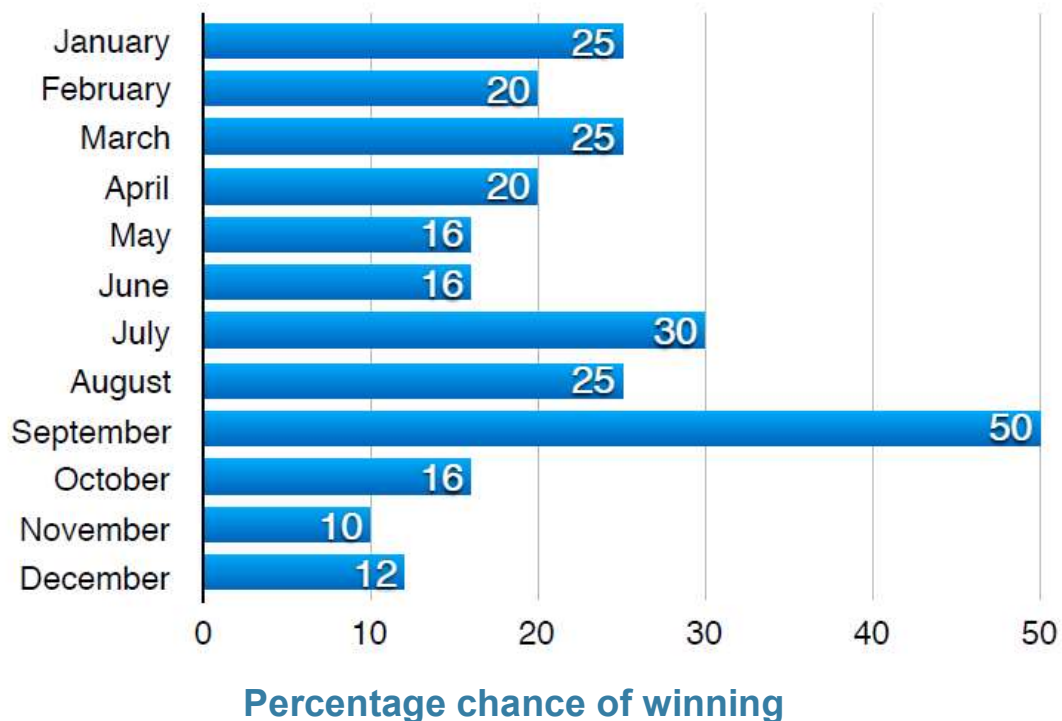
## It's a Matter of ....

### *Birthday Odds*

At Probus we believe our organisation to be egalitarian. After all our membership is reflective of a broad range of citizens. All we ask of our members is to live sufficiently close to attend meetings and yes, be male. So how is it possible that our monthly routine of recognising members birthdays with the opportunity to win a bottle of wine appears to be so unequal?

Let me immediately make it clear. This is not the fault of the club, its constitution or the managing committee. It's just a fact of life or to be more precise, birth. Your chance of winning the bottle of wine swings wildly depending on the month you arrived.

Take a look at this diagram which shows your percentage chances of taking home the alcohol, based on membership data as at Feb 2017.



How should the club manage this discriminatory situation? Initially this is obviously, a handicap system. But how would this work? Weight for age or do we call on an expanded Duckworth Lewis formula? Thankfully drug testing appears to be gratuitous as we would need to appoint a steward to the committee. Fortunately our membership boasts several medical professionals who could fill this role but then they should disbar themselves from the draw. Hardly fair.

So what remedial steps can members take? Obviously not many, changing your month of birth would lead to multitudes of adverse consequences particularly outside the Probus domain.

Pleading amnesia cannot be recommended and the Club Secretary will not be amused. A better approach would be to consider the odds to be more favourable than many popular recreations such as the pokies, lotto or for some members, even the Probus golf trophy.

So when you win the bottle you have probably beaten the odds. Doesn't that make you feel good even if you are a year older.

*The author was born in September.*

## March 2017 Activities

Our Activities Officer, John Harston, has been busy organising 2 fun get-togethers for this month.



The first is on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>, sailing on picturesque Pittwater on Probus Club Member Boats. The first time John organised this event, it was a tremendous success. Make sure you do not miss out on this occasion. See John during the March meeting.

The second event is the ever popular BBQ at Flying Fox Park, Winnererremy Bay, Mona Vale on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 5 00 pm. Cost is \$5 per person. Enjoy the great Pittwater Probus camaraderie. Bring your own refreshments.



## Probus Club Fees

It is that time of the year again! In line with the AGM in March, we have to collect your annual Probus Club Membership Fees for 2017. The Committee has agreed to keep them the same as last year at \$40 per member.

Please make your payment to Treasurer David Varley at the March Meeting. Prompt payment will be very much appreciated.

## Sail Away

Sailing in the Caribbean is for most people, a pipe dream, but not for club member, Roman Zwolenski and friends who made it happen. In an interesting 5 minute talk during the February meeting, Roman showed us slides of his journey on a 47ft. catamaran.

Together they visited places like Antigua, St Kitts, St Barts and the Heineken Regatta and the thing that impressed him most - the camaraderie of the crew.

## 2016/2017 Accounts

### **PROBUS CLUB OF PITTWATER INC.**

### **RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS STATEMENT ...YEAR ENDING 28th FEBRUARY 2017**

<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>	<b><u>2015/2016</u></b>	<b><u>2016/2017</u></b>
Subscriptions	2,240.00	2,400.00
Joining Fee	130.00	110.00
Luncheons	3,261.04	4,522.00
Morning Tea	1,342.90	1,317.75
Interest	0.40	0.27
Donations	200.00	0.00
Total Receipts	7,174.34	8,350.02
<b><u>PAYMENTS</u></b>		
Morning Tea	1,440.00	1,440.00
Administration	1,867.56	1,078.74
Probus Supplies	400.00	300.00
Name Badges	107.21	102.91
Rent	115.00	121.00
Ins.& Capitation	724.50	796.25
State Taxes	53.00	54.00
Donations	100.00	0.00
Outings	68.01	141.17
Lunches	3,265.00	4,285.60
Total Payments	8,140.28	8,319.67
Deficiency/Excess	- 965.94	30.35
B/Forward	4,450.88	3,484.94
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>3,484.94</b>	<b>3,515.29</b>

## Speakers' Program

**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.

*Photo: HMAS Kuttabul following the Japanese attack.*

**April 2017**

My Brilliant Career

New Club Member, Wes Harder has volunteered to talk about his career. Wes was President of Toastmasters for many years. He began life as an exploration geologist before going into business as a company CEO.

<b>May 2017</b>	<p>The Secrets of Warren Buffet</p> <p>Paul Tieck will talk about the “Wizard of Omaha”, the legendary investor Warren Buffett. Paul took a special trip to Nebraska to hear the great man present his annual report.</p>
<b>June 2017</b>	<p>Gas Warfare of WW1.</p> <p>Cousin of Pittwater Probus Member Arthur Napper, Don Napper will talk about the introduction of gas warfare on the Western Front which earned its inventor Fritz Harber a Nobel Prize and a place in infamy in the history of WW1.</p>

## Trivia Night

A great night was held as Probus members and partners tested their knowledge on several topics posed to them by President and Quizmaster for the night, Bill Sherman. The prize was a lottery ticket that, if you win, provides \$2,500 a month for life!

Have not heard as yet whether the winning team has won the big prize.

In the meantime, the top score for the quiz was 39 with the runner up on 21 ½ . Big win!



**Quizmaster Bill Sherman leading proceedings.**





**Come on Bruce, you should know the answer to that.**



**Now was it Apollo or Aphrodite?**



**I'm sure the answer was in last weeks Manly Daily**



**The winning team takes the prize!**

## 2017 Functions & Activities Program

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Comments
13 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Thursday	Visit to the Motor Museum, Gosford	Manns Road, Gosford	Also visit the picturesque Mt Penang Gardens
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017	Friday	Pittwater ferry trip to Ettalong	Broken Bay	Lunch at Ettalong RSL Club
3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2017	Tuesday	Join the Pittwater Probus Executive Committee for lunch	Church Point Restaurant	\$28/person
October 2017	TBA	Past Presidents' Lunch	TBA	
19 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Tuesday	Annual Christmas Lunch		Partners very welcome



## Editor's Desk

### Chernobyl

The first explosion struck the Chernobyl nuclear reactor in the early hours of April 26, 1986. The blast and subsequent fire at the Ukrainian plant launched huge amounts of radioactive material into the atmosphere, with the toxic cloud affecting much of Europe. It remains the worst nuclear power plant disaster in history, with 56 people killed in the initial accident and hundreds of thousands affected by radiation-related illnesses in subsequent years.

The radiation affected much of the rest of Europe after winds caused the ash cloud to sweep across the continent.

Despite being nearly 1500 miles away, the impact of the disaster was felt in Scotland, albeit to a much lesser degree. Radiation that travelled from the blast site and fell on the areas of the country led to higher than usual levels noted in water supplies, food and livestock. The most affected areas were some hill land in the central belt, Dumfries and Galloway, Ross and Cromarty, Arran, and South Uist. Restrictions were placed on a number of Scots farms affected, and they had to pass stringent tests for their livestock, mostly sheep, to be sold. It took 24 years for the farms to be found radiation-free, and the precautions were lifted.

It may seem strange that Chernobyl could become a refuge for all kinds of animals—from moose, deer, beaver, and owls to more exotic species like brown bear, lynx, and wolves. Without people hunting them or ruining their habitat, the thinking goes, wildlife is thriving despite high radiation levels.



*The Przewalski horses nearly went extinct, but in an effort to save the species it was introduced into the area around Chernobyl in 1998 and to other reserves worldwide. Without humans living in the area, the horse population has been increasing.*

## Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc.

<b>Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2017 Meeting opened by President Bill Sherman. 34 members present, 12 apologies, 8 guests.
<b>Inductions</b>	Nil.
<b>Minutes</b>	Minutes of the January 2017 meeting were published in the Newsletter, Mvd. Bruce Farrar, 2 <sup>nd</sup> John Harston, carried.
<b>Birthdays</b>	Bill Sherman, Brice Gorringe, Geoff Sheppard, Bryan Pritchard.
<b>Correspondence</b>	Nil.
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	Presented by David Varley Balance at 1/1/2017 \$3, 487.95 Receipts: Christmas Lunch \$90.00, Morning Teas \$103.00, Trivia Deposit \$514.00, Total \$707.00 Payments: Morning Teas \$120.00, Christmas Lunch \$34.00, Admin. \$14.00, Total \$168.00 Balance at 31/1/2017 \$4,026.95 Mvd. David Varley, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Allan Smith, carried
<b>Welfare Report</b>	No report.
<b>Activities</b>	John Harston gave notice of the following 23 <sup>rd</sup> March Member's boat outing on Pittwater, 29 <sup>th</sup> March BBQ at Flying Fox Reserve 5pm, 13 <sup>th</sup> April visit Motor Museum at Gosford, 2 <sup>nd</sup> June Ferry to Ettalong for lunch. Trivia night 14 <sup>th</sup> February. Premier's Concerts 8 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Functions</b>	Gordon Stokes has booked for 19 <sup>th</sup> December for Christmas Lunch.
<b>Speakers</b>	Brian Kennedy has organised for <b>March</b> , Noel Phelan, Japanese subs in Sydney Harbour, <b>April</b> Julie Donaldson - World Cruises, <b>May</b> Paul Tieck – The secrets of Warren Buffet, <b>June</b> Gas warfare of WW1.
<b>IT Report</b>	Nil.
<b>Golf</b>	10 00 am Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February Palm Beach Golf Club.
<b>General Business</b>	Nil.
<b>Speaker</b>	Roman Zwolenski gave a short talk with slides on sailing in the Bahamas. Following the coffee break Martin Thomas gave an excellent talk with a pictorial presentation on nuclear power in Australia.
<b>Next Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2017 Meeting Closed at 12.15 am. Signed as a correct record.

## Office Bearers for 2016/2017

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