

Probus Club of Pambula Beach

Formed 1994. Incorporated 1995.

Newsletter 326, April 2025



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All our travellers are back and there was a good rollup to the April meeting.

President Colin Gibson opened the meeting at 10.30 am and welcomed the 33 members (8 apologies) and 4 visitors and guests. Visitors were **James & Colleen Yates** and **Hanns Eber.**, guests of Barb Crowe. And **Jane Eliza**, guest of Elaine McEwan. James, Colleen and Hanns expressed an interest in joining our Club.

(Check your minutes for details of the Treasurer's Report and Correspondence.)

Lakes Entrance Bus trip. 2025:



Wendy gave the meeting an impromptu summary of the Lakes Entrance trip, which was enjoyed by everyone. She made a point of how well they were fed. However, it would be good if someone could send me a report and a few pics, so those of us who did not go know what they missed. Even a photo and a few lines about it would be appreciated by your Editor. I am am hopeful (but not very) that someone will respond.

Those Magnificent Women in Their Flying Machines

Allan Crowe was guest speaker at the March meeting and gave a most interesting presentation about women in aviation and the barriers and prejudices which prevented them becoming pilots. However some were determined to succeed . . .

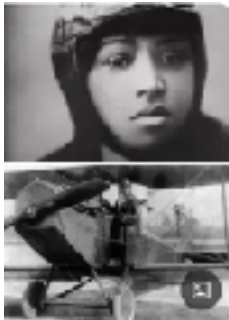


Amelia Mary Earhart, (born 24 July 1897), was an American aviation pioneer. On July 2, 1937, she disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to become the first female pilot to circumnavigate the world.

She was known for many early aviation records, including first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean

She gained the awards of Distinguished Flying Cross Legion of Honour. She was one of the first aviators to promote commercial air travel, wrote best-selling books about her flying experiences, and was instrumental in the formation of The Ninety Nines, an organisation for female pilots.

Amy Johnson CBE was a pioneering English pilot who was the first woman to fly solo from London to Australia. Flying solo or with her husband, Jim Mollison, she set many long-distance records during the 1930s. She gained her pilot's license in 1928, and she was also the first British woman granted a ground engineer's license.



Elizabeth Coleman was an early American civil aviator. She was one of 13 siblings. The first African-American woman and first Native American to hold a pilot license, she was also the earliest known Black person to earn an international pilot's licence which she earned from the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale on June 15, 1921, by travelling to France.

Australian **Deborah Lawrie** was the first female commercial pilot in Australia. Despite being qualified, Deborah Lawrie's applications to be a pilot were repeatedly rejected due to her gender. In 1979, she won Australia's first successful High Court sex discrimination case for employment, a decision that paved the way for women to get equal rights in workplaces across the country. She made history on 22 January 1980 when she co-piloted an Ansett flight from Alice Springs to Darwin.



Nancy Bird Walton, AO, OBE was a pioneering Australian aviator, known as "The Angel of the Outback", and the founder and patron of the Australian Women Pilots' Association. In the 1930s, she became a fully qualified pilot at the age of 19 to become the youngest Australian woman to gain a pilot's license.



April Guest Speaker: Lance Hartley

from the Rural Fire Service is Senior Deputy at Tathra RFS, but plans to step down to make way for younger members. In 2009 he became Training Officer for the Bega Valley.

Tathra RFS has 47 members but generally, membership is dwindling and some brigades are no longer viable. Efforts to recruit people, including women, have been made but getting volunteers is still difficult. People can be part of the RFS without having to actually fight fires.

There are jobs in communications which are just as important.

Facilities have been improved greatly since the original 'tin shed' to the much improved fully fitted out building of the present day.

The RSF has evolved from a collection of local fire brigades in 1940. These were later funded by local councils and subsequently came under the umbrella of the State organisation. The early 'brigades' had very basic fire fighting equipment, such as rake hoes, beaters, and flame throwers and 2 wheel drive vehicles.

The RFS now supplies basic, but much improved gear to its members.

These include fire retardant jackets and trousers, masks and helmets.

Individual members still need to provide much of their own gear such as torches and radios. Potentially faced with exposure to toxic smoke and cancer, greater emphasis has been placed on face masks, goggles, full-face masks with canisters to filter out dangerous gases. Trucks are now all wheel drive with a range of features to help keep the crew safe. In the event of a fire over-run the truck crew can put on a wooden balaclava to protect their heads. Screens are pulled down to cover the windows to minimise radiant heat. A crew of 6 must get below window level so 'personal space' is not a possibility. A sprinkler system also helps protect the truck.

The RFS members train in fighting house and motor vehicle fires as well as first aid.

(Lance stepped in at the last minute as the arranged speaker was ill.)

Jack Findlay thanked Lance, and presented him with a token of our appreciation.

Outings Update: Bill Tandy

***Our May Outing will be on Monday 5th May 2025
to Commercial Hotel (Top Pub), Pambula at 12.00
noon.***

***Our June Outing will be on Monday 2nd June 2025
to Lumen Christi Catholic College.***

(They will be visiting us as our October Guest Speakers)

🎂🌟 **April Birthdays** 🎂🍷
Ruth Laird - 1st, James Yates - 12th
Sue Hopkins - 17th

🎂🍷🌟 **May Birthdays** 🌟🍷
Colin Gibson - 20th

May General Meeting Monday 19th
May at 10.30 am at the Merimbula RSL
Club.

May Committee Meeting, Monday
19th May at 1.30pm (following lunch) at
the Merimbula RSL Club

Last 😊
Laugh!



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