



Newsletter – May 2018

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President's Message

Returning home is always a pleasure after a long trip away especially when the Northern Beaches welcomes one back. However, as we unpacked after a longish journey many memories of places we visited were brought back to mind. None more so than Ecuador. As the plane landed in the capital Quito it was evident that this was a special city. With a population of 2.7 million the city spreads along the ridges of an active volcano in the Andes Mountains. At 2,850 m or 9,350 ft. the altitude was immediately evident and its pre-Columbian and Spanish colonial heritage well preserved. It is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site, the second highest capital in the world and reaches within 1 km of the Equator. Quite a list of attractions!

The Galapagos Islands were our primary destination in Ecuador. The influence of the tectonic plates and the Pacific currents has created a unique environment as Charles Darwin realised when he visited in "The Beagle" in 1831. Darwin described the islands as "a little world within itself". What an influence that observation plus Darwin's evolution theories has been to generations since then.

Ecuador has recognised the importance of and responsibility for retaining The Galapagos in as pristine a state as possible. It has taken environmental protection measures well beyond those familiar to us in Australia with full, open baggage checks and prohibition of imported food and products. This approach shows when you step foot on the shore and wander freely amongst the iguanas and range of birds that so captivated Darwin.

.... John Harston

April Speaker's Corner

Don't Mention the War

Our April speaker was club member Jay Claren, who was born in Germany in 1938, and was determined to present the other side of the war to club member Bryan Pritchard, who gave us a talk entitled Memories of Blitz Kid some time ago. Both agreed that war is hell but accepted their childhoods as normal. It was all they knew.

Jay was born into a middle-class family in the Baltic port of Kiel. He had no knowledge of the plans of an Austrian named Adolph Hitler that would influence both their lives. Jay's father, the manager of a chocolate business, was conscripted to serve in the Balkans. Otherwise little changed for Jay at first. The war was far away and the German army went from victory to victory. Then Jay and his mother were forced to respond to air raid sirens

and spent many hours seated on wooden benches in bomb shelters. Houses around their comfortable home were destroyed.



Jay's mother decided to take the crowded night train to nearby Hamburg where she thought they would be safer. Big mistake. Bomber Harris had decided to take a special interest in the port of Hamburg. In 1943 he ordered the carpet bombing of the city that set off a fire storm and killed more than 80,000 civilians. Jay and his mother

escaped unscathed although houses all round their home were destroyed. Jay is still haunted by memories of collapsed buildings and the sight of charred corpses. Bomber Harris considered his actions were justified. Not surprisingly Jay disagrees.

Jay and his mother then moved to a village in the country nearby. They spent the next two years between the ceiling beams of the home of the village pastor with only a sheet for privacy. They had no heating or taps for water or plumbing. Their only luxury was a chamber pot. Jay started school at a village about 4 kilometres away. They walked to school and back. One teacher took four classes at once. They were instructed in the mysteries of making marks on a slate with a stylus.

Then in 1945 American tanks arrived in the main street of the village. Everybody was happy and laughing. The Americans showered the kids with chewing gum and chocolate. The kids responded by stealing anything that wasn't nailed down. They grabbed and sold cameras, petrol and anything else they could find. These were still desperate times. Millions of refugees fled west to escape from the Russians.

Everybody survived mainly on cabbage and turnips and swedes. The population of pet rabbits and even cats and dogs disappeared. Jay remembers these times without bitterness. Everybody was hungry. They accepted it as just the way things were.

Jay and his mother then moved back to Kiel where miraculously their old family home was still standing although the windows were shattered and boarded up. Even their car, an Adler, was still in the garage. Then one day a soldier appeared. Jay was surprised when his mother ran up to the soldier and kissed him. It was Jay's father. He had been away four years. Jay did not recognise him. There was, however, no happy ending. The couple divorced when Jay was 13 and Jay and his mother moved to South Africa. And that, said Jay, is another story.

.... Brian Kennedy

Membership Recognition

Cyril Webb



Life Member, Cyril Webb was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for 34 years of membership and service to the Club at the April 2018 meeting.

Cyril, a true gentleman, was born in London on 10th June 1921 and inducted into the club on 11th September 1984. He was Vice President in 1996 and President in 1997 and recounts the early days of Pittwater Probus and how the committee worked hard to establish the club and attract new members. Cyril was always an active member of the club committee and took on many roles. He acted as Welfare Officer right up to 2004.

Cyril, was a speaker a couple of years back telling stories of his childhood in England and his early administrative duties on the London Docks.

May 2018 Speaker

Ken Plumb "Bhutan"

The guest talk will be by club member Ken Plumb who will speak about the little known and visited country of Bhutan, nestled in the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains.

Ken spent some time in this faraway and hidden place and will illustrate his talk with an excellent photographic collection of the beautiful scenery and much slower pace of the life and culture of the people.



May 2018 '5 Minute' Speaker

Colin Sutton "Medical Devices"



New club member, Colin Sutton will talk about his commercial involvement in implantable medical devices such as cardiac pacemakers and defibrillators.

Colin will discuss the heart anatomy and why and when these devices are needed to maintain normal heart rhythm - not too slow and not too fast.

June Speaker

Richard Friar "My Life"

The main speaker in June is Ric Friar aided by his wife Wendy.

Ric and Wendy will start with a very short video on his big surf wave riding experiences.

He will also discuss his near drowning off Newport Reef followed by stories of his rakish life in "Swinging London" of the 1960's.



June 2018 '5-Minute Speaker'

Tony Mestrov "Covering Cyclone Tracy"



Club member Tony Mestrov's extensive career with Channel 10 Sydney included covering many major events in Australia's history.

One significant occasion was covering the Cyclone Tracey disaster in Darwin on Christmas Day 1974.

Tony will recount his experience in filming the aftermath of Tracy during this dramatic time.

For the Sake of Art

Visit to the NSW Art Gallery



Date: May 29th 2018

Time: 10.30am at Gallery

Place: Art Gallery of NSW

Activity: Gallery visit including Archibald Prize and Lady & the Unicorn Tapestries from France

Cost: Free entry to Gallery. Fee for Tapestries

Getting there: B1 or L90 bus to Wynyard

Then walk through Domain to the Art Gallery or walk up to QVB and take 441 bus to the Gallery.

Option to drive and park in Domain Car park

Lunch: Newly refurbished Gallery Café on the lowest level. Snacks and coffee.

Probus Golf

Six players had an enjoyable round on a warm Friday at Palm Beach Golf Club.

The best scores in were:

Bill Sherman 21 points (Trophy and 2 balls) on a count back.

Geoff Richards 21 points, 1 ball.

Brian Kennedy 19 points (applause).

Come along and join us next Friday for a relaxing round with 150 mm (6 inches) preferred lies and a chance to win a golf ball or two, followed by a tasty lunch at Club Palm Beach.

Golf Joke:

An elderly Probus golfer was looking for a game of golf and went to the pro shop where the assistant pro offered to play him over 9 holes "You can have two shots a hole for handicap the young pro said but if I win you owe me \$50"

"Ok said the golfer a little reluctantly but I have to let you know that I can't get out of bunkers"

They set off on the round and were even up to the last hole when the elderly gentleman hit his shot into the bunker.



The pro was on the green when suddenly a ball flew out of the bunker and finished right up to the pin for a certain win.

The amazed pro looked down into the bunker and said "I thought you said you couldn't get out of bunkers?". "That's right" was the reply, "could you reach down and help me get out?"

Next game, Friday May 11th, 2018 at Palm Beach Golf Course.

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

.... Graham Morley, Golf Convener

Last Call



Last call. Your \$40 annual Probus Club Membership Fee for 2018 is due. If you have already paid, thank you.

If not, please make your payment to Treasurer David Varley at the May Meeting. Prompt payment will be very much appreciated.

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.

Look at that Sparkle!

Probus Pittwater visit to the Cartier Exhibition in Canberra Thursday June 21 - Friday June 22, 2018

The Event.

Never before have so many incredible diamonds, emeralds and other precious stones been seen in Australia. The Cartier Exhibition showcases more than 300 spectacular items, with loans from royal families, celebrities and the astonishing Cartier Collection itself, in exquisite settings such as royal tiaras, necklaces, brooches and earrings.



The exhibition explores Cartier's glittering international clientele that included royalty, aristocrats, socialites, and stars of the stage, cinema and music. Highlights include Dame Nellie Melba's diamond stomacher brooch, the Queen's "Halo" tiara, worn by Kate Middleton at her wedding to Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, Daisy Fellowes' Tutti-Frutti Hindu necklace, Barbara Hutton's imperial jadeite necklace, Princess Grace of Monaco's 10.48-carat diamond engagement ring, Dame Elizabeth Taylor's diamond and ruby necklace (a gift from her third husband Mike Todd which also doubles as a tiara) and a selection from the NGA's exceptional Ballets Russes costumes.

The Plan.

Travel to Canberra on the Thursday morning, leave luggage at your hotel of choice, and meet up at the National Gallery at 2.30 pm. This will be a relaxed no group obligation arrangement allowing about 2 hours to view the collection before the museum closes at 5 pm. We can dine together at the Kingston Hotel around 6 pm and return home next day or stay longer as desired.

Transport.

For those wishing to use public transport instead of driving, the best option is to take a bus to Central Railway station precinct to connect with a Murrays direct intercity bus

service. This leaves on the hour and is comfortable, quick and inexpensive. We suggest a 9 am departure from their Central terminus. Book a return fare in advance.

What next.

1. Please register your interest, and your wish for inclusion in the dinner booking, with Gordon on mobile 0409 705 869.
2. Book your hotel, picking one that is handy. There are packages available at several Canberra hotels. For example, Crowne Plaza (very close to the bus station) offers a double room, breakfast for two, Cartier entry tickets and a glass of bubbly for two at \$343. Hotel Kurrajong is another option that offers good discounts for NRMA Members.
3. Arrange your transport.

Please note that this trip plan is mostly 'do it yourself'. However, Gordon Stokes, John Harston and Ron Seldon are ready to help with any issues.

.... Gordon Stokes

Personal Data Anyone?

You will have noted the international concerns over Facebook being the source of personal data of millions of subscribers being accessed by Cambridge Analytica with regard to the Trump USA elections. Club members be assured this is nothing new, China has been collecting data on individuals around the world for years.

For example, in Australia starting back in the 50s through to today, you will recall wherever you travelled, every country town or village always had a Chinese restaurant, no matter how big or small the place was. And every one of these establishments, wherever you went, always had Curried Prawns and Rice as #23 and Sweet and Sour Pork as #45 on the menu. From this the Chinese were able to gather enormous amounts of data, such as 32.17% of Australians ordered #23 Curried Prawns and Rice on a Friday night and 47.91% ordered #45 Sweet and Sour Pork on Saturday nights. All of this data over the years has been transferred to Beijing and has been stored on hundreds of abacuses (or if you prefer, abaci) across the country.



With all of this data, it is rumoured that China's President Xi Jinping, to his delight, will use it to influence Australian citizens to invest in "fortune cookies" on the Shanghai stock exchange. But beware, these investment funds may well be used to compose the messages contained therein, to entice Australians to throw away their knives and forks and

buy chopsticks, to further induce you to frequent more Chinese establishments and thereby support the Chinese economy.

So next time you select #23 Curried Prawns and Rice on a Friday night, remember your choice is being noted and recorded in the highest circles in Beijing.

.... Sub-Editor (after ordering #19 Tongue in Cheek)

New Members

Brian Johnstone



Brian, on completing his education at Fort Street Boy's High School, joined the commercial staff at the Colonial Sugar Refinery's head office in 1951. At the same time Brian commenced an Economics Degree as an evening student, graduating in 1958. After working in several divisions, Brian was transferred to New Zealand as Company Secretary of CSR subsidiary, New Zealand Sugar Co. Ltd.

In 1974, Brian took up the role of Deputy Bursar at The King's School, Parramatta. After two years Brian was made Bursar and Clerk to the School Council, responsible for the business administration of the School. A position Brian held until he retired in 1997. Brian was called back to King's School for a further ten years as part-time Company Secretary of the Trust, which owns and operates a 4,500 acre farming and grazing property at Cootamundra.

Brian, welcome to Pittwater Probus.

Colin Sutton



Colin attended King's School, Parramatta and then completed a Bachelor of Science Degree at UNSW before earning a PHD, and later advancing to Adjunct Professor in Biomedical Engineering at the University.

Colin joined Industrial Metal Protectives in 1972 as Technical Services Manager then as Marketing Manager. He later was employed from 1975 by Teletronics Ltd. in many roles from International Marketing Executive to CEO of subsidiary of Domedica Pty Ltd.

In 1994, Colin joined Hill-Rom Air-Shields, the world's largest manufacturer of hospital beds and neonatal equipment. From 2000 to 2003, Colin was CEO and Director of Sirtex Medical Ltd., an ASX listed oncology company that specialised in treating advanced liver cancer with radioactive micro-spheres. He then joined Ventracor Ltd, in 2003, as CEO and MD, commercialising a novel cardiac assist pump.

Colin in retirement, serves on a number of industry committees as well as non-executive directorships. He enjoys running, skiing, tennis, rowing and surfing.

Colin, welcome to Pittwater Probus.

Editor's Desk

Power Games

With the current Canberra focus on energy (or the potential lack thereof), you may be confused by the numerous terms the experts use. To help you untangle the jargon, consider the codes below to expand your understanding of what they are talking about.

AEMA - Australian Energy Market Agreement sets out the legislative and regulatory framework for Australia's energy markets. It provides for national legislation implemented in each participating state and territory.

AEMC - Australian Energy Market Commission makes the rules that govern the electricity and natural gas markets, including the retail elements of those markets.

AEMO - Australian Energy Market Operator controls the National Energy Market, which connects the power systems of Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

AER - Australian Energy Regulator regulates wholesale electricity and gas markets in Australia. Part of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, it enforces rules established by the Australian Energy Market Commission.

CET - Clean Energy Target.

DER - Distributed Energy Resources.

DNSP - Distributed Network Service Provider.

EIS - Emissions Intensity Scheme

ESB - Energy Security Board

NEG - National Energy Guarantee aims to support the provision of reliable, secure and affordable electricity and is designed to encourage new investment in clean and low-emission technologies. To deliver this, NEG requires retailers to contract with or invest in generators to meet a minimum level of dispatchable on-demand electricity. Retailers must also keep their emissions below an agreed level. Energy and emissions targets are reflected in a single energy price.

NEL - National Electricity Law.

NEM - National Energy Market.

RET - Renewable Energy Target.

TNSP - Transmission Network Service Provider.

VRE - Variable Renewable Electricity.

Understand all of that? Are you any the wiser? No, nor am I. Somewhere in all of the above are Canberra's means to keep our lights on. Now where did I put that candle?

.... Company Director, March 2018 (additional comments by the Sub-Editor)



Don't Leave Home Without It

Probus Members are always on the move. See what Probus offer in Travel Insurance.



PROBUS TRAVEL INSURANCE MADE EASY

Probus Travel Insurance is available for both domestic and international travel and is exclusive to Probus Club members, Rotary Club members and their immediate family.

You can access Probus Travel Insurance up to 270 days in advance of your first travel date, as long as you or your immediate family member is a member of a Probus Club or Rotary Club.*



1. Single Trip Plan A*

Provides benefits of up to \$100,000 for international medical expenses and up to \$5,000 for cancellation / loss of deposit. Most benefits under the plan provide coverage for pre-existing medical conditions subject to a fit to travel report being completed by a doctor and submitted when applying. Coverage is available up to the age of 100 years, however limitations apply to persons 81 years and over. The maximum length of the trip is 120 days.

2. Single Trip Plan B*

Provides varying benefits depending upon your travel destination e.g. unlimited medical expenses and cancellation/ loss of deposit coverage for worldwide travel. Single Trip Plan B is available to persons up to and including the age of 90 years. It provides coverage benefits for a specific list of pre-existing medical conditions for people up to or including the age of 75. The maximum length of the trip is 180 days.

3. Annual Multi Trip Plan B*

For those who travel regularly, Annual Multi Trip Plan B provides the same benefits as for Single Trip Plan B, for multiple journeys, with each journey not exceeding 45 consecutive days. Again, it provides coverage for a specific list of pre-existing medical conditions for people up to or including the age of 75. Annual Multi Trip Plan B is available to people up to and including the age of 80 years.



Click here to get a quote on Probus Travel Insurance or call the Probus Team:

AU: 1300 630 488

NZ: 0800 1477 6287

or visit the Probus website:

www.probusouthpacific.org

Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc.

Meeting	10 th April 2018 Meeting opened by Ron Seldon. 43 members present and 3 guests.
Inductions	Brian Johnstone and Colin Sutton were inducted into the club.
Certificates	Cyril Webb was presented with a Long Service Certificate.
Minutes	Minutes of the March 2018 meeting were published in the Newsletter, Mvd. Bruce Farrar, 2 nd Allan Smith, carried.
Correspondence	Various tour brochures.
Birthdays	Gordon Crow, Bruce Farrar, Fred Murray-Walker, Robert Slee, Richard Trevitt, Barrie Unsworth, David Varley.
Treasurer's Report	Presented by David Varley Balance at 1/3/2018 \$3,346.27 Receipts: Subscriptions \$1,320.00, Morning Teas \$152.20. Total \$1,472.20 Payments: Morning Teas \$120.00, Admin. \$158.03, Ezy Engraving \$29.51, PO Box \$127.00, NSW Fair Trading \$45.00. Total \$479.54. Balance at 31/3/2018 \$4,338.93 Mvd. David Varley, 2 nd Ron Seldon, carried.
Welfare Report	Warwick Dalzell now home after the hospital ordeal.
Speakers	Wes Harder has organised the following speakers: May Ken Plumb – Bhutan. June Richard Friar – Surfing life after nearly drowning. July Jim Boyce – History of Pittwater.
Functions	Mid-year lunch Brookvale TAFE 13 th June.
Activities	Bill Sherman learning to drive a bus for transport of members wishing to go to the Temora Air Show in October.
Golf	Brian Kennedy won the Trophy. Play at Palm Beach Club 13 th April at 10 00 am.
General Business	Suggested trips to Manly Art Gallery, Frank Hurley Photo Exhibition. Trip to Canberra for the portrait gallery and the Cartier Jewellery Exhibition. Barry Faulkner to be inducted at the May meeting.
5 Minute Talk	Graham Morley gave an interesting short talk on teaching industrial arts in the Solomon Islands.
Speaker	Following the coffee break, Jay Claren gave a lively talk on his growing up in Hamburg after WWII.
Next Meeting	8 th May 2018. Commencing at 10 00 am. Meeting Closed at 12 10 pm. Signed as a correct record.

Office Bearers for 2018

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

President	John Harston 9940 0446	Major Events Organiser	Bill Sherman 9997 5532
Vice President	John Porter 9970 7230	Functions Organiser	Gordon Stokes 9999 2073
Secretary	Bruce Farrar 9971 2042	Speaker Organiser	Wes Harder 9997 3303
Treasurer	David Varley 9918 7154	Newsletter Editor	Warwick Dalzell 9997 4518
Welfare Officer	Geoff Sheppard 9918 7646	Registrar	Trevor Stephens 9918 21 38
Activities Officer	John Harston 9940 0446		