



Pittwater Mens Probus
Amicus et Dignus

Newsletter

Email: probus@pittwater.org.au

January 2018

Website: www.probus.pittwater.org.au

President's Message



As we commence another new year we wonder what 2018 will unfold. 2017 gave us plenty to contend with. Our politicians never stopped surprising us with a constant flow of dramas. We had Trump's attempt to 'Make America Great Again', Britain's struggle with Brexit and the Middle East continues to be unstable. All a bit gloomy wasn't it!

Will 2018 be any better? No doubt many of the issues in 2017 will flow into 2018. However, there may be events that can come out of left field. Maybe America will interfere with the Russian elections in March (how is that for a twist). Maybe Australians will prefer postal surveys instead of political elections. Maybe the big banks will actually get to like their customers.

In 2018 we will be able to trade in Bitcoins. Just remember a Bitcoin is a virtual currency that is created, owned and traded entirely online in anonymous and unregulated settings. A little strange. Thankfully most places still take cash if all else fails!

Use of mobile phones will continue to increase in 2018. Apart from the basic functions, mobile phones now have 'Apps' that can help you meditate, set up a charity fundraiser for yourself, receive fake phone calls if you so wish, find your car in a car park, act as a metal detector, tune your guitar and even warm your hands on a cold day. Nevertheless, I did see someone actually talk on a mobile phone the other day.

So long as the beer is cold and the wine decanted, life will be good in 2018. Oh, by the way remember to keep your mobile phone charged up.

Happy New Year to all our Members Ron Seldon

Probus Golf

Only a small turnout due to possibility of rain. A very small shower was the only discomfort.

Geoff Richards defended last month's win with 28 points, David Varley 2nd with 22 and Bill Sherman with 20.

Next game, Friday January 12th, 2018 at Palm Beach Golf Course. Hit off 10 00am.



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Speaker's Corner

Club President, Ron Seldon, took us down a few outback byways and some remote Australian locations in recalling some of the many resource and industrial projects that he had worked upon in his engineering construction career. Plus a few tales of incidents on the way.

By account of the feedback, many of the locations were familiar to a number of Club members having been involved in some way on these same or similar projects. In addition, these outback posts were a reminder to many members on past travels through many of the remote parts of Australia.

Australia certainly went through a major resources boom in the 1970s and 1980s. Development of places like Gove in the Northern Territory, Olympic Dam in South Australia, Kidston Gold Mine in Queensland and the Pilbara in Western Australia have all added to the wealth of our country. Sadly, many of these operations are now closed down.

Not only did the resource projects of the era create employment, they in turn fashioned nearby towns and established new communities.



Mt Isa at night.

Golf – Southern Highlands



Our delayed Southern Highlands Golf Tour planned for early 2018 has not been forgotten. We are closing in on 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.

Pittwater Probus Trivia Night – 20 February 2018

This is a fun evening when teams of four compete for fabulous (?) prizes, answering questions from the Sydney Morning Herald's 'Good Weekend' magazine.

50 - 60 questions such as:

Oz Geography – Which Gulf is flanked by the Capes York and Arnhem?

Gulf of Carpentaria

Oz Politics – Which political party has been the subject of an Australian referendum?

Communist Party of Australia

Oz Trivia – What weapon does a woomera launch?

A spear

Film/TV/Arts – Which UK sitcom featured friends Eddy and Patsy?

Absolutely Fabulous

History – The word assassin is derived from the Arabic word for which drug?

Hashish

Oz Sport – In what year did Don Bradman play his last test for Australia?

1948 v England

Venue: Mona Vale Golf Club

Cost: \$32 includes dinner (main/dessert and coffee)

Time: From 6.15pm

Teams: Can be arranged on the night or set up by team members in advance
Come with your partner or single. Guests welcome

Bookings: Please advise at the door at the January Club Meeting (Pay then if you like or else at the February Club Meeting). If you will not be at the January Meeting please call Bill Sherman on 0418 257 330 to reserve your place(s). \$ can also be sent to PO Box 700, Mona Vale 2103. Cheques payable to Pittwater Probus Club.

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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



Club Member Graham Morley will talk about his experiences working as an Education Consultant (Industrial Arts) in the Solomon Islands.

Christmas Lunch



Welcome to the feast.

The Pittwater Probus Club Christmas Lunch was an outstanding success with many thanks to Gordon Stokes organising a great event. The lunch was attended by 65 members and partners which was the best attendance in ten years.

Thank you, Gordon.



Probus Investment Group Lunch



Even though it was Christmas and time to celebrate the success of 2017, the Probus Investment Group were hard at it planning the 2018 Investment Portfolio.

Despite the surrounding distraction!



New Members

Peter Nash



As a mechanical engineer, Peter was employed by Industrial Engineering Limited in Melbourne, then by Thompsons (Castlemain) Limited and Ecolaire Australia Ltd, where he was involved in the supply of equipment and services for the mining, material processing, petrol chemical and power industries throughout Australia.

Thirty years ago, Peter became involved in China where he was instrumental in setting up 4 Australian/China Joint Venture Companies introducing Quality Assurance.

Peter welcome to Pittwater Probus.

Temora Air Show

Warbirds Down Under Temora 12/13 October 2018



Pittwater Probus is planning a trip to the Warbirds Down Under Airshow at Temora in October 2018. This Show is held every two or three years and is the largest of its kind in Oz.

On display and flying will be WW11 planes, some pre-war and others through to the present day. The detailed program will not be published until April but will include static displays, team aerobatics and individual flypasts of old and new aircraft. The RAAF is expected to return with their current fighters and probably their aerobatic team.

The Show consists of an evening display on 12th and a full day of excitement on 13th. We have booked 10 rooms in the Junee Motor Inn, about 20 minutes from Temora, and a 20 seater bus. The plan is to leave Mona Vale about 9am on 12th; drive to Junee stopping for Coffee at Marulan; it is about a 5 hour run so allowing for stops we should get to Junee about 3pm; after checking in we would go to the Temora airfield and watch the evening show; dinner would be at the Club a few minutes walk from the Motel; breakfast is available in the Motel and then we would go out to the airport again for the full days Show; dinner at the 'Red Cow' a good restaurant in Junee.

After breakfast on Sunday we will check out and tour the Junee Liquorish and Chocolate Factory (they do conducted tours and have a nice restaurant). If there is time, or don't like Liquorish, the Junee Motor Museum is over the road from the Factory or the Railway Roundhouse might be worth a visit.

If we get away for Junee about 12.30 we should be home, allowing for stops about 6ish. We don't know the full costs yet (Temora have not published entry costs yet) but transport and two nights accommodation will be about \$225 each.

**If you would like to come on what should be a fun weekend please call
Bill or Gill Sherman on 02 9997 5532 or 0418 257 330.**

Bookings will be on a first come first served basis. Don't hesitate to call if you are a single Member. If you don't mind sharing a room, we will try to accommodate you.

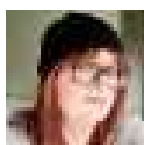
Warbirds Down Under Temora 12/13 October 2018



If you would like to know more about what is going to happen at this Airshow Google the Temora Aviation Museum or Warbirds Down Under 2018. You can also get some good footage of previous years on You Tube, again by searching.

Editor's Desk

What is Hogmanay? A guide to Scottish new year traditions, events and celebrations.



By Carrie Marshall

For most of the world December 31 is New Year's Eve, but in Scotland it's something much more important: Hogmanay.

So what is it, and why does it make Aberdonians set fire to stuff?

Hogmanay is a very big deal in Scotland. It's the biggest day in the festive calendar, a celebration that makes Christmas Day seem very small indeed – and it's like nothing else on Earth.

What is Hogmanay?

Hogmanay is what the Scots call their New Year's Eve celebrations. The origins of the word are unclear – some say it's a corruption of the Greek words for 'holy month', others that it's of French origin – but the celebrations themselves go back centuries.

Where did Hogmanay come from?

Hogmanay's origins are Viking. Norse invaders celebrated the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, with wild parties in late December.

Those parties began to incorporate elements from the Gaelic Samhain winter festival, which celebrates the beginning of winter, and Yule, whose celebrations were known as 'daft days' in Scotland.

Like many annual celebrations, the end result is a mix of its various influences.

Why is it such a big deal?

Because until very recently, Scots didn't do Christmas. The party-loving Protestant Reformation effectively banned Christmas for 400 years, and Christmas Day didn't even become a public holiday in Scotland until 1958 and Boxing Day didn't become a holiday until 1974.

So while the rest of the world celebrated Christmas, Scots toiled. Their family get-togethers happened at Hogmanay instead.

How is it different from other New Year's Eve celebrations?

It's longer. Hogmanay starts on New Year's Eve but continues throughout New Year's Day and into January 2, which is a public holiday in Scotland.

While the rest of the UK is generally getting back to work on the 2nd, Scotland looks like that bit at the beginning of 28 Days Later when the streets are deserted.

How do Scots celebrate Hogmanay?

Most Scots party, but they also observe a number of traditions.

The most popular one is first-footing, where the first person to enter the house after midnight – ideally a tall, dark man – brings gifts such as food or coal. First-footing is supposed to affect the household's fortunes for the coming year, so if your first visitor is a small blonde woman you're stuffed.

Other traditions include cleaning the house before Hogmanay arrives, watching terrible TV programmes before the bells chime and singing Robert Burns' poem, Auld Lang Syne.

That singing is accompanied by a mass linking of arms, and those arms are supposed to then cross each singer's chest for the final verse. While most people know the first verse, the lusty singing tends to tail off in the second as people realise they don't know most of the words.

What about big events?

Edinburgh's Hogmanay is the biggie: it starts with a massive torchlit parade on the December 30, includes a huge fireworks display, has performances from musicians ranging from up-and-coming acts to pop stars and the odd superannuated rock group, and pulls a crowd from more than 60 different countries.

Other Scottish cities have big parties too, but Edinburgh's one is the biggest. In 1996, it attracted more than 400,000 people, although subsequent years have been restricted to smaller (but still big) crowds for safety reasons.

Late December in Scotland. Isn't that a terrible time to have an outdoor party?

Yes. Severe weather stopped the parties in 2003 and 2006.

This year's forecast looks positively balmy by Hogmanay standards, though: it's going to rain, but the rain shouldn't be too cold.

Are there any weird traditions around Hogmanay?

In Stonehaven near Aberdeen the locals make balls of chicken wire, paper and rags, set them on fire and swing them around.

In South Queensferry, the 'Loony Dook' sees hungover Scots hurling themselves into the icy sea to raise money for charity.

And in Kirkwall, the 'Ba Game' is an enormous game of street football that can last anything from four minutes to five hours and feature as many as 350 players.

How can I celebrate Hogmanay properly?

There's no right way or wrong way to celebrate Hogmanay, but if you want to do what many Scots do you'll have a nice meal with family and/or friends, plenty to drink – including whisky, of course – to toast the new year, and a steak pie for dinner the following day when you finally emerge from your bed.

Don't forget a bottle of Irn Bru, too – Scots swear by it as a hangover cure.

Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc.

Meeting	12 th December 2017 Meeting opened by President Ron Seldon. 44 members present and 1 guests attending.
Inductions	Peter Nash was inducted.
Minutes	Minutes of the November 2017 meeting were published in the Newsletter, Mvd. Bruce Farrar, 2 nd Warwick Dalzell, carried.
Correspondence	Notice of 2018 list of players at Glenn Street Theatre.
Treasurer's Report	Presented by David Varley Balance at 1/11/2017 \$3,449.17 Receipts: Subscription \$120.00, Joining Fee \$187.00. Total \$307.00. Payments: Morning Teas \$120.00, Badges \$19.00. Total \$139.00. Balance at 30/11/2017 \$3,617.17. Mvd. David Varley, 2 nd John Owens, carried
Welfare Report	Geoff Sheppard has been appointed Welfare Officer. Michael Mannington in hospital for an emergency operation.
Speakers	Brian Kennedy has organised the following speakers: January Robert Salisbury – Financial Families of the World. February Greg Van Borssum - Secrets of a Misspent Youth. March Deborah Wallace - My Life in Crime.
Functions	Christmas Lunch 19 th December.
Activities	Trivia night with Dinner 20 th February 2018; Temora Air Show 12 th 13 th October 2018. Bill Sherman organising.
Golf	Geoff Richards won the Trophy. Play at Palm Beach 15 th December at 10 00 am.
General Business	Nil.
5 Minute Talk	Bill Sherman showed slides on this year's Air Show at Temora.
Speaker	Following the coffee break, President Ron Seldon spoke of his experiences on construction sites in Australia. Wine and Christmas cake was served to members prior to lunch.
Next Meeting	9 th January 2018. Commencing at 10 00 am. Meeting Closed at 12.10 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