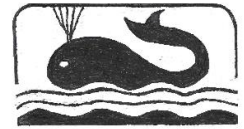




THE PROBUS CLUB OF MOSMAN COMBINED INC



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Fun and Friendship in Retirement

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NEWSLETTER

27 November 2024

* **Next Meeting: Wednesday, 27th November**

* **Venue: Mosman Art Gallery Hall 10:30 – 12:30pm**

Doors will open at 10:00am

* **Speaker: Graham Spindler- The Voice of White Xmas**

Graham was a secondary school teacher before becoming the Education Manager of the NSW Parliament. He has had a long-standing interest in history and heritage, has written four print books and many brochures on walking Sydney, and has also designed and led many community walks. Graham will tell how Bing Crosby became the Voice of White Christmas and also play the music and a video.

Member's 5-Minute Spot: Jenny Reeves - From Loft to Battlefield

◆ Next Meeting (22 January, 2025): Dr Peter Abelson

YOU ARE INVITED TO COME TO A CLUB LUNCH AFTER THE GENERAL MEETING

Members and guest are invited to join a Club lunch after each meeting. It is held upstairs in the Upper Duck Restaurant, Hotel Mosman, Military Rd, Spit Junction, just a short walk from the Mosman Art Gallery.

20 -Years Membership Award: Almut Piatti

Almut has served both as Acting Club Secretary and on the Activities Committee during her 20 years with Mosman Probud. She is most grateful for the wonderful friendships that she has made with Club members and has greatly enjoyed Club activities and outings and overseas trips.



October was Probud Month





Dates for Your Diaries: **Activities**

Wendy Lyons

2024

☞ **Friday 22nd November:** 30th **Rotary Solas Charity Regatta** (supporting Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation). Harbour cruise to follow the sailing regatta. Departs 2 King Street Wharf, Darling Harbour at **12:30pm** for 1pm to 5pm aboard Captain Cook 111. Includes 3 course lunch, drinks. **Cost: \$130pp.**

☞ **Friday 29th November:** at 11:00am at **Qudos Bank Arena, Homebush. All 4 One Schools Spectacular.** Train then a walk to arena. **Cost: \$50.00pp** as now in **Premium Seating.** Food stalls will be open in the grounds after the concert. Entry tickets are available at the Activities Desk for those who ordered them through the Desk. Travel by public transport details included.

☞ **Thursday 12th December:** **Christmas lunch** at **Mosman Bowling Club**, Belmont Rd, Mosman Junction at **12:30pm.** The Club is subsidizing 3

a **Xmas gift** of **\$10** to each member who attends the lunch so that the **cost** is reduced to **\$75 pp.**

2025

➤ **Wednesday 15th January, 2025: Annual Picnic** at **Balmoral Beach.**

No need to book. Just come about **5:00 pm** to the southern end of Balmoral beach under the big tree, with your chairs, table if possible, picnic food and drinks. **Visitors especially welcome.**

➤ **October 2025: Tour of Morocco.** If interested, please contact the company directly at: cara@aussiesinmoroccotours.com.au or its Principal (Cara) on 8328 0609. (Shall try to have her as a 5-minute speaker early next year).





Enjoying lunch at 88 Noodles
in Crown Casino

Dates for Your Diaries: Walks

Don Napper

Next Probus Walk: Wednesday, 12 February, 2025

The next Mosman Probus Walk is likely to be on 12 February, 2025. Exactly where will depend upon the weather this summer but it is most likely to be in the Potts Point area where there are a significant number of apartment buildings in a range of Art Deco styles. Peter Sheridan, the Sydney Art Deco expert, when he spoke to our Club said that there were three major types of Art Deco buildings in Sydney: commercial offices, apartment blocks and pubs. One of our walks this year has already covered the Art Deco office blocks in the CBD so we will next do a walk around the Art Deco apartment blocks in Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay. Please put the date of our next walk in your 2025 diary.

Three Mosman Probus walkers escape from the omnipresent Halloween ogres on November 1 by seeking shelter in an exhibit at Sculpture by the Sea.



As this is the final Mosman Probus Newsletter for 2024, President Margaret and the other members of the Management Committee all join in wishing members a happy and safe Festive Season

Financial Report: October 2024

Helmut Regelein

Opening Balance per Statement 01:09: 2024 \$ 16,728.06

Credits

3 new Members	\$ 225.00
Cash Deposits Melb. Cup & Christmas Lunch	\$ 2,455.00

EFT Deposits:

Osko Payments for Outings	\$ 80.00
Square Deposits Melb. Cup & Christmas Lunch	\$ 72.23

Total Credits: \$ 3,332.23

Debits

Refund new Members Coffee	\$ 79.00
Cheque 201958 Mosman Council (Rent Hall)	\$ 1,295.00
Cheque 201953 Refund (Snail Restaurant)	\$ 50.00
Invoice 1754909 (School Spectacular)	\$ 550.00
Cheque 201959 Noodle Lunch Crown Casino	\$ 1,400.00
Probus South Pacific (Capitation Fees)	\$ 226.75
Invoice 89117 Lower North Shore Transport	\$ 810.00
Cheque 201960 Refund (Hawkesbury Races)	\$ 70.00

Total Debits: \$ 4,480.75

Closing Balance Bank Statement 31:10:2024 \$ 15,579.54

Unpresented Cheques:

Cheques 201961 & 201962 (Refunds)	\$ 140.00
Cheque 20963 Melb. Cup aprox.	\$ 1,700.00

Club Funds 31:10:2024 \$ 13,739.54

Cinema Club: Next Cinema Club Meeting

Gill Napper

The next Cinema Club meeting will not be until February 2025. Best wishes for the Festive Season to all our cinema lovers.

Previous Speaker: Ian Thompson -- Iconic Australian Inventions

Ian's talk covered some 12 important Australian inventions in a range of areas that have had a worldwide impact over the past two centuries. There were a number of important Australian inventions (such as the 'black box') that Ian was forced to omit because of time limitations.

The first inventor that Ian spoke about was James Raymond. He came to Sydney in 1826 when his fortunes as a magistrate in Ireland declined. Up to 1838, there was no pre-paid postage in the world, the recipients of letters paying for postage on taking delivery. But in that year, Raymond in his role as Postmaster reversed this concept so that the sender paid instead. He used embossed sheets costing a penny farthing that could be purchased and used as envelopes by the sender. Two years later, England further developed this user-pays idea with the

introduction of adhesive stamps.

While *Mortein* is now an iconic Australian product that is sold internationally, it was developed by a German immigrant to Australia, J.Hagemann, when he became annoyed by the multitude of Australian insects. He crushed chrysanthemum flowers to produce a pyrethrum extract, thereby creating an insecticidal powder that contained neurotoxins. The name, *Mortein*, is believed to have been devised by Hagemann and his French wife because it is a combination of the French word *mort* (dead) and the German word *ein* (one). Ian said that *Mortein's* legendary marketing mascot, *Louie the Fly*, was the brainchild in 1957 of the late author Bryce Courtenay. **6**



The stump jump plough, which was invented in 1876 by the South Australian Smith brothers, Richard and Clarence, revolutionised farming worldwide. At this time, land clearing for farming in Australia left a large number of mallee scrub roots in the ground. These damaged the cutting edges of ploughshares. The stump jump plough was designed to jump over stumps that were in its way, thereby protecting the ploughshare and avoiding the cost of removing each stump individually. The Smith brothers did not patent their invention because of the costs involved but did win a £200 reward from the Government, plus a bonus of £500 and a block of land.

The first straight-line motion shearing machine for sheep shearing was invented in 1909 by the indigenous inventor, David Unaipon. Both are featured on the current \$50 Australian note. Rotary motion of the blades had previously been used in designing sheep shears but all shears nowadays use the Unaipon's linear motion.

As a result of the interruption in the supply of *Marmite* from England during WW1, the food technologist, Cyril Callister, was given the task in 1919 by the Fred Walker Co to develop a spread from the used yeast that was being dumped by Carlton & United brewery. Following a national competition to name Callister's new spread, it was first marketed in 1923 as *Vegemite*. However, the name of the person who coined one of the most famous trademarks in Australian history is not known. *Vegemite* did not sell well in competition with *Marmite* and in 1928 its name was changed to *Parwill*, a pun on the name of its competitor, *Marmite*. This did not improve its market share and so after seven years, the name was changed back to *Vegemite* and it has prospered ever since.



Dr Mark Lidwill in 1926 invented the cardiac pacemaker. He was working at Crown St Women's Hospital, Sydney and experimenting, without authorization, in the resuscitation of newborn babies using an electrical device that he had invented. One pole of the device was attached to the baby's skin and the other, a needle, was inserted into a heart chamber. A voltage of 18v was then applied at an appropriate frequency. In 1928, the apparatus was used to revive a stillborn infant: after 10 minutes of electrical pacemaking, the electricity was switched off and the heart continued to beat of its own accord. The baby subsequently made a full recovery. This procedure raised moral issues because it was said that the pacemaker was going against God's will by extending life.

Lewis Bandt was an Australian car designer working for Ford in Geelong and he is credited with designing and building the first ute in the 1930s. This was the result of a letter from a Victorian farmer's wife asking for "a vehicle to go to church in on a Sunday and which can carry our pigs to market on Mondays". When the Australian version of the ute was displayed in the US, Henry Ford nicknamed it the "Kangaroo Chaser". As a result, the term 'ute' is not used even today in the US and the recently released Tesla cybertruck is no truck but just a cyberute.

Lance Hill invented Australia's iconic *Hills Hoist* - a rotary clothesline that was found in the backyard of most Australian homes from the 1950s onwards. Hill, a motor mechanic by profession, had served in WW2 and on his return found himself unemployed. He came up with the Hills Hoist after being urged by his wife to improve their own traditional clothesline: this was an extended length of wire above ground, that was secured at both ends and elevated by pushing up a long wooden pole. There had been an earlier Australian rotary clothesline, invented and patented by Gilbert Toyne in 1925. His patent expired in 1943 so Hill was able 7

to use some of Toyne's ideas in his own rotary clothesline. The Hills Hoist is now manufactured in China.

Another Australian invention for the Australian backyard is the *Victor* lawnmower, which has now been sold in 30 countries worldwide. It was invented by Mervyn **Victor** Richardson in 1952. It was not the first rotary mower as the earlier *Mowhall rotary* mower, designed in 1948 and manufactured by Lawrence Hall in Sydney, was seriously disadvantaged by its weight: it required two people to operate it, one to push and one to pull using a rope. Richardson saw the *Mowhall* demonstrated in 1948 and set about making a lighter weight version when his son started a mowing business.

Francis Malley started his sheet metal working business in Sydney in 1888, making ice boxes. These were called the 'Eskimo Ice Box,' soon shortened to 'Esky', and now used as the generic term for a portable cooler box. The Esky is an Australian innovation and national icon, synonymous with our outdoor lifestyle. Esky was recognised in 2019 as an iconic Australian brand by the Australian Mint when it minted an Esky \$1 coin.

Another Australian invention that is used worldwide is Jack Grant's aircraft inflatable escape slide. This has made air travel safer for millions of passengers since its launch in the mid-60s. Prior to this, planes had their life rafts stored above seated passengers. These could be taken down and launched through a door in the event of a crash on water, a procedure that proved to be slow and cumbersome in an emergency.

In 1965, the Sydney-based Jack Grant, then employed as a Qantas Operational Safety Superintendent, had the idea of combining the escape slide and the life raft into one inflatable item. When launched after a crash on water, passengers could then slide down, stay on the slide and release it from the aircraft so that the slide became the life raft. Safety checks finally convinced the US and British aircraft manufacturers of its significant improvement in performance in an emergency and it was adopted with the launching of the Boeing 747, which could accommodate 600 passengers. It is mandatory safety equipment on all major airlines today

"The Miracle on the Hudson" occurred in 2009 when an Airbus A320 lost both engines on takeoff in New York as a result of bird strikes and crashed into the Hudson River. All 150 passengers and 5 crew were rescued after using the inflatable escape slides.

The final Australian inventor that Ian considered was John O'Sullivan. He led the team that invented WiFi, an IT technology that made the wireless Local Area Networks (LANs) fast and robust, allowing mobile phones, laptops and printers to connect to the high speed internet when located close together. Prior to this, devices in small spaces (LANs) were bugged by reflections from walls, etc that degraded their signals. O'Sullivan and his team at CSIRO were able to solve a number of problems that were considered to be intractable by the major US tech companies. This breakthrough provided CSIRO with its most lucrative patent ever (A\$430 million) and earned Dr O'Sullivan Australia's highest scientific honour in 2009 – The Prime Minister's Prize for Science.

Ian's comprehensive and very accessible talk provided all members with a deeper insight into the importance and worldwide success of a wide range of Australian inventions.

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