



Probud Club of Pittwater

Newsletter – December 2019

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President's Message

Gentlemen,

The bush fire season is now well underway and is a time of the year well known to Northern Beaches residents. The early and aggressive start to the season – I believe we experienced our first fire in NSW in August – was a forewarning of the season ahead. We can be most thankful that Sydney, in general, and the beaches, in particular, have avoided this first round of fires – but we have summer ahead.

My experience with bush fires is very close and personal, having lived for 45 years in Elanora Heights, adjoining Garigal National Park. Our home was destroyed in the fires of Christmas 1979 and 5 of our neighbours lost their homes in the fires of 1994.

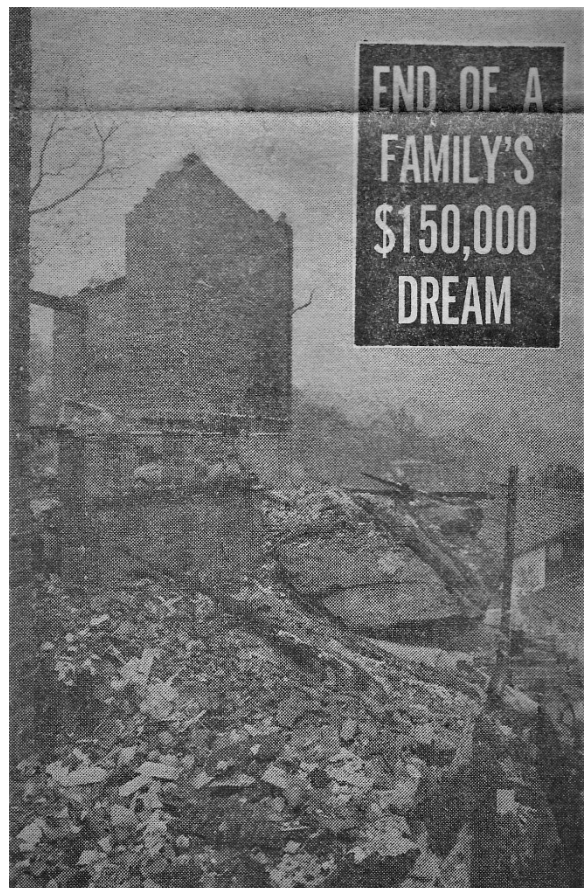
The commitment, both short and long term, of the members of the Rural Fire Service is exemplary. It is a fine example of the role of volunteers from every walk of life – including our former Prime Minister – and we must wonder just how much commitment can be expected from these men and women, their families and employers. Given their involvement in training, fire-fighting and general emergency support with the SES (like the recent storms), I find it disappointing that they so often need to resort to fund raising to finance their critical contribution to our community.

The RFS is one of many community-based, volunteer service organisations. The SES and Surf Life Saving Australia are among those best known in our area for providing essential services to our community.

In whatever way we can, we must support our local community service volunteer organisations. If you can support directly, the local organisation receives the full benefit without head office taking its share!

On behalf of all the committee, I wish all of our members a very happy and safe festive season. Looking forward to our return in 2020.

.... John Porter



Give me that old time religion ...

Prior to the French Revolution, the Catholic Church was the one of the most influential forces in French winemaking.

The Benedictine monks became one of Europe's largest wine producers, with vineyards throughout Champagne, Burgundy and Bordeaux.



October Speaker's Corner

Merv Rosen "History of the Sydney Ferries"

Merv Rosen gave us a short history of Sydney ferries but before giving his talk Merv made us an offer we couldn't refuse - membership of the Australian National Maritime Museum at a special rate. Benefits are excellent.

The first vessel, officially named the Rose Hill Packet (otherwise known as 'The Lump'), was crafted by convicts and powered by sails and oars. The ex-convict, Billy Blue, thought to be a Jamaican, provided a cross harbour ferry from Dawes Point to Blues Point. By 1830, he was running what is thought to be Sydney first regular ferry service.

The same year, a regular service was set up between Balmoral Beach and Balgowlah that shortened the otherwise long bush journey between Sydney and Manly and Northern Beaches. As time progressed, a series of rowboat ferrymen set up small operations to transport people from either side of Sydney Harbour. But trips between Sydney Cove to Parramatta could still take a week to complete. Names in that era included PS Phantom, 1853, Lady Mary, 1892, designed by Walter Reeks, an early naval architect, the Lady Denman, 1912, Brighton, 1883-1916.



The first ferry wharf was built on the southern shore in 1879. From the 1890s, ferry terminals came to dominate the harbour, and Circular Quay became the hub of the Sydney ferry network. Paddle wheel ferries were introduced. One of the worst tragedies happened in 1927 when the Greycliffe collided with RMS Tahiti. Cut in two by the Tahiti, within minutes the Greycliffe sank, killing 40 people, many of them trapped in cabins aboard the ferry. The accident

shocked the Harbour City and remains the worst disaster on Sydney Harbour in terms of deaths.

The building of the Harbour Bridge changed things because now people could access Sydney by car. Prior to the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the ferry company carried more than 40 million passengers per annum, three quarters of which travelled on the Milsons Point-Circular Quay route. With the completion of the bridge in 1932, the company's passenger volumes dropped to 15 million.

Despite this, demand for ferries continued and encompassed Car Ferries, and hydrofoils. Some names will be familiar, Kalgoa, Kalang, Kara Kara, Kuttabul to some of the older ferry travellers.

Sydney Ferries operate on Sydney Harbour and the connecting Parramatta River. The network is controlled by the New South Wales Government's transport authority, Transport for NSW, which is part of the authority's Opal ticketing system. In 2017-18, 15.3 million passenger journeys were made on the network.

.... Warwick Dalzell

December 2019 Speaker

John Porter *"President's Pick"*



Ever been hoisted from a ship's deck up into a helicopter in a raging storm? If not, this is the time to hear what it is like from someone who has done this.

Club President, John Porter and his wife, Jan, were among many that were rescued from the Cruise Ship "Viking Sky" in March this year. John will describe the frightening conditions on board and the dramatic rescue of passengers by helicopter.

January 2020 Speaker

Serina Mace *"Trade Travel"*

Serina started her career with the Commonwealth Bank but always had a strong desire for travel which she did for many years throughout New Zealand, Samoa, Cook Islands and Norfolk Island. Serina is the NSW/ACT Manager for Trade Travel Pty Ltd, which has been closely associated with Probus South Pacific travel needs since 2005.

With her passion for travel and meeting people, Serina takes great delight in helping her customers create, plan and finally enjoy their perfect holiday experience.



January 2010 5 Minute Speaker

Wes Harder "Just Right!"

The Earth is in a "perilous state ". Don't you believe it. It is "Just Right!".

Club Member Wes Harder will put forward a range of scientific specifics for all to ponder.

Proposed By- Law Amendment

Recently you would have received a notice with regard to a proposed amendment to a Club By-Law and wondered what this all about.

Pittwater Probus currently has 2 Life Members, Cyril Webb and Gordon Crow, who in their time served the club with distinction in their various roles, including President.

It is time for the club to recognise other long-term members who in their own right have provided outstanding support and dedication over a number of years. The Club Committee would like to recognise these efforts by inviting club members to vote to grant life-membership to such deserving individuals when proposed by the Committee.

However, there is one thing we have to do first and that is make a minor amendment to our By-Laws. At present, By-Law 6b. restricts the number of Life Members to 3. We already have 2 and hence limited to 1 more. The Committee proposes to amend By-Law 6b. to allow a total of 5 Life Members, which gives the club greater flexibility in proposing Life Members. Once the amendment is approved, the Committee will have the option to consider any additional life members and submit, at the time, the names of the individuals to the club members to consider and vote upon.

Whilst we are doing this, it is an opportunity to change the number of Honorary Members from 3 to 5 under By-Law 6a., which is also proposed by the Committee. We do not currently have any Honorary Members.

The Committee trusts the members agree with these minor amendments and vote to accept them at the December 2019 Meeting.

Reflections of 2019

We have had an excellent year in Pittwater Probus and I sincerely thank the committee for their support and involvement – and covering my absences. Particular thanks to you, our members, for maintaining such a high attendance at all our meetings and to the many new members we have welcomed this year.

.... John Porter

Christmas Cake ...

Well here we are, at the end of another year and the last meeting for 2019! And what a tremendous year it has been. To reflect on all the speakers we have enjoyed listening to, the trips close and far away we have made and the good times, please join Bill Marshall and Bill Sherman for "wine and cake".

Stay back after John Porter's President's encounter of the seven seas and have a small glass of wine and a piece of Christmas cake. You cannot end the year in better fashion and in greater company!

When: 12 noon Tuesday 10th December 2019.



The Pittwater Probus 2019 Christmas Lunch



For those who have signed up to attend the 2019 Pittwater Probus Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 17th December 2019, make sure you arrive at 12 noon for a welcome drink before being seated at 12 30 pm for lunch.

We look forward to Club Member, Brian Kennedy again taking on his inimitable role of MC for the occasion.

PIG December Lunch

The "Wise Old Investors" of Pittwater Probus got together for Christmas lunch at The Newport to count their fortunes made during the year at the Probus Investment Group meetings.

Kidding of course! They didn't make any money but enjoyed talking about it.



He said it ...

*"Common sense and a sense of humour are the same thing, moving at different speeds.
A sense of humour is just common sense, dancing."*

"Fiction is life with the dull bits left out."

... the late Clive James

Past Presidents' Lunch

Seven Past Presidents, one Current President and one President to Be, enjoyed the recent Presidents Lunch at the Marina Café at Church Point.



The 'Guiding Hands' of Pittwater Probus over the years.

Trivia Night



Club Member, Bill Sherman, has been hard at it again working up another 'Trivia Night'.

For those of you that have not experienced Bill's challenging questions testing your knowledge, well now is the time to try-out your know-how in front of your peers!

50 questions on Australia – history, geography, arts and drama, politics and sport.

Partners welcome. Participants will be organised into teams of 4. Prizes for the winners.

The night will include a 2-course dinner of Eye Fillet main, Crème Brulee dessert plus coffee, all for \$40 per head at the Mona Vale Golf Course Clubhouse on Monday 17th February 2020. Buy your drinks from the bar. Arrive by 6 00 pm.

Past Trivia Nights have been a great success and greatly enjoyed by all. Make sure you come to this fun occasion. The more the merrier!

Bus Trip to HARS



Not content with just organising the next Trivia Night, Club Member Bill Sherman is driving the Pittwater Probus bus again.

This time a 2-day tour covering the HARS exhibition at Albion Park on the South Coast, followed by an overnight stay in Bowral before visiting the Railway Museum in Thirlmere. The trip is being organised by Club Vice-President Paul Mascall and will be departing Tuesday 25th February 2020 and arriving home Wednesday 26th February 2020.

The 2 previous club bus trips were outstanding successes and this one will be the same. There are limited spaces in the bus so be quick and book your passage with Paul. Partners are welcome.

It's Getting Time to Party ...



The Probus Club of Pittwater Inc had its inaugural meeting in January 1981 at the Pittwater RSL Club.

This means that in January 2021, we will be "40 years old".

This is cause for celebration and we need your thoughts on how to do this.

Please let the committee know of any ideas. We want to do something special and we have 12 months to plan it!

Premier's Gala Concert

The spectacular Premier's Gala Concert is on again in February 2020 at the ICC Theatre in Darling Harbour. For 35 years, the Premier's Concerts have been delivering high-quality, free concerts, featuring Australia's best and upcoming musical theatre and recording artists.

The Club has put in a request for 20 tickets for Thursday 13 February at 2:45pm. The date and time to be confirmed once Activities Officer John Harston receives the tickets. In the meantime, get a group together and let John know you are interested in attending.



Sail Away



Our planned relaxing day cruising around the beautiful waters of Pittwater followed by a fish and chips lunch at Club Palm Beach will back on in the New Year.

*A new date will be set for early 2020
and once more the blue waters of
Pittwater will beckon us.*

Breaking News – Probus BBQ - A Winner!

SUCCESS!

*Blue skies were the order of the day and that
is what we got (at last) !*

*A great afternoon was had by all at the
Pittwater Probus Spring BBQ
at Winnererremy Bay,
Mona Vale.*

Probus Photo Page

Our website now has a page to view photographs of interest to our members.

See the magnificent Michael Mannington photo collection of the Temora Air Show. Also, those of the recent Mudgee bus trip.

Photos can be downloaded for your personal use.

probus.pittwater.org.au/photo-gallery/

Members photo contributions are welcome by sending them to Michael Mannington at probus@pittwater.org.au



We even had our own Tour Guide in Mudgee.

Probus Golf

Ten keen players turned up to enjoy good conditions at Palm Beach Golf Course and to compete in the penultimate round for the year, and vie for the coveted 'GOLFER of the YEAR TROPHY'.

The outstanding best score which won the Monthly Trophy was John Harston 21 stableford points, Trophy plus 2 golf balls. Runner up, Gordon Stokes 19 stableford points, one golf ball.

The Pittwater Golfer of the Year Trophy for 2019 will be presented at the Christmas Lunch.

"And the winner is ?"

Come along next Friday 13th December, to enjoy the final round for 2019 at Palm Beach Golf Course and celebrate the start of the festive season with lunch at Club Palm Beach

Hit off time at 10 am.

Join the Group for Good Company, Good Views and perhaps Good Golf.



.... Graham Morley, Golf Convener

Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc.

Meeting	12 th November. Commenced at 10 00 am. Meeting opened by President John Porter. 45 members and 8 apologies.
Guests	Tom Harris and John Ewing.
Inductions	None.
Minutes	Minutes of the October 2019 meeting were published in the November Newsletter. Taken as read. Mvd. Bryan Inch, 2 nd Brian Kennedy, carried.
Correspondence	Nil.
Treasurer's Report	Presented by Bryan Inch. Balance at 1/10/2019, \$5,026.74 Receipts: Morning Tea \$175.00. Christmas Lunch \$100.00. Total \$275.00. Payments: Morning Teas \$120.00, Admin. \$15.94, Badge \$19.00. Total \$154.94. Balance at 31/10/2019, \$5,146.80. Mvd. Paul Mascall, 2 nd Brian Kennedy, carried.
Birthdays	Gunter Schaule, Martyn Bullock, Mike Musgrave, Graeme Proctor, Michael Graham, Cliff Hensby, Peter Mayman, John Owens, Don Orth, Alan Woods. Geoff Sheppard reported Allan Smith is entering hospital for a back operation.
Welfare & New Members Report	
Activities	John Harston advised dates for 2020: 13 th Feb Premier's Concert, 17 th Feb Trivia Night, 25 th & 26 th Feb HARS bus trip.
Functions	Christmas Lunch 17 th December.
Newsletter	Always looking for more contributors.
Golf	Graham Morley won the October trophy and Geoff Richards runner-up. Next game at Palm Beach Friday November 15 th at 10 00 am.
Investment Group	Arthur Napper reported on the discussion on RBA strategy re-interest rates and the effect or not of tax cuts. All members are welcome to join the Group for lunch at The Newport 11 00 am on December 4 th December.
General Business	Committee members are still being sought as we have no Functions Organiser and a new Vice -President is needed for next year.
Speakers	Wes Harder has organised the following speakers: December John Porter – Presidents Pick. January Serina Mace – Trade Travel.
5 Minute Speaker	Bryan Inch "Christmas must wait" A diversion from New York to Washington.
Speaker	After coffee, Merv Rosen provided information on the Australian National Maritime Museum followed by an interesting and informative talk on the history of Sydney Ferries.
Next Meeting	10 th December 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 0437 274 074	Assistant Editor	Ron Seldon 9918 0677
Golf Convener	Graham Morley 0407 217 248	Registrar	Trevor Stephens 9918 2138