



Pittwater Mens Probus
Amicus et Dignus

Newsletter

Email: probus@pittwater.org.au

December 2017

Website: www.probus.pittwater.org.au

President's Message



© Leilani Rogers, Photographer

We say the same thing every time "Where has the year gone!" Christmas is here already as we reflect on the past year, full of issues both at home and overseas. Among all the so-called dramas there have been, thankfully, a number of enjoyable events such as the world recognition and success of Australian women's sport across many codes, in particular the 'Matildas' Soccer Team and the Australian Women's Cricket Team.

Although Christmas is recognised as a special time for those to rejoice in their faith and for families to get together, there is also another aspect and that occurs at Christmas. We now live in a frenetic world that operates at full-on speed. Through technology, business operates at a much faster pace than it ever did in the past.

Transactions are carried on mobile phones in lieu of written correspondence. Airlines are full of people travelling from place to place to do deals in their endeavour to make money. Politics are forever in the headlines. Young people are under greater pressure to succeed.

However, all of this comes to a rest because of Christmas, albeit for a fleeting moment. It is in this short period of time that the world pauses for a brief moment of sanity and a little peace prevails. For if we did not have this moment of calm, the world would continue non-stop in an ever-increasing day to day pursuit of power and money. The opportunity to stop and catch our breath at this time of the year and enjoy Christmas has been part of our universal custom for many years and it is remarkable that we have maintained the need to have such a moment where we step back from our day-to-day world and reflect on this joyous occasion. This is the magnificence of Christmas.

Happy Christmas everyone and enjoy a moment of peace no matter how short it maybe! Ron Seldon

Probus Golf



A good turnout of 8 players. There was a small shower but it did not dampen the enthusiasm.

The results were:

1. Geoff Richards 24 Points
2. Brian Kennedy 23 Points
3. John Owen 21 Points

Next game, Friday December 15th, 2017 at Palm Beach Golf Course. Hit off 10 00am.

Speaker's Corner

History describes our attempts at investigating, studying and explaining the past. It is a subtle difference but an important one. What happened in the past is fixed in time and cannot be changed. History, however, changes regularly.



Philip Pryor began his presentation showing a photograph of Easter Island. Most people know Easter Island as a place of remarkable statues, located somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. Philip used it as a basis for the truth about history. Known as Rapa Nui to its earliest inhabitants, the island was christened Paaseiland, or Easter Island, by Dutch explorers in honour of the day of their arrival in 1722.

The first human inhabitants of Rapa Nui are believed to have arrived in an organized party of emigrants around 300-400 A.D. The theory is that they came from Asia but Thor Heyerdahl postulated they came from America and "proved" it by sailing his balsa wood raft, Kon Tiki.

The story of the Easter islanders is tragic, but at the same time a good lesson for all of us. They had a highly developed civilisation for about 600 years, but neglected the environmental effect of their lifestyle and ended in catastrophe. They could not escape the island anymore, because every single tree had been cut down. The history of Easter Island is not one of lost civilisations and esoteric knowledge, rather it is a striking example of the dependence of human societies on their environment and of the consequences of irreversibly damaging that environment. It is the story of a people who, starting from an extremely limited resource base, constructed one of the most advanced societies in the world for the technology they had available. However, the demands placed on the environment of the island by this development were immense. When it could no longer withstand the pressure, the society that had been painfully built up over the previous thousand years fell with it. The fate of Easter Island has wider implications too. Like Easter Island, the earth has only limited resources to support human society and all its demands. Like the islanders, the human population of the earth has no practical means of escape.

New Members

Gary Chaffer



Gary attended Balmain Christian Brothers High School and left with the intermediate certificate in 1952. He then took a position with the Government Stores Department in January 1953, aged 15 years and lasted less than 2 years.

Gary then worked for 7 years as a Trainee Executive with Gilbert Lodge and Co. but decided to leave to undertake study in foreign trade and worked in the meat industry for three year, trading and exporting large shipments of meat to overseas destinations.

He then took a position as Sales Representative with Diversey Australia/Asia Pty. Ltd. And was highly successful in his early years there selling specialty detergent chemicals to the Hospitality and Healthcare Industry. Gary worked his way through the ranks finishing up his career as National Sales Manager. Gary's career with Diversey spanned 37 years and during that long period the company was owned by Molson Breweries Canada, Unilever International and now by S.C. Johnson International. Gary finished his working career as a part time consultant for 2 years working for the same company.

Gary was married in 1964 and widowed in 1973 with 3 children. He remarried in 1980. and has 2 additional daughters.

Gary welcome to Pittwater Probus.

Tony Mestrov



Tony was born in Croatia and arrived in Australia in 1960. He arrived by ship which took one month and was quite an adventure for a sixteen-year old travelling on his own.

At an early age, Tony was interested in photography. It was through this interest that he began working in television with Channel 10 in 1969 and became a Film Cameraman and later a Video Cameraman. For twenty-five years, Tony covered news, sports, current affairs and documentaries rising to the position of Chief Cameraman.

For the last twenty years, Tony has worked for himself as a freelance cameraman.

Tony said he was very lucky to have a career which enabled him to meet some amazing people, travel throughout Australia and to visit many overseas countries.

Tony welcome to Pittwater Probus

Paul Mascall



Paul started his career as an apprentice draftsman in the field of materials handling equipment. At the same time he enrolled in the Mechanical Engineering Certificate course at the Sydney Technical College – later extending his studies to Diploma level. Paul achieved Leading Draftsman status and became a contact person for visiting Sales Engineers.

Paul obtained a position as a Sales Engineer for cooling towers with what became Email Air, and moved into sales of broader air conditioning products. He eventually was employed by Carrier Air Conditioning – initially as Senior Sales Engineer, and then NSW Sales Manager. A few years later, Paul was appointed Carrier International's Far East Area Manager – based in Hong Kong, looking after distribution in Taiwan, South Korea, Guam, and Okinawa. Two years later, he was appointed to the position of National Sales Manager, back in Australia.

Paul identified an opportunity in the industry to start his own company – at the same time enrolling for an MBA course at Macquarie University. Paul proceeded to oversee the development of the company by sourcing distribution agreements from manufacturers around the world. The company prospered from the benefits of the unique products that it was able to offer. Paul eventually retired from the position of Managing Director in 2012.

Paul welcome to Pittwater Probus.

It's Christmas!



It is time for Christmas cake and good cheer!

Join Members after the Speaker to celebrate another great Pittwater Probus year and embrace the Christmas spirit.

Enjoy Christmas cake and a glass of wine with fellow members after the December meeting.

Golf – Southern Highlands

Our delayed Southern Highlands Golf Tour planned for early 2018 has not been forgotten. We are looking at the latest release of golfing/accommodation packages for the new year. We will advise everyone once we have secured the best deal.

There will be, of course, golf for the dedicated plus other non-golf activities for those with other interests.



Trivia Night - February 2018

DIARY NOTE

PITTWATER PROBUS

TRIVIA NIGHT



MONA VALE GOLF CLUB

FEBRUARY 20, NEXT, FROM 6.15PM

DINNER (MAIN COURSE/DESSERT/COFFEE)

PLUS 50 QUESTIONS FROM THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

'GOOD WEEKEND' MAGAZINE

\$32 INCLUSIVE

PLAYING IN TEAMS OF FOUR ARRANGED ON THE NIGHT OR
SET UP YOUR OWN TEAM BEFORE THE NIGHT

PRIZES FOR TOP TEAMS

BOOK AT THE JANUARY PROBUS MEETING OR

BY MAIL TO PO BOX 700 MONA VALE 2103

Don't Forget the Pittwater Probus ...



New Members in 2017

Pittwater Probus has had an excellent year for recruiting new members. Up to the beginning of December we have 14 new members join the Club which is very encouraging for our future.



December 2017 Speaker – President's Pick

Ron Seldon "Some Old War Stories"



Join Ron as he wanders down some old outback byways as he recalls some memories of construction sites and interesting locations and incidents around Australia.

December '5 Minute' Speaker

The Temora Airshow will be returning to the skies on October 12 & 13, 2018. The itinerary will incorporate an evening airshow on Friday October 12, and a full-day airshow on Saturday October 13, 2018.

Organiser Bill Sherman will provide details at the December Meeting 5 Minute Speaker Session.

If interested in joining this exciting social activity for 2018 please talk to Bill.



January 2018 Speaker

Robert Salisbury *"The Shadowy World of the Super Rich"*



Author and former equity dealer Robert Salisbury now runs a property company in Manly.

Robert will speak about his new fictional thriller "The Shadows" which reveals details about the anonymous families that rule the world through their control over the finance industry including equity markets and Bitcoins.

January 2018 '5 Minute' Speaker

Peter Mayman *"Norway"*

Club Member Peter Mayman will talk about his trip to Norway and his observations of the country, its people and its prosperous economy.



February 2018 Speaker

Greg van Borssum *"Secrets of a Misspent Life"*

Greg Van Borssum is a former body-builder and Mr Australia champion. Greg was also a finalist in the Mr America contest.

Greg is also a pistol shooting world champion and won an Oscar for his work on the Mad Max films. After a health scare, Greg has decided to devote himself to public service which includes speaking at Probus meetings.



February 2018 '5 Minute' Speaker

Roman Zwolenski *"Vietnam War"*



Club Member Roman Zwolenski will talk about being in the military ballot to go to Vietnam as part of Australia's support of the war effort at the time. Roman will share his expectation of being sent which, however, did not eventuate. Years later, Roman visited Vietnam and will reflect on the aftermath of the war.

March 2018 Speaker

Deborah Wallace *"My Life in Crime"*



Our speaker in March is Deborah Wallace APM, former Detective Superintendent Commander, Gangs Squad.

Deborah will speak about her work in disrupting drug gangs in Cabramatta and Blacktown during her more than 30 years in the police force. In 2011, Deborah was awarded the Australian Police Medal in the Australian Honours List.

March 2018 '5 Minute' Speaker

Graham Morley *"Teaching Woodwork in Samoa"*

Club Member Graham Morley will talk about his experiences in teaching woodwork in Samoa.



Editor's Desk

Top three travel apps

Nowadays, travelling no longer involves print outs of itineraries or tickets that you can physically see. Everything is now digital. Why not use that to your advantage and have everything you need in the palm of your hand? Here are the top three travel apps to use for your next trip so everything is in one place, on one screen, all day, every day.



Tripit

'Tripit' is your very own pocket travel agent. All you need to do is forward your reservations for flights, hotels, car rentals and even restaurants to a designated email address and your plans are automatically recorded in a master itinerary. The itinerary is always

accessible so you can see what's happening in your schedule any time you want. The wonderful thing is that you can access all the information without trawling through hundreds of emails. Plus, you can add, edit or delete plans as needed. You can also write notes about specific places and add links to your plans so you can do some research while you're on your way. And the app will even alert you (probably faster than the airlines) when there are delays, cancellations or gate changes.

App in the Air

Got a flight coming up? Download 'App in the Air'. It's the sleekest app when it comes to real-time information involving all things air travel, including the airports. In fact, it's known as your very own 'personal flight assistant'. All you do is input your flight details and the app does the rest, splitting your flight into four stages – check-in, boarding, take-off and landing – and notifying you along the way. You don't even need internet connection. And it even provides information about the major airports around the world so you can be fully prepared. This includes estimated times to get through check-in, security and maps of the airport so you know where everything is.

Google Trips

'Google Trips', while great for any platform, is especially good for those already using Google for all things email, documents and planning. But regardless of what platform you use, it's still a worthwhile download for a few reasons. First, again like the others, it's all about having all your travel information in one handy spot. Reservations, confirmation numbers, flights and hotels are pulled from your emails and organised automatically. Once inputted into the app, it's classified as 'offline', meaning you don't need the internet to see your information. The one-up on the other apps is Google Trip's features to plan your day and suggest activities. Once it knows where you are, it plans full-day or half-day trips for you, including suggestions of things to see and do. And changing these suggestions are as easy tapping the 'magic wand', giving you a fresh set of ideas. The app also gives you a whole range of things to do, places to eat and activities that may interest you. And it even shows you where they are and how long it will take to get there.

... *Probus Magazine*

Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc.

Meeting	14 th November 2017 Meeting opened by President Ron Seldon. 44 members present and 2 guests attending.
Inductions	Gary Chaffer, Paul Mascall, Tony Mestrov were inducted.
Minutes	Minutes of the October 2017 meeting were published in the Newsletter, Mvd. Warwick Dalzell, 2 nd John Owens, carried.
Correspondence	War Museum, Narrabeen - details of offer.
Treasurer's Report	Presented by David Varley Balance at 1/10/2017 \$4,015.15 Receipts: Subscription \$40.00, Past Presidents Lunch \$50.00, BBQ \$145.00, Teas September \$124.00, Teas October \$138.30. Total \$497.30. Payments: Morning Teas \$120.00, BBQ Supplies \$77.38, Birthday Wine \$29.70, Admin. \$140.70, Recruitment Advert. \$665.50, Badges \$30.00. Total \$1,063 28. Balance at 31/10/2017 \$3449.17 Mvd. David Varley, 2 nd John Harston, carried
Welfare Report	George Repin was welcomed back.
Speakers	Brian Kennedy has organised the following speakers: December President's Day. January Robert Salisbury - The Shadowy World of Bitcoin. February Greg Van Borssum - Secrets of a Misspent Youth. March Deborah Wallace - My Life in Crime.
Functions	Christmas Lunch 19 th December at Mona Vale Golf Club \$45 P/P.
Activities	Trivia night with Dinner 20 th February 2018; Temora Air Show 12 th 13 th October 2018.
Golf	Gordon Stokes won the Trophy. Play at Palm Beach 19 th November at 10 00 am.
General Business	The President asked if there were any members interested in volunteering for positions on the committee. Geoff Sheppard interested in Welfare. Wes Harder to assist Brian Kennedy in the Speaker's role.
5 Minute Talk Speaker	John Harston gave a most informative introduction to Electric Cars. Following the coffee break, Phillip Pryor enlightened members on the Truth About History.
Next Meeting	12 th December 2017. Commencing at 10 00 am. Meeting Closed at 12.05 pm. Signed as a correct record.

Office Bearers for 2017

Meetings commence at 10 00am on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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	Geoff Sheppard 9918 7646	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	Allan Smith 9999 1334