



Newsletter – March 2018

Email: probus@pittwater.org.au

Website: www.probus.pittwater.org.au

President's Message

We continue to see the USA trying to justify to itself that it is addressing the tragedy of 17 students and staff losing their lives at the recent shooting at a high school in Florida. The Washington Post reports that 7,100 children under the age of 18 are shot each year in the USA which equates to 19 children every day. Of these, 3.5 result in death, killed by a gun – every single day. The impact on so many families must be horrific.

The gun culture across the USA is so strong, largely driven by the National Rifle Association (NRA), that it stands way above day to day politics. Even above the power of the President.

I fear that the people of the USA have reached a point of no return with regard to guns. The good decent people will not dispose of their guns because they feel they will be unprotected against those that still have them. It appears that a major revolution will have to take place before there is any substantive change to the attitude towards guns. But maybe there is glimmer of hope. Some USA corporations are assessing their relationship with the NRA and considering possibly cutting ties. Could we see a “#MeToo” type campaign take shape? Could we see national protest like we have not seen since the Vietnam war? Unfortunately, not likely.

The young survivors from the Florida High School shooting endeavoured to raise the issue through young people nationally, but they are now back in school and the outrage has subsided at least until next time. It may take a generation or two, but the only hope the USA has in changing the gun culture is through its youth as they mature and become leaders. Here's hoping their voice will again be heard.

..... Ron Seldon



Probus Golf



6 people played and a close competition. Results were:

Geoff Richards 22 (won on a countback)

David Varley 22, John Owens 21.

Next game, Friday March 16th, 2018 at Palm Beach Golf Course.

Hit off 10 00am. Followed by lunch at Club Palm Beach.

February Speaker's Corner

The Life of Greg

Our main speaker for February, Greg van Borssum, spoke about his very eventful life as a learning curve in which he had achieved many things – body building titles and fame with Mad Max – Fury Road.

Greg was born in 1971 and named after Gregory Peck. He was the smallest kid in the street and took up bodybuilding to increase his self-confidence and become like his hero Arnold Schwarzenegger. At the age of 20 he won a national bodybuilding title.

Greg rejected the chance to join the family building company and went to Hong Kong to try to become a movie star. He was offered two leading roles but both fell through at the last minute. He returned to Sydney and worked on a building site, where he witnessed the suicide of his best mate.

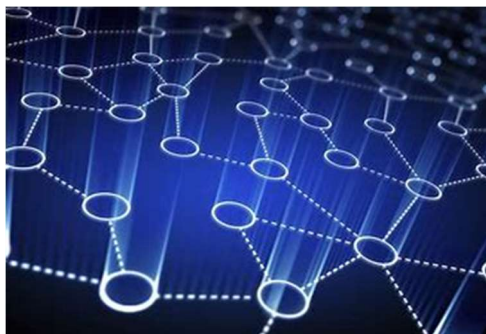
Greg made a film that was shown in a New York film festival. This in turn led to contact with the Australian movie director George Miller. He worked with George on an early version of Happy Feet and later had a role as a stuntman in the award winning Mad Max movie Fury Road.

Back in Australia, Greg was training to join an expedition to climb Mount Everest when he suffered a stroke. This life-changing experience led him to join Toastmasters and embark on a career as an inspirational speaker addressing school groups, Probus clubs and other community groups free of charge. His message was anybody can overcome obstacles if you try hard enough. Greg is one of the best speakers our club has ever had.



February 5 Minute Speaker

Blockchain



Our 5 Minute speaker for February, John Harston, explained the mysteries of Blockchain. Blockchain is so named because it stores data in blocks and circulates it in an unbreakable chain.

Blockchain has been associated with Bitcoin, but John says Blockchain will soon take over as a way of transmitting electronic money and other information from CHES on the Australian Stock Exchange and will influence our lives whether we know it or not.

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’

Because of the Annual General Meeting in March, we have deferred Graham Morley’s talk on his experience working in the Solomon Islands to April.

April 2018 Speaker

Jay Claren “The Bombing of Hamburg”



Probus Club member, Jay Claren, who was born in Kiel, Germany (just south of the Danish border) in 1938 was raised in Hamburg, Germany.

Jay will talk about his boyhood in Nazi Germany during World War II and in particular the bombing of Hamburg.

April 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.

Probus Club of Pittwater Inc. – 2017/2018 Accounts

Receipts & Payments Statement – Year Ending 28th February 2018

Receipts	2016/2017	2017/2018
Subscriptions	2,400.00	2,480.00
Joining Fee	110.00	180.00
Luncheons	4,522.00	3,799.00
Morning Tea	1,317.75	1,487.90
Outings	-	2,931.00
Interest	0.27	-
Total Receipts	\$8,350.02	\$10,877.90
Payments		
Morning Tea	1,440.00	1,375.00
Administration	1,078.74	1,530.36
Probus Supplies	300.00	300.00
Name Badges	102.91	177.00
Rent	121.00	124.00
Ins. & Capitation	796.25	790.50
State Taxes	54.00	44.00
Outings	141.17	2,864.88
Lunches	4,285.60	3,841.18
Total Payments	\$8,319.67	\$11,046.92
Deficiency/Excess	30.35	(169.02)
B/Forward	3,484.94	3,515.29
Balance	\$3,515.29	\$3,346.27

Audit Report

PROBUS CLUB OF PITTWATER INC.

BALANCE SHEET...AS AT 28th FEBRUARY 2018

ASSETS

Cash at Bank \$3,346.27

LIABILITIES

Nil

Club Funds as at 28.2.18 \$3,346.27

The attached Receipts and Payments Statement and Balance Sheet have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Association's Incorporation Act. The Statements are prepared on a cash basis from the records of the Probus Club of Pittwater Inc. when items are brought to account as money is received or paid.



DAVID H. VARLEY

Hon. Treasurer 28.2.18

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the attached Receipts and Payments Statement and Balance Sheet present fairly the position of the Probus Club of Pittwater Inc. as at 28th February, 2018 and its receipts and payments for the year then ended.



ARTHUR NAPPER Hon. Auditor

FIPAFFA

Pittwater BBQ

The Pittwater Probus Famous BBQ is on again!



These 'twice-a-year festivities' are fast becoming the social events of the year.

The numbers are increasing so make sure you join in the fun at the Autumn BBQ at Flying Fox Park, Winererremy Bay, Mona Vale. 5 00 pm 21st March 2018.

Partners welcome.

\$5.00 per head to cover food costs. Bring your own refreshments.

Don't miss out!

Member Long Service Recognition

At the AGM, we will recognise four of our longest serving members.

- Cyril Webb 33 Years Joined 1st September 1984
- Colin Friezer 26 years Joined 1st August 1991
- Gordon Crow 23 years Joined 1st March 1994
- Bill Marshall 20 years Joined 1st May 1997

Good News !!

65 Years old is still young!

How old is old? World Health Organisation (WHO) had declared that 65 years old is still considered young. Before, based on the Friendly Societies Act (1875) in Britain, old was defined by age of 50. The UN has not adopted a standard criterion but lately 60 years old was referred as the border age to the word 'old'. However the health organisation had done a new research recently, according to average health quality and life expectancy and defined a new criterion that divides human age as follows:



- 0 to 17 years old: underage
- 18 to 65 years old: youth or young people
- 66 to 79 years old: middle-aged
- 80 to 99 years old: elderly or senior
- 100+ years old: long-lived elderly

New Member

Frank Sprakel



Frank started his apprenticeship with Hodgson & Lee as an apprentice electrician. For a lot of the time, Frank was hired out to various companies on the higher voltage side of their manufacturing business. Companies such as Mascot Airport, Thomas electronics and mining operations.

In his third year Frank was awarded the Peter Fenwick award by Jeff Lee ahead of 45 apprentices that they employed in NSW, a prestigious award.

On completion of his apprenticeship, Frank started work in the merchant Navy and started studying for a Commerce degree. A bit difficult being away so much.

In 2071 Frank started work with News Limited initially as an electrician and moved into the sales department, selling advertising. Frank was with News Limited for about 10 years. An opportunity came up with AMP in sales and Frank “graduated” to training sales people. This assisted Frank to work for himself and recruit and train sales teams for Australian Eagle, National Mutual, Friends’ Provident, MLC, and several other insurance companies. All this involved considerable travel and time spent away from home.

In 1993, Frank saw an ‘add’ for a real estate agent for the Northern Beaches and applied for the position and ended up selling real estate for 28 years, retiring in October 2016.

Frank is married and lives in Narrabeen and has 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren.

Frank, welcome to Pittwater Probus.

Golf in the Southern Highlands



7 Probus couples have booked and paid to travel to the Southern Highlands for what will be a brilliant weekend of golf later this month.

If you want to join the group, you are not too late, but you will need to move quickly and talk to Organiser Bill Sherman.

The trip is booked for 26 – 28 March 2018 and consists of two nights with breakfast at Peppers Craigieburn, plus golf at Bowral Golf

Club and Highlands Golf Club, Mittagong.

Other benefits include a \$50 voucher towards Dinner for two in the Craigieburn Restaurant, a drink on arrival, a golf cart at Highlands and drinks at Bowral, plus a tasting board of cheese and wine.

Contact Bill Sherman on 0418 257 330.

The Beautiful Walk

Manly Beach to Shelly Beach

Six active club members stepped out on the first day of Autumn on a special adventure. This journey began early in the day by boarding a 199 bus bound for Manly. On alighting from the bus, our intrepid travellers forged their way through visiting nomadic crowds discovering the wonders of Manly, and headed up the Corso.

From the Corse, our valiant travellers had a short rest at the South Steyne Surf Club to gather their bearings and conduct last minute checks before making the trek to Shelly Beach.

On arriving at Shelly Beach, our fearless travellers fortified themselves at the local coffee shop before commencing the return journey back to South Steyne and on to Manly. Once safely arrived in Manly, it was time to set up a temporary camp at Table 69, where a meal was partaken and strengths regained after the early rigors of the day.

Once fortified, our gallant travellers boarded a 199 bus and headed north to pastures more known to all.



Lunch Anyone?

On 13th June 2018, Probus members are going to lunch at the Pittwater Training Restaurant at the Brookvale TAFE College. The cost is \$25 per head. Wine additional.



The Pittwater Training Restaurant offers a memorable dining experience where students work together to provide modern Australian cuisine and professional service. The freshest Australian produce is used to create innovative and sophisticated dishes, matched with some of Australia's finest wines.

The restaurant gives hospitality and culinary students the opportunity to cook contemporary dishes, serve fine wines and manage real-life dining situations in a professional restaurant.

If you are interested in joining this function please see Gordon Stokes.

Trivia Night



It does not come better than this. A picturesque setting, an excellent meal and great company together with a trivia quiz to test the mind!

Quizmaster Bill Sherman ably assisted by Gill Sherman put those assembled through a series of questions ranging from Oz Geography, Oz History, Oz Politics plus a few more topics.

The challenge was on from the first question and the competition was fierce (well, a lot of fun!). The Mannington/Seldon team coming out the winners.

Quizmaster Bill



Bruce, you should know that one !

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 2018. 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.

Editor's Desk

Online Security Check:

Your online security should be of utmost importance to you. More and more Australians are being 'stung' by online marketers. It is worth remembering that most reputable Australian companies will never ring you to offer to improve your online experience. In particular Telstra will NEVER ring to offer to rid you of viruses or scams or to 'improve' your internet speed.

Such unsolicited calls, although purporting to come from Telstra are invariably after your hard-earned savings. Never agree to download software they may suggest or allow them to take control of your computer, tablet or phone. It is, without question, going to end badly for you.

If you have a problem with a technology device ask an Avalon Computer Pal trainer (David Bennett is a Probus member) or check with a nearby computer repairer. If you have younger family let them contribute to the discussion.

Australians aged over 55 accounted for 45 per cent of around 200,000 reports last year to Scamwatch, an Australian Government initiative and part of the ACCC, with investment scams accounting for the most losses, followed by dating and romance scams.

Seniors, many from the northern beaches of Sydney are commonly affected.

To read more about this, visit the Australian Government Seniors security website. Telstra also provide an excellent manual on how to avoid these scams.

Being on the Australian Government's 'Do Not Call' list is pretty much a waste of time as most calls originate in overseas countries.

Don't be fooled by the apparent Australian number that might appear on your phone. Best advice: Simply hang up.



... Courtesy of Avalon Computer Pals

Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc.

Meeting	13 th February 2018 Meeting opened by President Ron Seldon. 46 members present and 2 guests.
Inductions	Frank Sprakel was inducted into the club.
Minutes	Minutes of the January 2018 meeting were published in the Newsletter, Mvd. Bruce Farrar, 2 nd Arthur Napper, carried.
Correspondence	Email from Gordon Stokes re-lunch booking at the TAFE Training Restaurant for 13 th June, 2018.
Treasurer's Report	Presented by David Varley Balance at 1/1/2018 \$3,393.86 Receipts: Subscription \$40.00, Badge \$20.00, Morning Teas \$127.00. Total \$187.00. Payments: Morning Teas \$55.00, Ezy Engraving \$11.00. Total \$66.00. Balance at 31/1/2018 \$3,514.86. Mvd. David Varley, 2 nd B. Pritchard, carried.
Welfare Report	Bill Marshall recovering from 2 nights in hospital. Warwick Dalzell in hospital having spinal surgery.
Speakers	Brian Kennedy has organised the following speakers: March Deborah Wallace - My Life in Crime. April Ken Plumb – Visit to Butan. Short Talk Graham Morley – Education in Samoa. May Jay Claren – Life in Wartime Hamburg. June Richard Friar – Story of his Life. July Jim Boyce - Topic of Historical Interest.
Functions	Gordon Stokes has booked for 30 persons for lunch at the Pittwater Training Restaurant 13th June 2018. Trivia and Dinner 20 th February 2018.
Activities	John Harston has arranged a walk from Manly Beach to Shelly Beach 1 st March 2018. Golf tour Southern Highlands 26 th to 28 th March 2018. BBQ 21 th March, Flying Fox Reserve.
Golf	David Varley won the Trophy. Play at Palm Beach 16 th February at 10 00 am.
General Business	Wes Harder will take over as Speaker Officer. Brain Kennedy has resigned this position after 10 years of service.
5 Minute Talk	John Harston gave a short display on the Blockchain organisation in the financial world.
Speaker	Following the coffee break, Greg van Borssum gave us his life story.
Next Meeting	13 th March 2018. Commencing at 10 00 am. Meeting Closed at 11 55 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