

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

Thu	1	12.00pm	Investment Lunch: Greengate
Frid	2	7.15am	First Friday Golf: Gordon GC
Tue	13	9.50am	Sketching: 20 The Chase Rd
Thu	15	1.30pm	Bridge: at the Chubbs'
Frid	16	9.00am	Committee Meeting
		10.00am	Monthly Meeting
			Club Speaker: Don Hamilton
			Guest Speaker: David McGregor, National Organiser, Australian Republic Movement
Mon	19	9.30am	Computer Group: 9 Woniora Ave
Tue	20	8.30am	Day Tour: Linden Observatory and Norman Lindsay Gallery
Frid	23	4.00pm	Walk: Bobbin Head + BBQ
Mon	26	7.30pm	Camera Group: 9 Woniora Ave

MARCH

Thu	1	12.00pm	Investment Lunch: Greengate
Frid	2	7.15am	First Friday Golf: Gordon GC
Frid	9	tba	Walk: Manly and Fairy Bower
Tue	13	9.50am	Sketching: 20 The Chase Rd
Thu	15	1.30pm	Bridge: tba
Frid	16	9.00am	Committee Meeting
		10.00am	Monthly Meeting and AGM
		tba	Guest Speaker:
Mon	19	9.30am	Computer Group: 9 Woniora Ave
Frid	23	tba	Walk: Fish Markets-Darling Hbr
Mon	26	7.30pm	Camera Group: 9 Woniora Ave

PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

In order to keep our Club as fine as it is, we have not only the Committee but also a handful of other members who fulfil roles in relation to meetings, outings, sports and other activities. See them listed in our Newsletter. Anyone who would like to participate or perhaps assist in any way please let a committee member know. That is what keeps our Club moving, alive and growing.



Nominations for Committee membership have to be called for at the meeting before our February 2018 meeting. As we do not meet in January, this was mentioned at the December meeting. Each of the current Committee members is prepared to stand again, albeit in slightly different positions. Anyone else wishing to stand for the Committee this year should obtain a nomination form from Secretary Dick Kaan.

The forms require a nominator and a seconder and need to be lodged with the Secretary by the start of the February meeting.

Dr. John Bradfield was certainly forward looking in his vision for the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the city railways. Tony Eid's enthusiastic talk stimulated more questions than time would permit. Many thanks to Bob Kemp for driving Tony from and to Turramurra Station and ensuring he kept his 1.00 pm appointment.

It was good getting to know our new member, Ron West, December's Club Speaker.

Jim Fergusson, President

FUTURE EVENTS

Apr	24	- May 1	TOUR Autumn in Bright
Sat	26	May	"BOOK of MORMON" 2pm at Lyric
Wed	3	October	"EVITA" 1pm at Opera House

MEETING ROOM ROSTER: 9.15 am

Welcome table: Syd Morgan and Axel Buchner
If unavailable, please contact Ray Kench **9489 4467**

CLUB SPEAKER
Ron West - Profile



Born in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1935, Ron was educated at Hillcrest School, then Jeppe High School.

At age 16 he entered a 5 year apprenticeship in process engraving while studying part time and obtained the equivalent of a TAFE Diploma,

with top marks, in his final year.

At age 21 Ron went to the UK for further experience and worked for the Sun Engraving Company, then the largest firm of its kind in the world. On returning to South Africa he re-joined the company where he'd served his apprenticeship, and later became the largest shareholder, chairman and MD of an engraving company, retaining this position until he retired at age 71 after 55 years in full time employment.

Of Anglo Saxon heritage, Ron was the only son of four children. He married Jennifer in February 1960 and will soon have been married for 58 years. Jennifer's career was in radiography and they have three children; a son married to an English girl and living in the UK, while their two daughters, both married to Australians, live in Sydney.

Ron and Jennifer have been in Australia for 11 years and have both played all the usual sports. Neither has achieved any great heights in sports, regarding these activities as more social rather than competitive. Photography and sketching are probably Ron's most active hobbies, while they both enjoy reading, good TV, movies, or a symphony concert. Basically their lives revolve around their children and grandchildren, which give them great pleasure and enjoyment

Scribe: Peter Edwards

GUEST SPEAKER Tony Eid
Executive Director, Planning for NSW Rail
"Dr John Bradfield : Plans for Sydney Harbour Bridge and Rail"

Before talking about John Bradfield, Tony mentioned that his own humble beginning with trains was in operating the Epping signal box for the old "Red Rattlers."

John Bradfield was born in Queensland in 1867, 150 years ago and attended Ipswich Grammar School. After graduating with a BSc Engineering



in 1884, he began his career in public works, drafting and designing dams. In 1915 as Chief Engineer, NSW, he presented his proposal to Parliament: the construction of a bridge to connect the CBD with North Sydney.

SYDNEY RAIL

In 1855 Redfern station opened and in 1874 Central opened 4 lines. The bridge at Turramurra, carrying Pacific Highway over the railway line, was opened in 1890. By 1916 Central had 16 lines, the same number as today.

John Bradfield spent the 1920s trying to "sell" the idea of electrification, arguing that steam would not meet the needs of the population of the future. He developed a plan to connect Museum station with Hyde Park and the CBD.

In 1922 Parliament voted to build a harbour bridge to Bradfield's design. The first sod was turned in 1923. Our iconic landmark opened in 1932, coinciding with the opening of Town Hall, Wynyard, Miller's Point and North Sydney stations.

THE PRESENT

Sydney is ranked 15th in rail networks world wide, in terms of number of customer journeys, i.e. 322m per year. Believe it or not, Hornsby is the busiest rail junction in Australia! The demand will have doubled by 2024, when there will be a 150% increase in demand over weekends. The freight service is growing at a rate of 22% pa. Sydney is one of the most complicated systems to operate, because of the convergence of lines at the Harbour Bridge. There are on average 160 "incidents" a day which have to be resolved using very outdated technology, which is in need of drastic updating.

THE FUTURE

In the pipeline are plans for a 5-storey bomb proof rail operations control centre at Green Square. A second (latest technology) backup ROC will be constructed at Homebush. Employment will reach 10,000 personnel. The first automatic (driverless) trains will run between Epping and Chatswood in 2019. Sydney Rail aims to become self sufficient in generating its own power.

We were privileged to hear Tony explain the momentous task which lay ahead in upgrading the rail system to world standards, after many years of neglect by the relevant authorities.

Scribe: Peter Edwards

OUTINGS AND TRIPS

Outings Info Michael Clarke 8065 0171
Outings Bookings Geoff Laverick 9440 5509
Trips Info Peter Cribb 9484 7509
Trips Bookings Graeme Jessep 9449 1616
bookings@turramurraprobus.com

Day Tour: Tuesday, 20 February 2018

Linden Observatory & Norman Lindsay Gallery,

Linden Observatory was established in the late 1930s by engineer and amateur astronomer, the late Ken Beames, who also designed and made the 24" telescope.

After morning tea on the banks of the Nepean River we will cross the river via the 1867 Victoria Bridge on the old highway. While the bridge was originally built to carry the railway, it was shared with road traffic.

At the observatory we will have a conducted tour, including Beames's workshop. The observatory hosts amateur astronomy groups and is now managed by a Trust and volunteers.

After the Observatory, we will have a light lunch at the Norman Lindsay Gallery (sandwiches, cake and liquid refreshments), followed by a guided tour.

Cost is \$77 p.p. Bookings and payments must close on **26 January 2018**. Our coach will depart Karuah Rd at 8.30am and will return around 5.00pm.

Book with Geoff Laverick and pay by cheque to the Treasurer or by internet (see back page for details). Be sure to include name and purpose of payment.

Michael Clarke, Outings Co-ordinator

Tues April 24 to Mon 30 April 7 day Tour Autumn in "Bright by the Sea"

Our trip to Bright and other interesting places with On Course Tours is now organised and we will leave at approx 8am on the 24th from Turramurra Bus Interchange.

We will have 4 nights accommodation in Bright and do day trips to various places of interest. These include Thredbo, Dead Horse Gap, Tom Grogan Station, Khankoban, Beechworth, Yackandandah, Myrtleford, Wandilagong Mt. Hotham and others. There is an optional ultra light flight over Mt. Buffalo (for the more adventurous).

There will also be other encounters along the way and all is revealed in the brochure, available on our website. Bookings can be made via Graham Jessep

Cost per person is \$ 1,595.00 twin share including all meals (full cooked breakfasts and delicious dinners) and admissions. Single supplement is \$345.0

Peter Cribb, Trips Co-ordinator

THEATRE

The WIZARD of OZ

Matinee Tues 23 January 2018 1.00pm at
Capitol Theatre **Wait list only**

MAMMA MIA!

Matinee Wednesday 18 April 2018 1.00pm at
Capitol Theatre

'A' Reserve tickets \$70.95 each
Wait list only

THE BOOK OF MORMON

Matinee Saturday 26 May 2018 2.00pm, at
Lyric Theatre

'A' Reserve tickets \$121.20 each
Wait list. Only

EVITA

Matinee Wednesday 3 October 2018 1.00pm
in Joan Sutherland Theatre, Opera House

'A' Reserve tickets \$84.90 each

Pay by May 2018 meeting

A reminder - all bookings by email. If you need to cancel before payment date, just advise by email.

Peter Corin, Co-ordinator

WALKING FOR PLEASURE

Alan Williams 9488 9975

and Alan Keating 9487 3442

walks@turramurraprobus.com

Friday 23 February - Twilight Bobbin Head Walk and BBQ - all welcome.

An easy, first walk of the year on the shady side of Cowan Creek from Apple Tree Bay to Waratah Bay and return, about 8 km of flat walking.

Meet in the Apple Tree Bay car park at 4.00pm for BYO afternoon tea before commencing the walk. Return about 6.00 pm to drive back to our favourite picnic shed at Bobbin Head for a BYO BBQ in the pavilion on right hand side of the road after crossing the bridge coming down from North Turramurra.

As usual, non-walkers are very welcome to join us for the BBQ and socialising. Book with Alan Keating by 9.00pm on Thursday 22 February.

YMCA CYCLING GROUP

Members, drawn from the Mt Colah and Turramurra Probus Clubs, had a great 2017! Over the year we did 40 rides through forests, parks and suburbs, to historic sites, along rail-trails, beside rivers, to beaches and around lakes and lagoons. Some even swam in the surf! We always enjoyed great coffee and cheerful lunches. Riders ranged from as few as 3 to as many as 11, with now 20 on the list and growing!

The year's highlight was undoubtedly our autumn trip to Bright with 7 riders and several non-riders, by bike or car following the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail, going as far as historic Beechworth. Wonderful BBQs mixed with enjoyable restaurants ensured great social times. We finished a great year with a wonderful celebratory afternoon tea for 23 at the home of leader Ian Vacchini and wife Cate.

We look forward enthusiastically to our **regular Wednesday rides** in 2018, as well as an exciting **five-day trip to Canberra** for cycling, sight-seeing and socialising for which we have negotiated special hotel rates for riders and spouses. Please join us - you won't be disappointed!

Martin Thomas

BRIDGE

The next afternoon bridge game will be held at the Chubbs' home 55 Gilroy Rd Turramurra at 1.30 pm on **Thursday 15th February**. Please contact me if you wish to play.

Alan Hislop, Co-ordinator

CAMERA GROUP

A happy New Year to you all and I hope you got some good photos over the holiday break. At our meeting on the 27th November, Axel gave a most interesting presentation on his visit to Cuba, and we also had a presentation from a visitor, Dick Blamey, on "Improving Pictures Using Photoshop".

We very much look forward to Robert Humphris's presentation on his visit to Japan, at our first meeting of 2018 on Monday the **26th February** at 7.30pm at 9 Woniora Ave. Some of those who were on the field trip to Cockatoo Island will present a selection of their photos taken while on this trip.

If you are interested in photography or travel, come and enjoy the photos and the fellowship. Please remember - \$5 a head to defray expenses.

Ray Kench, Co-ordinator

COMPUTER GROUP

The next meeting of the computer group will be at 9.30 am on **Monday 19th February 2018**, at 9 Woniora Avenue, Wahroonga.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions for topics to cover and please remember the \$5 a head.

Stephen Cooper, Co-ordinator

FIRST FRIDAY GOLF

Seven talented members of our golf group met on 1st December at Royal Gordon Golf course for a most enjoyable end of year meet. The event was won by a valued member of our group, although not a member of our Probus Club.

We will meet again on **Friday 2nd February 2018**, and look forward to a continued high level of support for this opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of those who enjoy a game of golf and a chat.

Be at Gordon Golf Club at 7.15am for a 7.30am hit off. As reservations, and hit off times are now computer controlled, please indicate to me, by email or phone, if you intend to play. Ring me on **9440 3434** the day before, or just turn up.

D'Arcy Hardy, Co-ordinator

INVESTMENT GROUP

To ALL INVESTORS: The next investment lunch will be on Thursday the 1st February at the Greengate Hotel, starting at 12 noon for 12.30pm.

Our meeting will start the Probus calendar year for most of you.

Ian Howden, Co-ordinator

THE SKETCHERS ATELIER

The sketching group will meet on the second Tuesday of each month so the next is the **13th February 2018**. Sketchers are currently being challenged by a drop of water, a celtic pattern, and a flower.

We meet at 20 The Chase Road, at 9.50am.

Brian Jessep, Co-ordinator

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Web address www.turramurraprobus.com

For payments by internet - pay to Probus Club of Turramurra BSB 032089 A/C 271988

Include name and purpose of payment

Please do not pay by transfer "over the counter" at bank, due to difficulties tracking such payments.