



## Newsletter – August 2018

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### President's Message



I am writing this message a little earlier than usual, as there has been some confusion with the date of the next club meeting. We are meeting at 10:00am on the second Tuesday of the month, as usual, which is August 14<sup>th</sup>. The Pittwater Life had published the meeting date as August 7<sup>th</sup> that is in fact the day for our Committee meeting. This is the reason for sending out our Notice of Meeting a little earlier so that members do not turn up next Tuesday by mistake.

The club outing last Wednesday to the North Sydney Coal Loader was enjoyed in the continuing sunshine by a small group of members. (See report below.) What an interesting monument to old Sydney Harbour it is. The historic wharf, tunnels and loading chutes have been preserved and excellent interpretive panels provided.

The café is a pleasant place to rest and eat after a visit. Their featured salad is "Coalslaw"!

Winter seems to have passed us by this year. We have missed those cold and blustery days that this season usually brings which made you feel like going up to the Sunshine Coast for some warmth. Things will probably return to normal with some welcome rain for the garden.

.... John Harston

### Tunnel Vision ?

*Down Canberra way, there is a saying that if you see the light at the end of the tunnel,  
it is time to order more tunnel !*

## July Speaker's Corner

### ***Historic Buildings on the Northern Beaches***

Jim Boyce gave an interesting talk on the history of Commercial Buildings on the Northern Beaches. He mentioned buildings engaged in a variety of enterprises, some of which do not operate today. The one class of building, which is among the oldest, is the banks. He acknowledged how they have changed over the years, with the Bank of New South Wales now trading as Westpac and other banks swallowed up by larger banks like the Commonwealth Bank.



The service has changed as well, with people now encouraged 'to do their own banking', and the lack of trust in banks following the Royal Commission is evident. In the area of entertainment many licensed clubs have gone or changed their ways (The old days of the six o'clock swill have gone).

Business has evolved from the early days of mainly retail stores. Much has changed from the building of the Spit Bridge.

After 1948, an influx of Italians contributed to the business side of the Beaches.

Post Offices have changed from just being a place selling stamps to a much wider business. Warringah Mall arrived on the scene with shops like Nock and Kirby, Franklins, Woolworths and David Jones. In 1994 it was bought by AMP and doubled the number of shops. It is now called Westfield Warringah Mall. Hardware and General arrived in 1960 followed by Bunnings. Many of the original Bowling Clubs have not survived, making place for units. The Brookvale brickworks was established by the Manly Brick and Tile Co in 1913. Clay from quarries on Beacon Hill was conveyed downhill to the Brookvale brickworks on a tramway.

.... Warwick Dalzell

## 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 Indonesia.

## August 2018 '5-Minute Speaker'

### ***John Porter "Clean Coal"***

Clean coal – what is it, how do we achieve it, how much will it cost, is it coming any time soon?

All will be revealed in 5 minutes (or a bit more) at our next meeting in measured engineering terms with some nice tables and costings to engage all.

Probus Club Vice- President, John Porter will enlighten us all on this very topical subject.



## September 2018 Speaker

### ***Johnny Pace "Putting Humour to Work"***

Johnny Pace is a well-known entertainer, best known for his many television appearances, particularly as one of the stars of Channel Ten's Celebrity Game.

Born in England, Johnny gained his learning experience in live performances in concerts, cabaret and television. He came to Australia some decades ago and has been wooing us ever since in live performances of his one-man comedy shows.

He is skilful in song and dance, impressions, impersonations and jokes. He has won many awards including "Entertainer of the Year", the MO award twice as the best comedy act in Australia.

He will speak on "Putting Humour to Work" and have us laughing in stitches in the aisle.





## September 2018 '5-Minute Speaker'

### **Fred Murray-Walker "Crossing the Atlantic"**



Club Member Fred Murray-Walker can be considered an adventurer taking on many quests such as trekking 500 kilometres on foot with camels from Mintabie to Cook in South Australia.

In retirement he has travelled to many unusual places and accomplished some remarkable feats. His talk will be on his sailing boat crossing of the Atlantic Ocean from Gibraltar to the Caribbean.

## Probus Golf

A sunny morning of golf was enjoyed at Palm beach Golf Course followed by fish and chips for lunch at Club Palm Beach. Geoff Richards played well in the fresh conditions to win the Monthly Trophy on 21 stableford points and Michael Moss played a remarkably steady round on 18 stableford points after a long break following surgery.

Join us on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August to be ready to hit off at 10 am and enjoy the walk and the view.



### **GOLF JOKE**

An elderly golfer hit a sliced shot on the final tee only to see his golf ball fly sideways over the fence out of sight and onto a busy road.

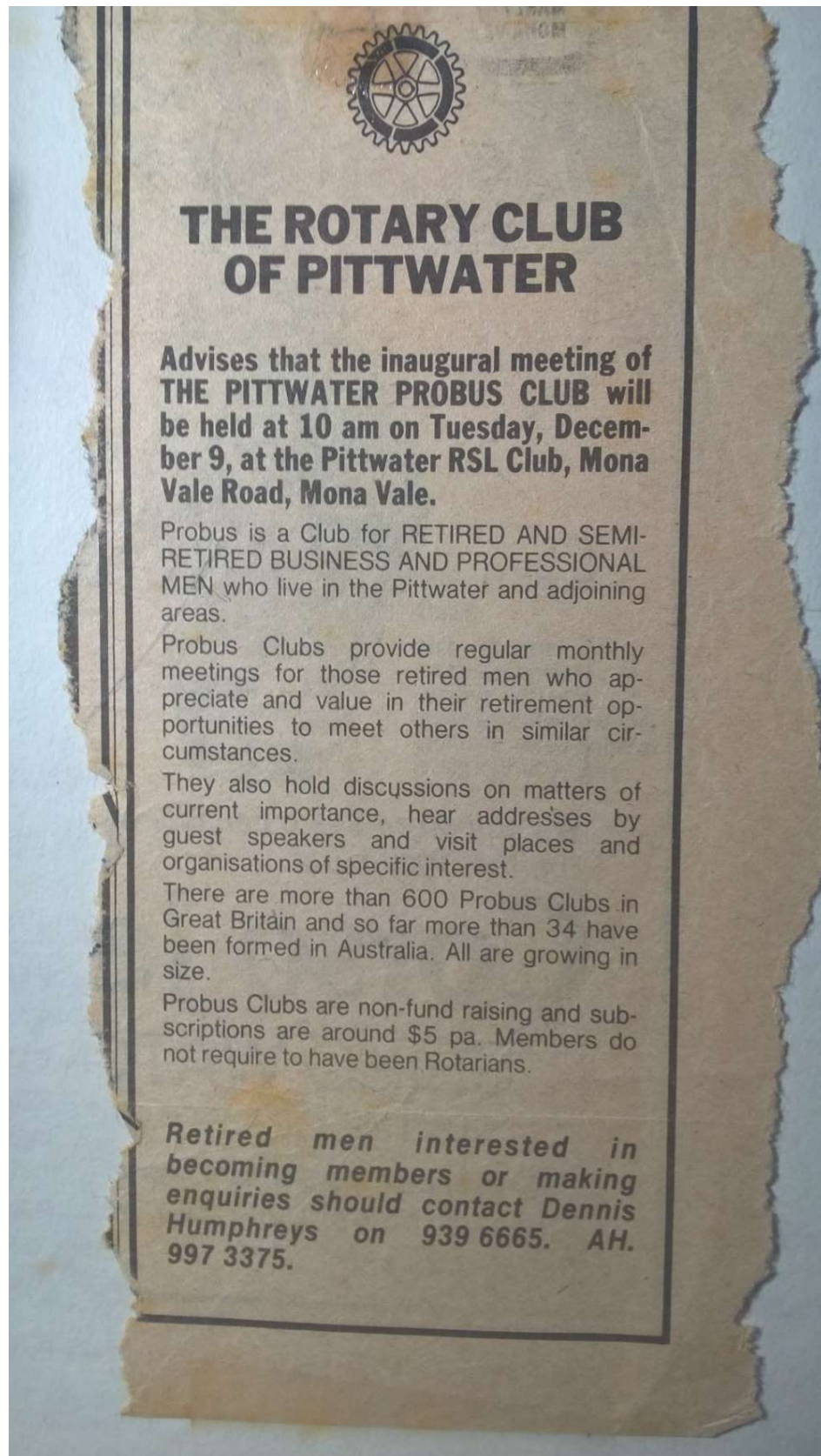
When he finished the hole, he found a policeman waiting. The officer asked "On the last tee did you hit a ball over the fence?" "Yes, I did" was the reply.

The police officer, looking annoyed, continued "Your ball just missed a cyclist causing him to fall off his bike, a car swerved to miss the cyclist which caused a firetruck on its way to a warehouse fire to dodge sideways into the gutter, which resulted in a flat tyre". The officer was starting to get redder in the face as he continued, "The fire engine as a result arrived late and the warehouse burnt down! My question to you Sir, is what do you intend to do about it?"

The golfer looked thoughtful for a moment and said "I think that I should *widen my stance!*"

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

*.... Graham Morley, Golf Convener*



**Notice presumed to be in the Manly Daily early December 1980**

The Inaugural Meeting of "The Probus Club of Pittwater & District" was actually held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1981 at Pittwater RSL Club and attended by 11 members.



## All in Good Order

The late American President Ronald Reagan, at the age of 74, when facing up to Democrat rival Walter Mondale in the 1984 election campaign, being challenged about his age of 74 and his ability to stay awake for days in the event of an international crisis, replied “I’ve given my aides instructions that if trouble breaks out in any part of the world’s hot spots, they should wake me up immediately – even if I’m in a Cabinet Meeting.”

Reagan went on to win the Presidential election.

*.... Doug Gamble, US President’s “One-Line” Writer*

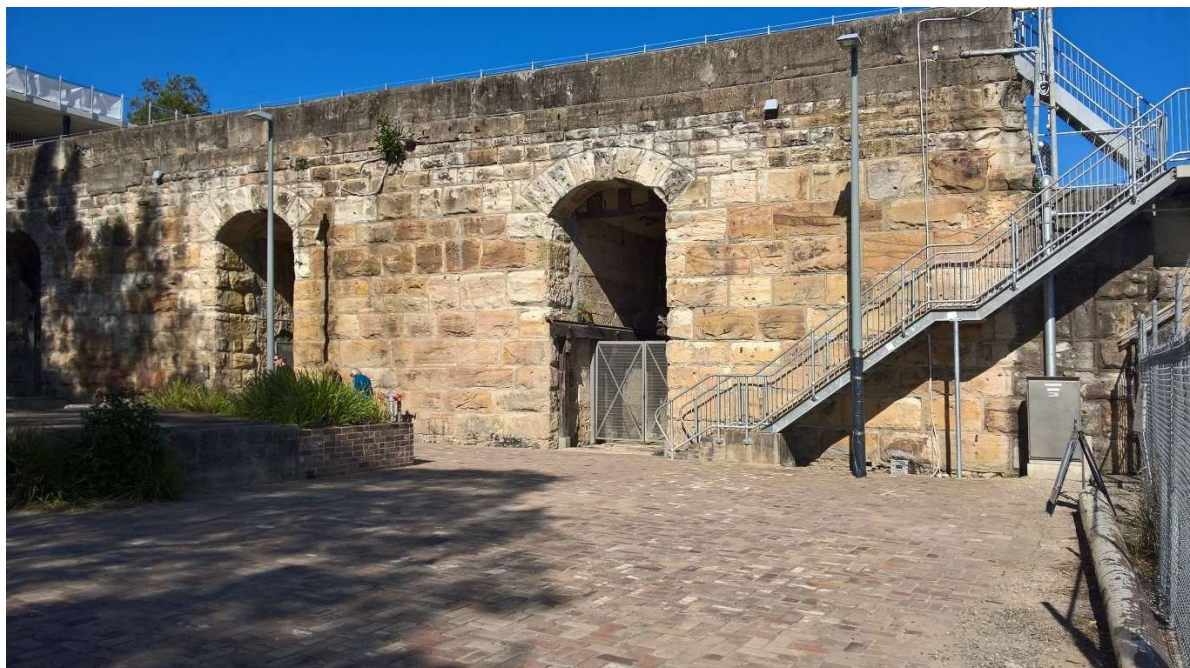
## Car Pooling

Our Probus meeting hosts, Mona Vale Golf Club, have acknowledged our efforts to minimise the club parking problem by car-pooling when attending recent meetings. They have asked us to continue to car pool and if possible reduce even further the number of Probus member vehicles being driven to meetings.

So, when planning to attend future meetings can you please endeavour to arrange to collect an additional member. Someone who lives nearby or lives on the way to Mona Vale Golf Club. It will be greatly appreciated by the Golf Club.

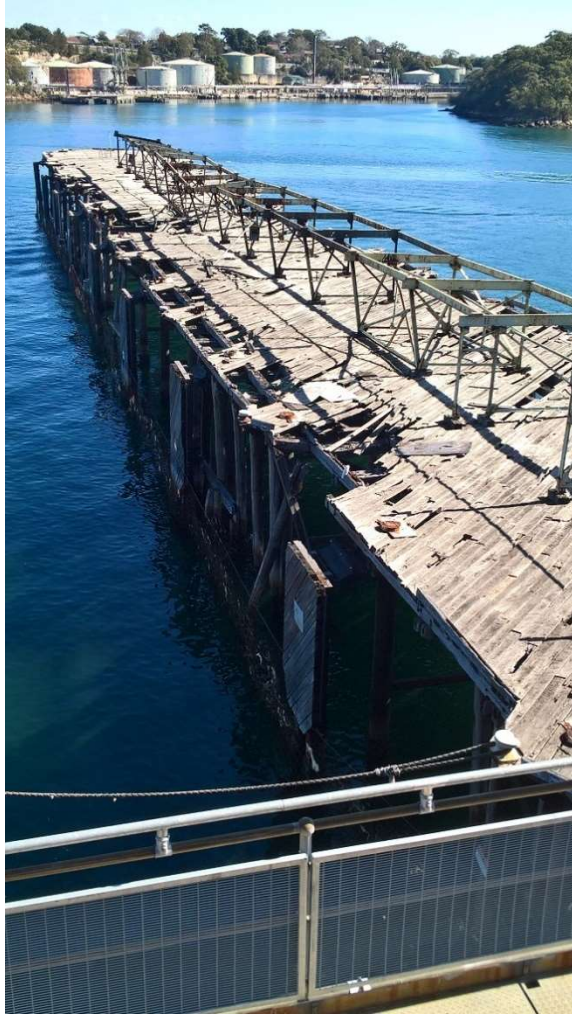
## North Sydney Coal Loader

On a spectacular clear winter’s day in July, our Probus team explored the North Sydney Coal Loader and discovered another piece of Sydney’s Harbour’s captivating history.



**The access to the tunnels through which the coal passed for distribution.**

The Coal Loader is a former industrial site that operated from the early 1920s to the early 1990s. It functioned primarily as a transfer depot for coal from bulk carriers to smaller coal-fired vessels. Some coal was also distributed to the local market by road transport.



The remains of the Finger Wharf.

A major component of the coal-loading operation was the extensive elevated platform structure, which housed a large coal stockpile.

Beneath the platform are a series of tunnels, each with a number of chutes through which the coal was transferred into coal 'skips'. The skips operated on a cable-hauled railway system that ran as a continuous loop through the two western-most tunnels and then out onto the finger wharf in Balls Head Bay, where they loaded waiting steamers. This loading system was replaced by a high-speed conveyor in the mid-1970s which then serviced ships carrying export coal until 1992.

The site operated for over 70 years before being decommissioned.

It was dedicated as public open space in 1997 and formally transferred to North Sydney Council in 2003.

... the Sub-Editor

## Sign of the Times



## New Member

### ***Alastair (John) Rourke***



Alastair Rourke goes by the name “John”.

John grew up in Wahroonga and went to the Bush school and in the late 50s helped build the first public primary school ‘pool’ in Australia which was an enormous effort at the time.

Whilst at Sydney Grammar school, John rowed in the 4s and 8s crews and continued rowing at Sydney University where he eventually obtained his Dental Surgery Degree.

After a stint in the UK, John returned to Australia to establish a dental practice in Gordon which he conducted for 43 years.

Being fascinated with flying and aircraft construction, John has accomplished full size gliding and powered aircraft training. Hobbies include skiing and building battery powered model aircraft plus bushwalks and surfing.

John and his wife, Monica, have 8 grandchildren and live just above Curl Curl Beach.

John is still a registered dental practitioner and has recently carried out some honorary dental placements in aboriginal communities.

John, welcome to Pittwater Probus.

## Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc.

<b>Meeting</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2018 Meeting opened by President John Harston. 42 members present and 1 guest. 12 apologies.
<b>Bruce Farrar</b>	One minute’s silence was held in memory of Club Secretary Bruce Farrar.
<b>Inductions</b>	Alastair Rourke was inducted.
<b>Minutes</b>	Minutes of the June 2018 meeting were published in the Newsletter, Mvd. Geoff Sheppard, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bryan Pritchard, carried.
<b>Correspondence</b>	Nil.
<b>Treasurer’s Report</b>	Presented by David Varley Balance at 1/6/2018 \$5,002.07 Receipts: Subscriptions \$160.00, Joining Badge \$20.00, Morning Teas \$141.60. Total \$321.60 Payments: Morning Teas \$120.00, Admin. \$37.78. Total \$157.78 Balance at 31/5/2018 \$5,165.89 Mvd. Jim Attrill, 2 <sup>nd</sup> John Owens, carried.
<b>Birthdays</b>	Geoff Richards, Peter Walsh, B. Henderson, Frank Sprakel, John Collins.
<b>Welfare Report</b>	Geoff Sheppard reported that he had tried to contact 2 members, Michael Graham and John Henkel, who had not been to recent meetings. It was advised that Michael Graham has just returned from overseas. No word on John Henkel. Geoff Sheppard reported that one new member was in the pipeline.



<b>Speakers</b>	Wes Harder has organised the following speakers: <b>August</b> Tony Osman – Life and Coal in Kalimantan. Short Speech, John Porter – Clean Coal. <b>September</b> Johnny Pace – Putting Humour to Work. Short Speech, Fred Murray-Walker – Crossing the Atlantic.
<b>Activities</b>	John Harston has organised a visit to the North Sydney Coal Loader on Wednesday June 25, 2018. Meet at 11 00am.
<b>Functions</b>	John Harston reported on behalf of Gordon Stokes with regard to the enjoyable lunch at the Brookvale TAFE College and the trip to Canberra to see the Cartier Exhibition.
<b>Major Functions</b>	Bill Sherman advised that the Temora trip was fully booked.
<b>Newsletter</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>Golf</b>	Graham Morley advised Peter Veney won the June Monthly Trophy with Bill Sherman runner-up. Next game at Palm Beach Friday June 13 at 10 00 am hit off.
<b>Investment Group</b>	Arthur Napper advised the numbers joining the group were increasing which is good to see. The Group at the last meeting discussed the gold and silver market and reviewed the current hypothetical share portfolio performance.
<b>Cluster Group</b>	Ron Seldon advised that a meeting of this Group is scheduled for August.
<b>General Business</b>	Nil.
<b>5 Minute Talk</b>	Roman Zwolenski talked about his trip to Vietnam and his ballot for National Service.
<b>Speaker</b>	After the coffee break, Jim Boyce talked about the history of commercial buildings on the Northern Beaches and how many of the local businesses evolved over the years plus changes to the buildings that business now operate within.
<b>Next Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2018. Commencing at 10 00 am. Meeting Closed at 11 58 pm. Signed as a correct record.

## Office Bearers for 2018

Meetings commence at 10 00am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

<b>President</b>	John Harston 9940 0446	<b>Activities Officer</b>	John Harston 9940 0446
<b>Vice President</b>	John Porter 9997 3019	<b>Functions Organiser</b>	Gordon Stokes 9999 2073
<b>(Acting) Secretary</b>	Ron Seldon 9918 0677	<b>Speaker Organiser</b>	Wes Harder 9997 3303
<b>Treasurer</b>	David Varley 9918 7154	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Warwick Dalzell 9997 4518
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	Geoff Sheppard 9918 7646	<b>Registrar</b>	Trevor Stephens 9918 2138