



Newsletter – May 2019

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President's Message

Gentlemen,

The cruise on Viking Sky was the last of the season in the quest to see The Northern Lights. Unsuccessful – but another story. The return from Northern Norway was to follow the coast down to the port of Stavanger, then cross to the London port of Tilbury.



Sea conditions deteriorated. The swell was estimated at 5 – 8m and winds were around 40 knots – gusting to 60 knots (around 70 to 100 km/hr). We were on the Pool Deck when the problems really started. The ship was rolling in excess of 30° with furniture sliding across the floor, turning over or ending up in the pool. The crockery, glasses and food from the buffet hit the floor; the contents of the bar ended up on the floor. We returned to the safety of our cabin.



Shortly after, the Emergency Signal was followed by an announcement that this was NOT an exercise and all passengers should report to their Muster Stations. Ours was forward, in the ship's theatre where we remained, wearing life jackets, for 20 hours. Very uncomfortable!

From the theatre, we had no idea what was happening outside – just the movement of the ship and the regular communications from the Captain. Calmness reigned throughout.

We were among the last to be winched off the ship by rescue helicopter and landed, surrounded by a phalanx of civil defence, Red Cross, ambulances, police and others at the emergency base set up in a local sports centre. The seriousness of the situation then really struck me.



Viking have acted in the best possible way towards us – and 900 other passengers. Quite a task to accommodate and despatch that many from a regional centre.

Particularly, the support, generosity and friendliness of the Norwegian people will be long remembered – for as long as the whole experience.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to Paul in his role as Vice President, to the new committee and the support from the 'old' committee in keeping the Probus ship on course.

.... John Porter

April Speaker's Corner

Graham Selleck – “Sultan of Brunei”

Our speaker Graham Selleck, 53 years ago was appointed by Qantas to manage for a period of 2 years, the travel needs of the former Sultan of Brunei Omar Ali Saifuddin, as well as his sons and daughters. At the time the Sultan was regarded the richest man in the world. Graham's role included escorting this Muslim Monarch to and through countries around the globe and facing the challenges of cultural differences along the way. Graham's association with the Royal family embraced being a guest at a Royal wedding and attending the Coronation of the Crown Prince, now the notorious current Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah who has been on the throne for 52 years.

In 1941–45, during World War II, Brunei was occupied by the Japanese. The British returned after the war, and negotiations began for the eventual independence of Brunei. The first step in this process occurred in 1959, when self-government was achieved. In 1962 a partly elected Legislative Council with limited authority was installed under Begawan Sultan Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddin III. He became the 28th Sultan of Brunei on 6th June 1950.



The Sultan started his rule by primarily focusing on increasing the standard of living of Brunei Darussalam. He approached this by primarily placing importance on education. He realised that in order to dramatically increase the standard of living, the first step was to make sure the people are educated. He ensured that primary and secondary schools would be built throughout the kingdom to enable every citizen to receive a formal education. Several welfare programs were also introduced to complement these efforts like the free-food scheme in rural schools. Furthermore, the Sultan carried out the first national development plan with a budget of about \$100 million, aiming to improve general education, communication systems, medical services, and agriculture.

When Graham met the Sultan everything he said was translated into Malay, although as it transpired the Sultan spoke perfect English. Graham's job was basically to arrange an itinerary for each of the Sultan's journeys. During this time the Sultan visited New

Zealand, Canada, USA (where he saw the Apollo 11) and Nepal (where an infantry battalion of Gurkhas came from). He was interested in Australia and visited the Snowy Mountains. He carried with him his shotguns and Winchester rifles and participated in kangaroo shooting.

In 1967 the Sultan abdicated and was succeeded by his son. By contrast, Hassanal Bolkiah, the present Sultan of Brunei, has an estimated wealth of \$25 billion according to Forbes. He is known for lavish spending and is reportedly to own more than 600 Rolls-Royces. His residence, Istana Nurul Iman, the world's largest palace cost over \$350 million.



...Warwick Dalzell

May 2019 Speaker

Gunter Schaule *"Electricity Crossroads"*



Club Member Gunter has an Electrical Engineering Degree from Germany and a MBA from Canada. He was employed in setting up the cyber network of undersea cables and satellites with Teleglobe Canada and OTC Australia.

Gunter was a delegate to the Internet Planning Committee in Geneva (a section of the UN) for Canada and then for Australia. He was also an international telecommunications expatriate on deployment to South America and Europe.

Gunter will speak on the discovery and early use of electricity. The various generators, their costs, future supply and demand and electricity storage.

May 2019 '5-Minute Speaker'

Geoff Richards *"Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania"*



The Ngorongoro Conservation Area spans vast expanses of highland plains, savanna, savanna woodlands and forests. Established in 1959 as a multiple land use area, with wildlife coexisting with semi-nomadic Maasai pastoralists practicing traditional livestock grazing, it includes the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest caldera.

Club member Geoff Richards will describe the some of the spectacular features of this unique part of Africa.

June 2019 Speaker

John Harston *"A Look at the Delights of Sri Lanka"*

Just four weeks ago Club Member John Harston was fortunate to visit Sri Lanka and enjoy the delights of this wonderful country. The tragic events that occurred this Easter have therefore been of particular significance for him and he thought that perhaps he should defer his talk. John's decision, however, has been to proceed and try to lift some of the despair felt for the country by highlighting its special and enduring attractions.

Sri Lanka has been previously known as Serendip, Taprobane, and Ceylon. Set in the Indian Ocean, this tropical isle is often referred to as "the Pearl of the Indian Ocean". It is a place where the original soul of Buddhism still flourishes and where nature's beauty remains abundant and unspoilt. It offers 8 world heritage sites, 1,330 km of coastline, much of its pristine beaches, National Parks with wild elephants and leopards.



Its culture goes back 3,500 years and includes periods under the rule of Portugal, The Netherlands and Britain.

It is, however, the Sri Lankan people themselves that give the country its special degree of welcome. They are warm, engaging, kind, courteous and proud. Importantly they also play cricket to a high standard!

Come and hear a little more about this enchanting country.

June 2019 '5-Minute Speaker'

Bojana Stancic *"Your Health & Wellness"*

Bojana is from an organisation called "Your Side" and is Team Leader for Home Care Packages, and will give a short presentation about services that are available to seniors living in the community and how to access them. This includes information on the Commonwealth Home Support Program and predominantly on Home Care Packages. Bojana will also cover how to navigate the My Aged Care system.



Coming Attractions

Thursday May 9. Ten Pin Bowling at Dee Why RSL starting at 10:00 am.

Located under the club, the bowling alleys offer excellent facilities for all standards. Lunch after, possibly in the club restaurant.

Wednesday May 22. Coffee morning at "The Boathouse" at Palm Beach.

Meet at 10:00am for coffee and chat then walk along the beach and back before returning home.



Tour of Mudgee

After the success of the bus trip to Temora, Bus Captain Bill Sherman has agreed to chart another tour. This time to visit picturesque Mudgee on the banks of the meandering Cudgegong River. Providing an opportunity to stroll along heritage tree-lined streets and admire a town of colonial buildings. The trip is planned for July so as to enjoy the crisp winter air of the countryside.



Fine food and wine are a big drawcard to add to the charm of Mudgee. There is even the possibility to visit the Mudgee Brewing Company.

Footnote: Dear members, such was the success of the trip to Temora, and with limited seating on the bus, the 4-day Mudgee tour is already booked out.

Probus BBQ Team Recognised

The ability of the Pittwater Probus BBQ Team to create strong rainfall in times of drought has spread across the land.

Pittwater Probus has been asked to hold their next BBQ in Broken Hill. All Pittwater Probus members are invited.

Broken Hill will provide the 'snags'.



Club Fees Now Overdue



Have you paid your Probus fees yet? They are now overdue. Your committee has agreed to keep the fees the same as last year, that is \$40.00.

If you haven't done so, please make your payment of fees to Treasurer David Varley at the May meeting or as soon as possible.

Do not take the risk of being 'unfinancial'.

Words of Wisdom?

Joy Oh Joy! We do look forward to this every 3 years!

Of course, we are talking about the Federal Elections.

We the electors, for a brief time, are all important to those in Canberra whom deem to lead us. Even if they themselves cannot seem to agree.

"I say one thing and you say the opposite! I indeed venture an opinion and you say I tell lies! I advise an amount to be told it is double that!"

We are told this is a time of scholarly debate that we all must listen to and abide with great fervour because it is coming from those with the utmost wisdom in the country. For it is in their hands we must passionately place ourselves for our future well-being and for the greater good of the country. And whom are we to doubt what they tell us is in our best interests!



Rather like don't worry about the quality, just feel the width!

For it is the joy of being told whom we must trust and whom we must vote for. For they, themselves, say only they know what is best for us and it does not come better than this. And at the end of it all, we must warmly embrace the winner of this celebrated affair!

(I think I need to take Bex and have a lie down.)

.... Ron Seldon

Keeping Control

One Club Member has his house phone, mobile phone and internet all covered by Telstra. Recently he received a detailed message which the network assigned to his warning Junk Mail file.

It was from? You guessed it, Telstra!

Joining Pittwater Probus Made Easy

Pittwater Probus is always open to new members. To make it easier for new members to join our great club, we have introduced direct access to the Application Form on our webpage.

So, if you have a colleague, friend or neighbour who may be interested in joining Pittwater Probus, direct them to our webpage and download the Application Form. www.probus.pittwater.org.au

Have the new applicant fill out the Form and bring it with him to the next Probus meeting (second Tuesday of the month) and ask for Welfare & Membership Officer Geoff Sheppard. You can call Geoff on 0437 274 074 if you have any queries.

www.probus.pittwater.org.au

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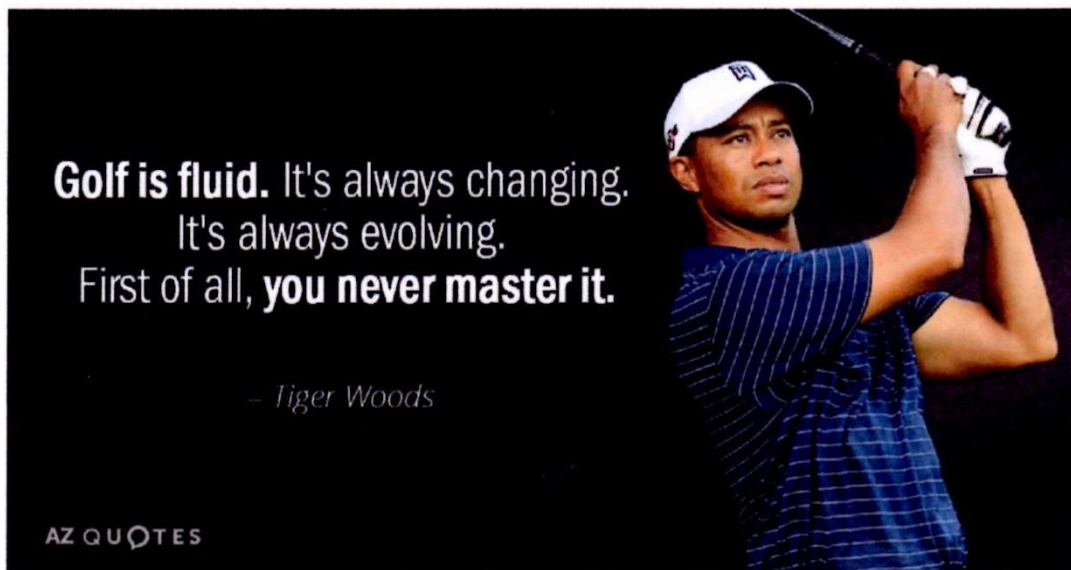
Probus Golf

Probably owing to a later than usual Tee Time we only had 6 keen players ready to enjoy good conditions at Palm Beach Golf Club, followed by lunch at Club Palmy and a social chat.

The best scores were Don Tinyou, Trophy and two golf balls. John Owens, runner up, one golf ball.

Don't forget Probus Northern Districts Golf Day at Castle Hill Country Club Tuesday, 3rd September 2019

So far, we have four golfers from our club ready to represent Pittwater Probus at this event. Please indicate to me if you may be interested in joining the group. Also please supply me with your Golf Link details etc. if you would like to participate, or if you require further information.



It's ok to fail. Failing does not shape your personality; it's how you react upon your failure. Do you dust yourself off and mope or do you dust yourself off and come back stronger the next time? Eventually you will win. It may not happen the next time, it may take a little time but you will win in the end.

We may not be up to Tiger Woods but we know how to get into "Tiger" country or into the "Woods"

Come along next Friday 17th May for 10 00 am hit off at Palm Beach Golf Course followed by lunch at Club Palmy

Healthy walk, good view and good company guaranteed

.... Graham Morley, Golf Convener

Charge Ahead?

During the cut and thrust of the current federal election, the subject of the nation moving towards electric cars by 2030 was raised by one party, only to be dismissed by the other. Who is right? Will we be still driving our petrol cars or will we be electric?



Let us have a quick look at the world of electric cars.

In 1884, over 20 years before the Ford Model T, Thomas Parker built the first practical production electric car in London using his own specially designed high-capacity rechargeable batteries. This was soon followed by the “Elektrowagen” in 1888 which was designed by German inventor Andreas Flocken. Electric cars were among the preferred methods for automobile propulsion in the late 19th century and early 20th century, providing a level of comfort and ease of operation that could not be achieved by the petrol cars of the time. The electric vehicle stock peaked at approximately 30,000 vehicles at the turn of the 20th century.

Advances in internal combustion engines in the first decade of the 20th century lessened the relative advantages of the electric car. Their much quicker refuelling times and cheaper production costs, made them more popular.

Coming forward to the early 1990s, the California Air Resources Board and the world began a push for lower-emission fuel and more fuel-efficient vehicles, with the ultimate goal being a move to zero-emissions vehicles such as electric vehicles.



California electric automaker Tesla Motors began development in 2004 on what would become the Tesla Roadster which was first delivered to customers in 2008. The Roadster was the first highway legal serial production all-electric car to use lithium-ion battery cells, and the first production of an all-electric car to travel more than 320 km per charge.

Tesla global sales passed 250,000 units in September 2017. The Renault–Nissan–Mitsubishi Alliance achieved the milestone of 500,000 units electric vehicles sold in October 2017. Nissan’s Leaf global sales itself passed 300,000 units in January 2018, keeping its record as the world's top selling electric car. Tesla delivered its 100,000th Model 3 in October 2018.

Many countries have set goals to ban the sales of petrol and diesel powered vehicles in the future, notably Norway by 2025, China by 2030, India by 2030, Germany by 2030, France by 2040, and Britain by 2040 or 2050. Similarly, more cities around the world have begun transitioning public transportation towards electric vehicles.

So, whilst our politicians argue who is right and who is wrong with regard to maintaining the “Tradies’ V8 Hi-Lux Ute”, the electric car industry quietly continues to charge forward.

The newly elected Prime Minister (whoever he is) may have to update the regal BMW.

.... Various Sources

Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc.

Meeting	9 th April. Commenced at 10 00 am. Meeting opened by Vice-President Paul Mascall. 45 members present and 1 guest, 10 apologies.
Inductions	No inductions.
Minutes	Minutes of the March 2019 meeting were published in the April Newsletter. Taken as read. Mvd. Arthur Napper, 2 nd John Harston, carried.
Correspondence	Colin Friezer resignation. Tony Mestrov resignation.
Treasurer's Report	Presented by David Varley. Balance at 1/3/2019, \$3,614.32 Receipts: Subs. \$1,040.00, Badges \$20.00, Morning Tea \$195.20. Total \$1,246.00 Payments: Morning Teas \$120.00, PSPL \$50.00, Admin. \$27.96, Badges \$11.00, Mail Box \$130.00, Dept Fair Trading \$46.00. Total \$384.96. Balance at 31/3/2019, \$4,475.36. Mvd. Gordon Stokes, 2 nd Bryan Pritchard, carried.
Birthdays	David Varley, Gordon Crow, Fred Murray-Walker, Richard Trevitt, Barrie Unsworth, Michael Stevens-Jones.
Welfare & New Members Report	Geoff Sheppard reported that Cyril Webb and Peter Squires were not well. Tug Tugwell advised this morning that he will be resigning from the club. Ron Owers is submitting a membership application to join the club.
Activities	John Harston advised no activities this month because of Easter. Ten-Pin Bowling planned for May 9 followed by lunch at Dee Why RSL Club. Seeking Expressions of interest for a bus trip to Mudgee in July.
Functions	Nil.
Newsletter	Warwick Dalzell invited members to submit articles of interest for inclusion in the Newsletter.
Golf	John Harston won the March Trophy with Peter Walsh runner-up. Next game at Palm Beach Friday April 12 th at later time of 10 45 am.
Investment Group	Arthur Napper advised the Investment Group discussed the federal budget and the impact of the inverse yield curve. All members are welcome to join the Group.
General Business	Call for nomination for the Functions Organiser. No response.
Speakers	Wes Harder has organised the following speakers: May Gunter Schaule – Electricity, Geoff Richards – Ngorogoro Crater. June John Harston – Sri Lanka. Bojana - Health & Wellness.
5 Minute Speaker	David Taylor gave an informative talk on "Letters to the Editor".
Speaker	After coffee, Graham Sellick gave an interesting talk on his time working for the Sultan of Brunei.
Next Meeting	14 th May 2019. Commencing at 10 00 am. Meeting Closed at 12 00 pm. Signed as a correct record.

Office Bearers for 2019

President	John Porter 9997 3019	Activities Officer	John Harston 9940 0446
Vice President	Paul Mascall 0415 920 287	Functions Organiser	
Secretary	Bryan Inch 0423 379 194	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		