



Pittwater Mens Probus
Amicus et Dignus

Newsletter

Email: probus@pittwater.org.au

July 2017

Website: www.probus.pittwater.org.au

President's Message

Our governing organisation is Probus South Pacific Limited whose motto is "Friendship, Fellowship and Fun". On thinking how this applies to our Pittwater Probus Club, I believe we have a good measure of this amongst our membership. However, do we need to do more?

I also believe that we have a softly softly culture where many members like to meet once a month attend the meeting, have a chat whilst having a cup of coffee and then listen to the guest speaker. All of this without any fuss to which there is nothing wrong in doing precisely that.

On the other hand there is a small band of members that actively participate in the organised activities such as the monthly golf days and the various visits. Unfortunately, despite the promotion of these activities, it is possible to predict who will play golf each month and who will go on the visits. It is recognised by the committee that not every member is able to attend club functions due to limited physical fitness, non-interest or for other reasons.

Nevertheless, I urge members that have not taken part in any recent club activity to consider joining in and seeing for themselves what pleasure there is in participating with fellow club members on these trips. All club activities, whether they be short visits or overnight stays, are selected so as to be enjoyed by all members.

So I urge you to make the effort and select an upcoming activity and join other club members in "Friendship, Fellowship and (most importantly) Fun".

Cheers,
Ron Seldon

Winners are Grinners



Club Treasurer, David Varley with the Club Golf Trophy after winning the May 2017 competition.

Next game, Friday July 14, 2017 at Palm Beach Golf Course.

Hit off 10 00am.

Followed by lunch at Club Palm Beach.

All welcome

www.probus.pittwater.org.au

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Speaker's Corner

I was always under the impression that a Nobel Laureate was someone who had contributed to science (or some other category) something special for the good of mankind. The word "laureate" refers to being signified by the laurel wreath. In ancient Greece, laurel wreaths were awarded to victors as a sign of honour. How wrong can you be?

In an interesting and illustrated talk, cousin of Pittwater Probus Member Arthur Napper, Don Napper explained how the introduction of gas warfare on the Western Front earned its inventor Haber a place in infamy in the history of WW1. Don is a former Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Sydney University. His interest in gas warfare was triggered by the experiences of his Uncle Frank who was one of the first Australian soldiers to be gassed on the Western Front and survived.

Fritz Haber was a German chemist who received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1918 for his invention of the Haber–Bosch process, a method used in industry to synthesize ammonia from nitrogen gas and hydrogen gas. Back in 1908, Haber, a Jew who converted to Christianity, had discovered a method of creating ammonia in a laboratory, for use as fertiliser. It was a crucially important discovery. The fertiliser vastly increased crop output and saved billions of people from starvation and still helps feed an estimated half of the world's population today.

The process could also be used to make explosives and when war broke out Haber put his talents to work making weapons to help the Germans.

"On 22 April 1915, during the Second Battle of Ypres, French and Algerian soldiers, fighting together, noticed a strange yellow-grey-coloured cloud floating across no man's land in their direction. As it descended over them, many collapsed, coughing and wheezing, gasping for air, frothing at the mouth."

This was the first use of poison gas in modern warfare. Haber felt there was no distinction between killing soldiers with gas or blowing their heads off with artillery. A direct result of this attack was the suicide of Haber's wife, Clara Immerwahr, a brilliant scientist in her own right, who was appalled by what she saw as a perversion of science.

Eventually the Allies learned to cope with the chlorine gas, using crude gas masks, but mustard gas was then used. By the time the war ended, the main user of poison gas was Germany, followed by France and then Britain. The British army (including the British Empire) had 188,000 gas casualties but only 8,100 fatalities amongst them. It is believed that the nation that suffered the most fatalities was Russia (over 50,000 men) while France had 8,000 fatalities. In total, there were about 1,250,000 gas casualties in the war but only 91,000 fatalities (less than 10%) with over 50% of these fatalities being Russian. However, these figures do not take into account the number of men who died from poison gas related injuries years after the end of the war.

The United States, which entered World War I in 1917, also developed and used chemical weapons. Future president **Harry S. Truman** was the captain of a U.S. field artillery unit that fired poison gas against the Germans in 1918.

(The most tragic irony was that in his agricultural research, Haber helped develop pesticide gases, which included a cyanide-based pesticide called Zyklon B, indeed one of

his assistants was credited as the official inventor of Zyklon B. Zyklon B was the main component used by the Nazis in their death camps. Among the six million killed in the gas chambers during the Holocaust were several members of Fritz Haber's extended family, including a number of his nieces and nephews).



Left to right, Club Members Arthur Napper and Ron Seldon with June Guest Speaker Don Napper

July Speaker

Cruising

Julie Donaldson, a local travel agent, will talk about cruises. A subject of special interest to many of our club members who enjoy taking to the high seas.



July - 5 Minute Speaker

Up the Mekong



Club President Ron Seldon with his wife Pat, recently travelled up the Mekong River from Vietnam into Cambodia. Also on the trip was Club Member Cliff Dunn and his wife Lyn.

Ron will share some of the highlights of the "Mighty Mekong".

New Members

Jürgen (Jay) Claren



Born in Kiel, (just south of the Danish border) Germany in 1938 , Jay was raised in Hamburg then emigrated to South Africa in 1952. Jay matriculated from boarding school in Johannesburg 1955. His first job was with a shoe wholesaler as commercial apprentice. He studied accountancy and commercial law at night school. Jay married in 1962 and has one daughter. He joined the South African Bosch group as admin manager and moved to Cape Town in 1968. After 11 years, Jay joined the Liberty Life Insurance Group and progressed to being the Cape Town Manager.

Jay became worried about the growing anti-apartheid movement and political unrest and migrated with his family back to Germany 1976. He then transferred to Sydney as the Australian CEO for the BDF Group(Nivea, Tesa Tapes, Handyplast, etc). Jay divorced 1982 and resigned from BDF in 1990, taking on various sales and marketing positions over the next ten years with Capita, Westpac, Recruitment, etc.

Jay remarried and campervan-cruised Africa and Europe for 2 years, then divorced again. He bought a 46ft sailing boat, lived aboard and cruised the East Coast, Fiji, Tonga, before coming ashore in 2006 to live in Warriewood.

Jay is an enthusiastic motorcyclist and a member of the Ulysses Motor Cycle Club. He is active in Toastmasters Clubs and was member of Rotary Neutral Bay and Lions Club Oatley.

Jay, welcome to Pittwater Probus.

Kim Russell



Kim grew up in the south western suburbs of Sydney and watched Roselands being built. In 1962, he jagged an apprenticeship as a trainee radio technician with the Department of Civil Aviation training school at Marrickville. In those days DCA was responsible for all aspects of air travel from air traffic control to the international terminal.

The installation and maintenance of everything electronic was a big part of that responsibility, broken into many sub-sections... Radio Construction, Communications, Navigational Aids, Radar, Message Switching, Laboratory and the Radio Training School, most of which Kim worked in for several years.


The most exciting job was Nav. Aids which was an essential part of an international aerodrome, but a good deal of Kim's 40 years with the Department which was spent in the development and maintenance of an automatic message switching system which was the first and at that time only area to be fully computerised with ground breaking technology.

Kim, welcome to Pittwater Probus.

Speakers' Program

<p>August 2017</p>		<p>Memoires of a Blitz Kid</p> <p>Club member Bryan Pritchard will talk about his early upbringing in wartime London and his later career in banking.</p>
<p>September 2017</p>	<p>Blood Pressure</p> <p>Roger Dampney, Emeritus Professor of Physiology at Sydney University will speak on his speciality subject, blood pressure.</p>	
<p>October 2017</p>		<p>Ford Motor Cars</p> <p>New Club Member, Kim Russell will talk about the career of Henry Ford up to the introduction of the 'V8' in April 1932.</p>
<p>November 2017</p>	<p>Pepperton Estate</p> <p>A special treat for Club Members. Alan Moss, who works for Wine Insights owners of Pepperton Estate will talk about their range of wines and bring samples.</p> <p>Pepperton Estate sources parcels of fruit from Australia's most premium wine growing regions to make a range of wines.</p>	

Maritime Museum Visit

	<p>This is a visit not to be missed, the Sydney Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour on Thursday August 10, 2017.</p> <p>The three main vessels in the Museum ship collection, the HM Bark <i>Endeavour</i> Replica, the destroyer HMAS <i>Vampire</i>, and the submarine HMAS <i>Onslow</i> are on display at the wharves outside the museum</p>
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Probus Golf



On the second Friday of each month a fierce competition is fought out at Palm Beach Golf Course.

It is not for the faint hearted as the contest is intense and no quarter is given.

The event is, of course, the monthly Pittwater Probus Golf Challenge.

You can feel the tension building before the game.

Rigorous control by golf convenor Alan Smith, ensures that the competition is strictly conducted to St Andrews Rules and meticulous golfing protocol is followed.

The rivalry on the course is spirited and each competitor strives to be the best on the day.

Because at the end of the day there is the highly coveted Pittwater Probus Golf Trophy to be had and all the accolades from club members that go with it. (Maybe one day we will have a Green Jacket!)



John, I think the ball is still on the tee.



This better go in the hole.



At the end of it all, a fine days golf.

The June results were:

1. Gordon Stokes 21 Points
2. David Varley 17 Points, Bill Sherman 17 Points

Make sure you get under it, that's a giant obstacle in front of you!



If you win, you get to sit at the head of the victory table.

2017 Functions & Activities Program

Date	Day	Activity	Location	Comments
10 th August 2017	Thursday	Visit the Sydney Maritime Museum	Darling Harbour	Special Guide Noel Phelan. Lunch after

7 th & 8 th September 2017	Thursday & Friday	Golf and Social Activities	Nelson Bay	
19 th September 2017	Tuesday	Past Presidents Lunch	Quays Marina, Church Point	Marina Café
18 th October 2017	Wednesday 5 00 pm	Spring BBQ at	Flying Fox Park, Winnererremy Bay, Mona Vale	Do not miss this special Probus get together.
19 th December 2017	Tuesday	Annual Christmas Lunch	Mona Vale Golf Club	Partners very welcome.

My Aged Care

Avalon Computer Pals has arranged a free seminar to explain the new My Aged Care gateway.

***Tuesday 18 July 1.30pm Newport Community Centre, 11-13 The Boulevard, Newport.
Phone 9942 2560 Annekebarnes@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au***

The recently introduced Aged Reforms have revised the Aged Care system. People over 65 are now required to register on the website in preparation for receiving services. Agnes Kemmerer (Regional Assessment Services) will explain this new system, suggest 'what's in it for you' and give tips on how to access the site.

A hands on lesson will follow so bring your laptop or tablet.

My Aged Care www.myagedcare.gov.au is an Australian Government website and phone line to help you find out what aged care services may be available to help you.

You may be eligible to receive services such as:

Help at home

- transport
- modifications to your home like hand rails or ramps
- nursing, physiotherapy and other care
- meals
- household jobs like cleaning or gardening
- equipment like walking frames
- social activities.

Short-term help

- recovery from an accident or illness, including after a hospital stay
- when you have had a setback and want to get your independence back
- when you or your carer needs a break ([respite care](#)).

Who pays for services?

The Australian Government contributes to the cost of aged care services. You are expected to contribute to the cost if you can afford to.

Editor's Desk

Social media for beginners

Australians over 75 are the fastest growing group of social media users, with many using platforms like Facebook and Instagram to stay in touch with their children and grandchildren. We take a look at the top social media platforms and how you can use them to stay connected.

Facebook

Facebook allows you to create a profile and collect “friends”, with whom you can publicly or privately swap stories, news and photos. You can also use it to send private messages from your computer or phone.

Facebook is a great platform if you want to see what your friends and family are up to. It's generally recommended you don't “friend” anyone you don't know in real life, and there are a number of privacy settings that allow you to control who sees what you post.

Instagram

Instagram is primarily a photo and video sharing platform. Unlike Facebook, Instagram does not require both parties to “friend” one another before a connection is made. Instead, users “follow” each other. This can be reciprocated or not.

Instagram is a great tool if you want to see, like and comment on photos of your friends and family. You can also use it to follow local businesses and community groups, or upload and share your own photos.

You'll need to download Instagram to your smartphone. It's free; just search for it wherever you get your apps.

Twitter

Twitter is primarily a news sharing platform. Like Instagram, you don't make “friends” but “follow” people you want to keep in touch with.

Twitter is a great way to share news stories or the odd joke. It's also a great way to follow the latest news from your favourite celebrities. Just remember there's a 140-character limit on all “tweets” – so keep it short and sweet! People will then be able to like or “re-tweet” your pearls of wisdom.

Twitter can be used on your computer or phone. Visit the website to set up an account.

Snapchat

Like Instagram, Snapchat is a great way to send photos and videos to your friends and family. The main difference between Instagram and Snapchat is that Snapchat is a messaging platform, so you choose who your photos and videos are sent too. Another key difference is that Snapchats typically disappear once they have been viewed (after 10 seconds).

Snapchat has a range of fun filters that allow you to distort your features and create cute props and backgrounds. Have a play with the grandkids! We're sure they'll be more than happy to teach you a trick or two.

You can download Snapchat to your smartphone by searching for it in your app store.

(from Probus South Pacific)

Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc.

Meeting	13 th June 2017 Meeting opened by President Ron Seldon. 40 members present and 5 guests attending.
Inductions	Jay Claren and Kim Russell were inducted.
Minutes	Minutes of the May 2017 meeting were published in the Newsletter, Mvd. Bruce Farrar, 2 nd John Owens, carried.
Correspondence	New President's Kit from PSPL Inc. Annual Financial Report from PSPL Inc.
Birthdays	Ron Seldon, Tug Tugwell, Greg Swasbrick, Cyril Webb, John Hurley.
Treasurer's Report	Presented by David Varley Balance at 1/5/2017 \$4,826.33 Receipts: Subscriptions \$360.00, Morning Teas \$139.80. Total \$499.80. Payments: Morning Teas \$120.00, Birthday Wine \$40.85, Probus Magazine \$300.00, Probus Capitation Fees \$790.50. Total \$1,251.35. Balance at 31/5/2017 \$4,074.78 Mvd. David Varley, 2 nd Geoff Sheppard, carried
Welfare Report	George Repin and Alan Woods welcomed back after medical problems remedied.
Speakers	Brian Kennedy has organised the following: July Julie Donaldson – Cruising the Oceans. Ron Seldon – Sailing the Mekong. August Bryan Pritchard – Living through the London Blitz. Ken Plumb – Iceland Adventures. September Roger Dampney – Our Blood Pressure. Gordon Kinlay – Travel Quiz.
Activities	John Harston has organised: 10 th August Tour the Maritime Museum, 7 th to 8 th September Mantra Aqua Nelson Bay. Suggested a questionnaire as to what they would be interested in attending.
Functions	3 rd October following a short Committee Meeting, Committee Members and wives have lunch at the old General Store at Church Point from 11 00 am \$28 P/P. Christmas Lunch at Mona Vale Golf Club 19 th December.
IT Report	Nil.
Golf	David Varley won the golf trophy. Next game 10 00 am Friday 16 th June at Palm Beach Golf Course.
General Business	Nil.
Speaker	Following the coffee break, Don Napper gave a very well "researched and presented " talk on the Gas Warfare WW1.
Next Meeting	11 th July 2017 Meeting Closed at 12.00 pm. Signed as a correct record.

Office Bearers for 2017

President	Ron Seldon 9918 0677	Speaker Organiser	Brian Kennedy 9918 0937
Vice President	John Harston 9940 0446	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