



Newsletter – July 2018

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President's Message

Bruce Farrar

When I wrote my message to you last month I included some news concerning Bruce Farrar's hospitalisation and a wish for his return to health. As you may know, Bruce's condition deteriorated quite suddenly on June 24th and he died in the early morning of Monday, June 25th. This was a great shock to his wife and family, as you would appreciate.

Funeral arrangements were quickly put in place for Monday, July 2nd at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium at Ryde. A large group of his family, and friends from all aspects of his life, filled the Chapel for a very appropriate farewell. You will be pleased to know that a good number of our Probus Club members were also able to attend.



Bruce, who was 87, had participated in life to the fullest. He enjoyed his early work as a lithographic professional. His travels in Europe as a young man gave him a taste for exploring that he maintained to the end. His interests at home covered orchids, skiing, local history, golf and of course Pittwater Probus. A number of references were also made to his love of a good red wine especially if it was from McLaren Vale.

Bruce joined our Probus in 2003, was President in 2006/07 and was Club Secretary from 2009 until last week. His behind the scenes work on club business was always completed in a friendly and competent manner. Who can forget his sonorous voice giving the Secretary's report at monthly meetings?

We will have a remembrance for Bruce at this month's meeting.

In closing I would like to direct your attention to the walk at the North Sydney Coal Loader (weather permitting) planned for Wednesday, July 25th. See more details later in this newsletter.

.... John Harston

June Speaker's Corner

Richard Friar

Surreal- having the disorienting, hallucinatory quality of a dream; unreal; fantastic: that was my first feeling, having watched Richard Friar's and Wendy Harper's film - Phenomenality. So what was it about?

The Cribbar, aka "The Widowmaker", off Newquay, Cornwall, is a proving ground for big wave surfing and in September 1966. Friar was the first man to ride its big wave. Friar was joined by Australians Peter Russell and John McElroy and Hawaiian Jack Lydgate. Friar says he took off first. The film tells the story of his near-death experience of almost being crushed between a giant wave and a cliff. He lost his board on the rocks and had a long swim to safety.

"It was the fastest wave I had ever ridden, but now I've got two twenty-five waves and a craggy cliff in front of me. I know I'm going to die. " He came back from the dead but was this the first time or was his near-death experience on Newport Beach the real thing.



"You're as insane"

"An incident on Christmas Day in 1963, where my life changed. I drowned myself. I'd just caught a 35-foot-tall wave that dumped me on a sand bank, dislocating my shoulder. I swallowed water and colours faded to black and I knew I was dead. I woke up after waves had thrown me over rocks onto a sandy patch. I was violently vomiting in the water, when I knew I was alive."

"I was always prepared to die, that's why I'm alive."

Richard Friar is an English-Australian big wave surfer, artist, peace activist, film-maker and horticulturist. In 1991, he was crowned King Poo by Column 8 because he disposed of the mountain of manure from the Royal Agricultural Society Showground Stables at Centennial Park. Since then he has tirelessly promoted worms with his compost and mulch business.

... Warwick Dalzell

July 2018 Speaker

Jim Boyce "Historic Buildings"



In 1963, Jim Boyce was selected to play with the Wallabies touring side to South Africa. On this tour, he and the other players were shocked by their exposure to the injustices of the apartheid regime.

Later, Jim became Marketing Manager for Tooth & Co Hotels and achieved an accomplished career in marketing and social research. Jim is an immediate Past President of the Manly Warringah Pittwater Historical Society.

Jim will speak on the "History of Commercial Buildings of the Northern Beaches Area"

July 2018 '5-Minute Speaker'

Roman Zwolenski "Vietnam War Ballot"



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.

August 2018 Speaker

Tony Osman "Coal in Indonesia"

During the 2000s commodities boom the coal mining industry was very lucrative as coal prices were comfortably high. Many Indonesian companies and wealthy families decided to acquire coal mining concessions in Kalimantan. Coal became known as the "new gold".

Tony Osman will talk about life and coal in Kalimantan.



August 2018 '5-Minute Speaker'

John Porter "Clean Coal"



Probus Club Vice- President, John Porter will talk about clean coal.

Clean coal has been the holy grail of the fossil fuel industry for decades. It is based on the concept of creating commercially viable ways of minimising carbon emissions from coal-fired electricity plants which are considered to contribute to global warming.

Probus Golf

Once again 9 golfers enjoyed sunny conditions at Palm Beach Golf Course followed by a tasty lunch and chat at "Club Palmy"

Peter Veny was way ahead of the field with 26 stableford points to win the trophy plus two golf balls - and lose 2 handicap shots!

Runner up was Bill Sherman on a count back. (1 golf ball)

Come along next Friday 13th of July and try your luck. Hit off time 10 am, followed by lunch.



GOLF JOKE

An elderly golfer was visiting America and was fortunate enough to be chosen for a game of golf with the President of the USA, Donald Trump. After a cordial greeting they hit off from the First Tee, watched by a number of security men.

After a few holes the President got a bit impatient and went ahead down the fairway. The visiting golfer anxious to catch up had a wild swing and sliced the ball which headed towards the President.

Alarmed the golfer called out in a loud voice "Mickey Mouse, Mickey Mouse"

Luckily the ball sailed harmlessly past the President.

In response a security guard rushed over and said "What's this Mickey Mouse, Mickey Mouse, what sort of a warning is that?"

"Sorry" said the golfer. "I got a bit confused, I meant to call out DONALD DUCK".

See you on the golf course: Good golf maybe, good views a certainty!

.... Graham Morley, Golf Convener

Editor's Desk



With the revamped management of Wesfarmers including new CEO, Rob Scott, there is speculation in the financial press that Wesfarmers are contemplating a spin-off of their Coles business. This could net Wesfarmers \$20 billion. After paying down recent losses including the sale of Bunnings UK, Wesfarmers could have at least \$12 billion to either return excess capital to shareholders or acquire other companies.

A possible shopping list of potential acquisitions could look like this:

- Qantas \$13.8 billion
- Caltex \$8.5billion
- TPG Telecom \$6.3 billion
- REA Group (Real Estate) \$11.6 billion
- Dulux Group \$3.3 billion
- Bluescope Steel \$10.6 billion
- Oil Search \$12.3 billion
- Downer EDI \$5.5 billion
- Aurizon \$12 billion
- Plus a few more

It is unlikely that Wesfarmers would acquire another retail company, still having Bunnings, Kmart, Officeworks and Target in the stable. So what company does the management of Wesfarmers think it can gain better margins through a take-over? We will have to wait and see.

However, if Wesfarmers buys Qantas, I hope they don't use the Coles slogan of "Down! Down!".

.... the Sub-Editor

Cartier Exhibition, Canberra

The cold days and nights of a Canberra winter did not deter a number of Probus travellers from visiting the magnificent Cartier Exhibition at the National Gallery. The Exhibition is showcasing more than 300 spectacular items, with loans from royal families and celebrities plus the astonishing Cartier Collection itself, in exquisite settings such as royal tiaras, necklaces, brooches and earrings. Never before have so many incredible diamonds, emeralds and other precious stones been seen in Australia.

After being exposed to such splendour, it was time to reflect on all the sights over an excellent dinner at local restaurant, La Rustica.



What! No Tiaras!

.... the Sub-Editor

Things you don't do!

Wear a bright red shirt when shopping in a Bunnings store.

... Sub-Editor

Winter Visit and Walk

NORTH SYDNEY COAL LOADER

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25th 2018 AT 11.00 AM (WEATHER PERMITTING)

The old Coal Loader at Berry's Bay in North Sydney has recently been preserved by North Sydney Council and opened for viewing and exploring. The site is dramatic, being located between Berry's Bay and Balls Head Bay. A significant amount of new construction and preservation work has been undertaken to allow the public to enjoy the coal loader and its surrounds (no entry fee). A modern lift has been installed to provide ease of access between levels. Some of the attractions are:

- The brick and stone coal loader structure and tunnels
- The bush garden
- Cammeraygal engravings
- Visitor Orientation Deck
- The old wharf
- Wetlands
- Community Bushland Nursery

We plan to explore the Coal Loader for about 1.5 hours.



There is a café on site for coffee or lunch. Balls Head Reserve is next door if you fancy taking a picnic.

There are options for getting there:

- **By car.** Drive to N. Sydney and turn right off Pacific Highway at Bay Road to Balls Head Road. Follow this road past Waverton Railway Station to the coal loader. 3-hour street parking is available. The road travel time from Mona Vale is about 50 minutes.
- **By bus.** Catch the B-line to Wynyard Station. Catch a train north from Wynyard to Waverton Station. Alight and walk to the Coal Loader. It is about a 20-minute walk with minimum grades.
- **By train.** Drive to Killara or Lindfield station and find parking. Then catch the train to Waverton and walk to the Coal Loader.

More information is available at <northsydney.gov.au/coalloader>

John Harston (phone 0418 293 025)

... John Harston

Fine Dining



Two of our friendly serving students.

In June, 25 Probus members were treated to a memorable dining experience in the Pittwater Training Restaurant located in the Brookvale TAFE College. The lunch was served by a young group of students who capably demonstrated their professional skills acquired at the College.

It was not just the students out the front working the tables, but the excellent presentation and flavour of the prepared dishes reflected on the quality of training in the kitchen.

The training is centered around students working together, in the kitchen and in the restaurant to provide modern Australian cuisine and professional service.

Considerable thought is given by the students in the selection of quality Australian produce to create innovative and sophisticated dishes.

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



Good food, good service, good company makes for a pleasurable occasion.

Mona Vale Hospital Update

With the construction of the new Northern Beaches Hospital at French's Forest, the role of Mona Vale Hospital is entering a new phase of services for the local community. Below is an update from Rob Stokes, Member for Pittwater, of some of the changes underway at Mona Vale.

New Beachside Rehabilitation and Assessment Unit

A new \$12 million Rehabilitation and Assessment Unit is now in operation on the eastern side of the hospital's campus. This ultra-modern unit has provided capacity for an additional 26 inpatient beds and a variety of therapy spaces for patients recovering from injury and illness.

New Community Health Service Building

Construction has recently been completed on a new multi-storey Community Health Service Building. The new \$30 million building accommodates a variety of essential health services including speech pathology, occupational therapy, dental surgery, adult and child mental health, chronic disease clinical rehabilitation, acute post-acute care and physiotherapy.

Palliative Care Day Unit

Extensions to this key facility on the far-eastern perimeter of the hospital's campus have been completed. The upgraded unit enjoys expansive oceans views and has been specifically designed to accommodate specialist consultation rooms and support services. Planning is also underway for the introduction of a dedicated inpatient Palliative Care unit on the hospital's campus. This will be the first unit of its type on the northern beaches.

Helipad Upgrade

Mona Vale Hospital's helicopter facility has recently been rebuilt and expanded to enable it to accommodate larger, modern medical helicopters and transfer and receive patients requiring specialist medical care.

Emergency Short Stay Unit

Construction has recently been completed on a new \$1.8 million Short Stay Unit. This specialist 10 bed unit is located adjacent to the emergency department and is specifically designed to better accommodate patients that require extended medical observation before being admitted or discharged

Hydrotherapy Pool Building

Essential renovations have recently been undertaken to provide improvements in safety, amenity and accessibility. This facility accommodates one of Mona Vale Hospital's most frequently utilised services and offers treatment and training opportunities to a diversity of patients and community groups.

Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc.

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| Meeting | 12 th June 2018 Meeting opened by President John Harston. 44 members present and 2 guests. 8 apologies. |
| Inductions | Nil. |
| Minutes | Minutes of the May 2018 meeting were published in the Newsletter, Mvd. Bill Sherman, 2 nd John Owens, carried. |
| Correspondence | Nil. |
| Birthdays | David Goodman, Ron Seldon, Peter Nash, John Porter, Tug Tugwell, Cyril Webb. |
| Treasurer's Report | Presented by David Varley Balance at 1/5/2018 \$3,501.32 Receipts: Subscriptions \$480.00, Joining Badge \$40.00, Morning Teas \$115.20, Temora Air Show \$2,583.00. Total \$3,218.20 Payments: Morning Teas \$120.00, Admin. \$59.70, Badges \$19.00, Temora Air Show \$1,518.75. Total \$1,717.48. Balance at 31/5/2018 \$5,002.07 Mvd. David Varley, 2 nd David Taylor, carried. |
| Welfare Report | John Harston read a note from Bruce Farrar (Club Secretary) via Deirdre Farrar conveying their thanks for the many good wishes received from club members. John reported Bruce remained a patient in Mona Vale Hospital and was showing signs of recovery. |
| Speakers | Wes Harder has organised the following speakers: July Jim Boyce – Historical Pittwater. Short speech, Roman Zwolenski – Vietnam Military Lotto. August Tony Osman – Life & Coal in Kalimantan. Short Speech, John Porter – Clean Coal. |
| Functions | Gordon Stokes advised of parking & payment arrangements for the 13 th June lunch at the TAFE College Pittwater Restaurant, Brookvale. |
| Activities | John Harston signalled a possible repeat in July of the previous successful 10-Pin bowling outing. Details will be provided in due course. |
| Golf | Don Tinyou won the Monthly Trophy held on 11 th May with Gordon Stokes runner-up. |
| Cluster Group | Ron Seldon advised that a meeting of this Group is scheduled for August. |
| New Members | Geoff Sheppard reported that two new member applications were in the pipeline. |
| General Business | Parking. John Harston highlighted the conclusions drawn in the articles in the June Newsletter which define the problem relating to parking congestion in and around the MVGC. In addition to inconveniencing Probus members on Tuesdays the broader business of the MVGC is being disrupted and although they are attempting to find solutions in discussion with the Council, it is clear that Probus also needs to adopt a proactive strategy to help reduce parking demand. After reviewing options, the Committee resolved that potentially the most potent way Probus could contribute was to employ more intensive car-pooling. Members are encouraged to adopt that practice where practical. In the meantime, it would also be helpful if members could, as a general rule, leave the MVGC car park for golfers and MVGC members. If no spaces can be found in Golf Avenue members could consider parking at the beach end of East Darley Road and walking through to the golf club. The effectiveness of these strategies will be reviewed from time to time. |
| 5 Minute Talk | Tony Mestrov illustrated the devastation of Darwin following Cyclone Tracy through the lens of a Channel 10 cameraman. |
| Speaker | Richard Friar, aided by his partner Wendy, presented a verbal and visual presentation as a Big Wave Rider and his life in the "Swinging 60's". |
| Next Meeting | 10 th July 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.

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| President | John Harston 9940 0446 | Major Events Organiser | Bill Sherman 9997 5532 |
| Vice President | John Porter 9997 3019 | Functions Organiser | Gordon Stokes 9999 2073 |
| Secretary | | 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 | | |