



Probus Club of Pittwater

Newsletter – January 2019

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President's Message

Our Christmas holiday period this year has been blessed with excellent weather with more to come according to the forecasters. This weather attracts both local and overseas visitors who enjoy the surf, sun and scenery of Pittwater every year. How lucky we are to be able to have this all year round!

After a pleasant swim I like to return home for a Sydney-Hobart update and some Test Cricket. As I write this it looks as if Wild Oats XI will take line honours and India will take control of the Test.

These are special events for us and give a short lift from news of difficulties in other countries brought on by natural events, conflicts and critical political decisions. We pray for resolution and relief from these challenges for the countries affected.

The New Year is fast approaching and I do want to reflect on 2018 from a Pittwater Probus viewpoint. We did lose some long-term members this year who had worked over long periods for the betterment of our club. They will be both missed and remembered.

We also welcomed many new members who we trust will enjoy the friendship, interest and fun that our club is known for. Finally, I would like to wish all members and their families a fulfilling and happy 2019.

.... John Harston



2019 is here!

What does 2019 hold for us all, we hear you ask?

Like 2018, 2019 will most likely be another year of political turmoil both here and overseas, maybe a little more intense. The challenges presented by climate change continue to create arguments for and against prescribed actions. The stock-market is confused, it does not know whether to go up or down.

Enough of the doom and gloom, all will be well as long as we can continue to enjoy the outstanding view over the Mona Vale Golf Course each month. Happy New Year to all our Probus Club Members.

.... The Editor

December Speaker's Corner

Snowy Mountains Scheme

On July 7 1949, the Commonwealth Parliament passed The Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act 1949 (the Act), which established the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority, the operating body of the Snowy Mountains Scheme.



Construction started on the Scheme on 17 October 1949, when the Governor-General, Sir William McKell, Prime Minister Ben Chifley and William Hudson fired the first blast at Adaminaby. Construction was completed in 1974, for a total historical cost (funded by Commonwealth Government advances) of \$820 million.

John Harston joined the Snowy Mountains Authority in 1959 having been recruited in UK. He was assigned to the Upper Tumut Works and worked on T2 underground Power Station. John's address provided insight into his work and life in the mountains and then in SMA's head office in Cooma North.

It is worth mentioning that the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme is the most complex, multi-purpose, multi-reservoir hydro scheme in the world with 80 kilometres of aqueducts, 140 kilometres of tunnels, 16 large dams and seven power stations, two of which are underground. John was initially engaged in the Tumut 2 project. He mentioned some of the equipment used including the Mighty Antar.



Life was not all work and sleep - Sir William Hudson, the engineer in charge, supported wet canteens. (a snack shop that sells alcohol). In addition, there was horse riding, sailing and in Kiandra, skiing. (In old Kiandra gold was discovered in 1859 and in a year the town grew to 10000 people.)

After a time John was transferred to Head Office in Cooma. What a contrast - shops, banks, barbers, cinemas, restaurants and pubs; one place in particular stood out - the Pasha (a well-known nightclub). After a successful period in Cooma John left and went back to England on the SS Oronsay.

(During the course of the construction over approximately 22 years, at total of 100,000 workers were employed, of whom 121 lost their lives in industrial accidents.)

.... Warwick Dalzell

January 2019 Speaker

Merv Rosen "The Story of the Krait and Operation Jaywick"

January speaker, Merv Rosen will talk about the Krait. This vessel has a fascinating history starting life as a wooden hull fishing boat but is best remembered for a raid on Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour in 1943, by a group of allied commandos that demonstrated extraordinary bravery, resilience and ingenuity.

Hear about how this Japanese fishing boat became one of the most famous Allied boats in WW2.

Merv will discuss the training, the raid, the aftermath and the legacy of this remarkable boat which is now in the possession of the Australian National Maritime Museum.



January 2019 '5-Minute Speaker'

Peter Nash "Government in China"



Peter Nash will talk about the Government Structure in China.

Peter worked and lived in China for 30 years and was partly instrumental in the upgrade of quality in Chinese manufacturing as we know it today.

He will also speak on China in the 1970s versus late 2018.

February 2019 Speaker

Jay Claren "South Africa Under Apartheid"

Club member, Jay Claren, will talk about his time living in South Africa under the apartheid regime.

Listen to the many dramatic accounts of what it was like growing up in this tumultuous time in South Africa's history, as can only be told by Jay.



February 2019 '5-Minute Speaker'

Brian Johnstone "The King's School"



Club member, Brian Johnstone will give us a brief talk about life in Australia's oldest independent school. The King's School is a private Anglican, day and boarding school for boys located in North Parramatta. It was founded in 1831 and is situated on a 148-hectare campus.

The uniform is the oldest school military uniform still worn in Australia.

David Varley, where are you?



Probus Club members and partners enjoyed a fine Christmas lunch and good company at the Mona Vale Golf Club.

MC Brian Kennedy entertained us with his repertoire of jokes and even promoted his new book of questionable allure and dubious information.

However, when it came to declaring the "Probus Club of Pittwater Golfer of the Year 2018", the winner was nowhere to be found!

Nevertheless, congratulations to David Varley – your trophy is in the mail.

Premier's Concert

Each year, the Premier's Gala Concerts feature some of Australia's best musical theatre and recording artists. 20 lucky Pittwater Probus Members and Partners will be going to the 2019 Premier's Gala Concert at the new International Convention Centre in Sydney, on Thursday February 14, 2019.

The star-studded line up for the 2019 concerts include Marina Prior, Adam Brand, Casey Donovan, Tim Campbell, Victor Martinez Parada, Jacob Neale and Lonnie Lee.



What year did the trams stop running in Sydney?

Club Member and Quiz Master Bill Sherman is planning another of his thoughtful Trivia Nights for 19th February 2019. The plan is for a light dinner followed by the *Match!!*

Dinner will be Eye Fillet followed by Crème Brûlée, plus coffee.

Cost will be \$35. Buy your own wine/beer.

Arrive at 6 30 pm with the meal being served at 6 50 pm.



Bill will have some fun (non-scoring) questions between the main and dessert. Just to get everyone warmed up and ready for the main event.

Then the main competition! Teams of 4 will be randomly moved to tables after the meal to separate the players. It does not matter if you are coming as a couple or on your own. If on your own, you will be able to join a table to make a foursome.

- Six sets of 10 questions. All on Australia or, at least associated with Oz.
- Sections will be Geography, History, Sport, Politics, the Arts & Music and Odds & Sods/Misc.
- Questions will be from the SMH Good Weekend magazine collected in the past 12 months.

Prizes for the winning team. Test your knowledge against Bill's repertoire of questions and see if you can be the best in the class!

Probus Golf

Six golfers enjoyed a game at Palm Beach Golf Club although wary of weather conditions. The best stableford scores in were Bob Anderson, trophy plus 2 golf balls, runner up Geoff Richards, one golf ball.

New Golf Rules: Key Changes

**The R & A and the USGA have released Golf's new Rules,
which took effect on January 1, 2019.**

Here are the more significant changes for our Probus golfers.

- **Out of Bounds or a Lost Ball**
Instead of stroke and distance a new local rule allows the option of dropping a ball in the *vicinity* of where the original was lost or out of bounds, including the nearest fairway area, with a two-stroke penalty.
- **Dropping the Ball**
When taking *relief* the ball is to be dropped from *knee height*.
- **Putting with the Flagstick In**
You can putt even if the *flagstick is in*.

- **Impediments in bunkers and water hazards**

You can now *move impediments* in bunkers and water hazards (penalty areas). There is no penalty for touching the ground or water in a penalty area. In the sand, however, you cannot ground the club right next to the ball.



- **Ball in a Bunker**

You can play the ball *outside the sand* for a two-stroke penalty.

Come and join us for a relaxing game of golf at Palm Beach Golf Club on Friday 11th January. Followed by lunch at Club Palm Beach.

Healthy walk, good views and good company guaranteed

.... Graham Morley, Golf Convener

Your Committee

Club Photographer, Michael Mannington, has taken candid portraits of a number of our Pittwater Probus Committee Members, reflecting maybe a thoughtful side of the team.



Club President

John Harston



Vice President

John Porter



Functions Organiser

Gordon Stokes



***Welfare & New Members
Organiser***

Geoff Sheppard



Speakers Organiser

Wes Harder

... Photos Courtesy Michael Mannington

New Members

Barrie Alexander



Barrie was a dentist in private practice for 33 years then progressed to dental education for a further period of time before retirement.

Barrie recently relocated to Mona Vale for a sea change. After having been a member of firstly, Apex then Rotary for a number of years, he thought the best way to meet new friends was through service clubs so he saw Pittwater Probus had some membership vacancies and applied.

Barrie, welcome to Pittwater Probus.

Michael Stevens-Jones



Michael originally hailed from Brighton le Sands, but has been a northern beaches resident since the late 50s, attending both Mona Vale Public and Balgowlah Boys High School.

He spent his early career in sales and marketing at Colgate Palmolive, Gallagher International and Pritchard Wood Quadrant Advertising before heading overseas to join Contiki Travel, as a Tour Manager. He then became their European Operations Manager and their first International Marketing Manager.

Michael returned briefly to join a family restaurant business in Dee Why before heading back overseas to join Rank Leisure for 11 years, initially as Marketing Manager for the Wings brand, then Operations Director for their world-wide holiday operation.

Michael later established and sold two greenfield businesses, Leisure Marketing Associates and then Bodyguard Security Co, which became one of the UK's leading security companies allowing him the good fortune to retire at 50 and return home for good.

Michael, welcome to Pittwater Probus.

Set for the day

Ever noticed how the difficulty in removing the plastic wrapper off your delivered newspaper, can affect your whole day!

Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc.

Meeting	11 th December 2018 Meeting opened by President John Harston. 38 members present and 4 guests. 6 apologies.
Inductions	Barrie Alexander and Michael Stevens-Jones were inducted into the Club.
Minutes	Minutes of the November 2018 meeting were published in the December Newsletter, Mvd. Gordon Stokes, 2 nd Geoff Richards, carried.
Correspondence	3 administrative letters from PSPL.
Treasurer's Report	Presented by David Varley. Balance at 1/11/2018, \$3,879.76 Receipts: Morning Tea \$132.40, Subs \$20.00, Badge \$20.00, Christmas Lunch \$2,800.00. Total \$2,972.40 Payments: Morning Teas \$120.00, Admin. \$243.49, Badges \$30.00. Total \$393.49. Balance at 30/11/2018, \$6,458.67. Mvd. Len Riordan, 2 nd John Owens, carried.
Birthdays	Cliff Dunn, Graham Morley, Bob Anderson, Graham Morgan, George Crowley, Allan Smith, Warwick Dalzell.
Welfare Report	Geoff Sheppard advised Peter Squires is now in Hornsby Hospital after fracturing his leg in Canberra.
Activities	John Harston advised the BBQ was cancelled due to bad weather. Excellent boating day – thanks to Bill Sherman. Premier's Concert February 14, 2019 – suggest have lunch in Chinatown before the concert. Trivia night February 19 at MVGC.
Functions	Gordon Stokes advised the annual Probus Christmas Lunch is organised for December 18 at Mona Vale Golf Club.
Newsletter	Nothing to report.
Golf	Gordon Stokes won the November Trophy with Bill Sherman runner-up. Next game at Palm Beach Friday December 14 th at 10 00 am.
Investment Group	John Harston advised that the group continues to endure challenging times on the stock-market.
Speakers	Wes Harder has organised the following speakers: January Merv Rosen – MV Krait, John Harston – Classic Cars. February Jay Claren – South Africa Under Apartheid, Brian Johnstone – Kings School.
General Business	Nil.
5 Minute Talk	No '5 Minute' Speaker due to Christmas cake and wine.
Speaker	President John Harston gave an enlightening talk about engineering life in the construction days of the Snowy Mountain Hydro Project.
Next Meeting	8 th January 2019. Commencing at 10 00 am. Meeting Closed at 11 30 am. Signed as a correct record.

Office Bearers for 2018

President	John Harston 9940 0446	Activities Officer	John Harston 9940 0446
Vice President	John Porter 9997 3019	Functions Organiser	Gordon Stokes 9999 2073
(Acting) Secretary	Ron Seldon 9918 0677	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 2138
Golf Convener	Graham Morley 0407 217 248		