



October 2020 Newsletter
Edition No 153

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Next Meeting Friday 9 October 2020
Venue: Forestville Memorial Hall
Cnr Starkey St and Warringah Rd Forestville
9.30am for a 10.00am Start

Members of the Combined Probus Club of Belrose Inc

Well, what a delight to see lots of faces again at our meeting. The venue whilst not perfect was ideal, given the limitations that still exist with regards to gatherings.

Our next meeting is on Friday October 9 at the Forestville Memorial Hall so please register with our secretary Geoff if you wish to attend geoffjones1874@gmail.com Failure to register unfortunately means you cannot attend. On that subject please note, if you are not at the meeting you must register an apology or absence of leave for the meeting. There is an attendance requirement to remain a member. We have a long waiting list and if you are not using the club please allow others to join.

It is not possible to serve tea and coffee at the meeting. If you require a drink please bring one with you.

We have a lot of events coming up so please make a note of the dates and register via the website. Once again stay safe and I will see as many of you as possible at the next meeting.

Terry Stewart - President
Combined Probus Club of Belrose Inc

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Club Website:	http://www.belroseprobus.org.au

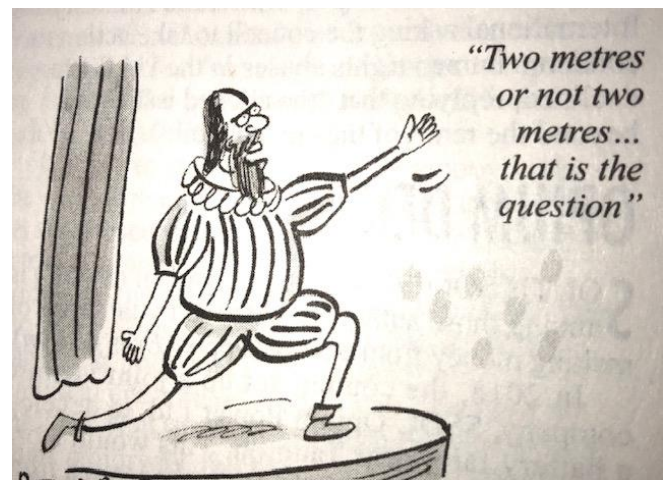
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WHICH PROBUS CLUB'S FIRST MEETING AFTER
LOCKDOWN ?



ENTERTAINMENT

Warwick Brady (0418 793 684)



Firstly I would like to thank Glen Street Theatre for allowing some of our members to attend their opening show for the new season Poisoning Pigeons in the Park starring the fabulous Glenn Amer {a favourite to all our Club Members}. As expected, the show was first class and to be honest it was just a pleasure to be at Glen Street again.

Our next show is on Monday 12th October at 11.00am. Owing to unforeseen circumstances with Karen Knowles living in Melbourne, her show a Morning with Karen Knowles has been postponed and replaced by a stellar show with Wayne Scott Kermond in Concert. Many of us have seen Wayne in such shows as Singin in the Rain, Guys and Dolls, Westside Story and Candy Man to name just a few. Our tickets were a sell out and all members have agreed to transfer to Wayne's show, mostly saying we just want a morning out at the theatre. Thanks a lot everyone.

Wednesday 16th December at 11.00am Love Will Keep Us Together is this year's Christmas Show starring Melissa Langdon and Mark Jones who performed the fabulous What's New Pussycat at Glen Street last year. This new show features the smooth sounds of the seventies performed originally by such artists as the Carpenters, ABBA, Olivia Newton John, Peter Allan, Elton John, Little River Band, Carole King, Barbara Streisland and others. Bookings are heavy and I have already ordered 10 additional seats and six of these have been ordered. Tickets cost \$26.00 and orders should be made online. Payment will be required at the Meeting on 12th October.

Wharf Revue is still proceeding at the moment. Keep your fingers crossed. Tickets for both the Opening Night on Wednesday 6th January at 8.00pm and the Matinee on Wednesday 13th January at 11.00am must be finalised by 31st October at the very latest. I still have 4 tickets left for the Matinee.

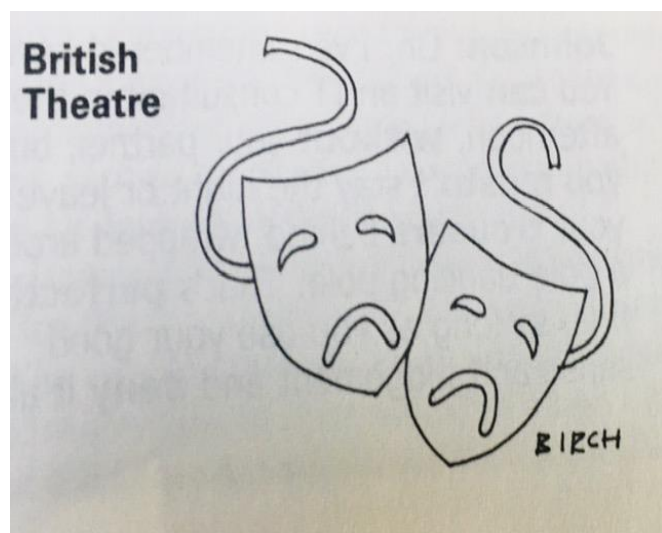
Other news for 2021 Theatre is as follows: -

- The Sapphires booked for March 2021 at Glen Street has been cancelled
- Hamilton - I have decided not to book for Hamilton unfortunately as seats for the Matinee are \$185.00 each
- Come From Away now moved to the Capitol Theatre has now been rescheduled to 16th June 2021. More news is next issue.
- Miss Saigon at Glen Street in July 2021. Price of tickets still being negotiated.
- Full Programme from Glen Street both Music and Drama will be confirmed shortly.

Again, thanks for your enthusiastic support, looking forward to an exciting year in 2021.

Warwick Brady - Entertainment Officer

UK ENTERTAINMENT REPORT



GUEST SPEAKERS

Jan Staniland (0409 455 652)

OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKERS

Northern Beaches Rehabilitation is a specialist rehab clinic for neurological and aged care physiotherapy, located next to the Glenrose Shopping Centre. They look after many people in our area suffering from a wide diverse range of conditions, including falls, hip and knee replacements, stroke recovery, Parkinson's disease, cardiovascular problems, arthritis – in fact anything affecting older people, specifically.

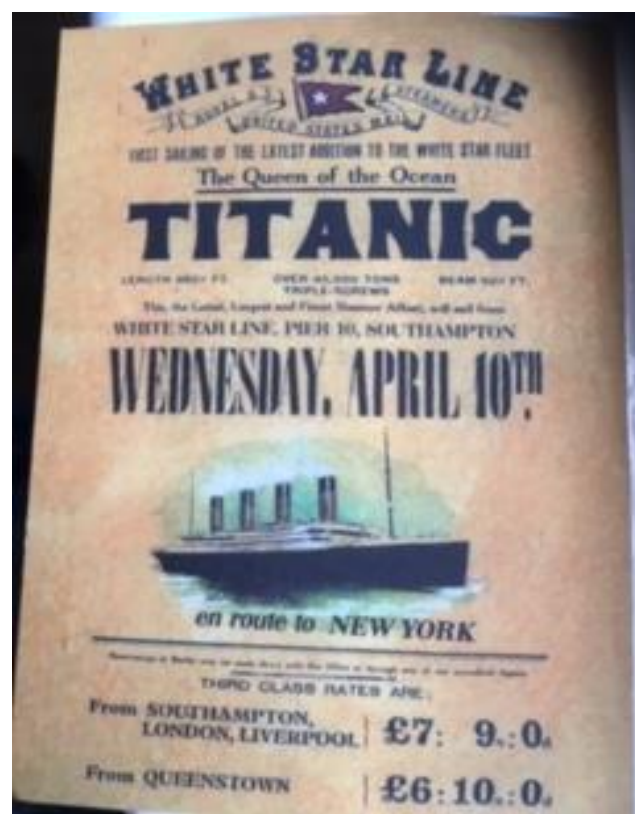
Camilla and Maddison are young and enthusiastic, with a wealth of experience in rehab care. They are delighted to talk to us on any problem we may have and answer questions.

Jan Staniland – Guest Speaker Coordinator

LONG TOURS TRAVEL

Russell Allsop (0419 209 909)

MYSTERY CRUISE



John Robinson's PAGE 3 GIRLS

I have always believed in miracles but I had never actually witnessed one until I saw this angel restore this poor, blind, homeless man's sight right in front of me. — 🙏 feeling blessed.



SCRAPBOOKING

Liz Pawsey (0403 206 460)

Scrapbooking in the Pawsey Folly is able to practise "social distancing" safely for the group. The next Scrapbooking gathering on **MONDAY 10th OCTOBER**. As usual the urn will be bubbling from 10.30am onwards. Stay as long as you like. Bring any craft project to work on and enjoy the friendly chatter!

Here is a new word for you –

PROSCRAPINATION – *The act of working on scrapbooks when one should be doing something else like dusting, washing or cleaning the bathroom!*

Liz Pawsey

SOCIAL

Liz Pawsey (0403 206 460)

Planning for a wonderful Christmas celebration is in full swing and at this stage we are still restricted to a total of 70 with strict distancing at tables etc.

Bookings are being taken from 9th October and I fully recommend booking online as Covid restrictions do not allow for our usual method of queuing to put names down

on a sheet. I will be checking our website each day and will keep a strict record with name and date when the booking was made.

I will be requesting payment, preferably using EFT, after the November Probus meeting (but before 4th December) from those who have made the first cut. There will definitely be a "reserve" list for any last minute cancellations!

Remember this function will be at **Terrey Hills Golf Club**, starting at **12 noon**. **\$65** per head (a welcome drink followed by a 2 course meal, tea & coffee)

Liz Pawsey – Social Coordinator

TOURS AND OUTINGS

John Robinson (0438 456 808)

OUTING TO THE BOTANIC GARDENS VIA FERRY FROM MANLY TO THE QUAY

DATE: THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2020



Spring in the Botanic Gardens is stunning and will lift our spirits.

8.30am - 141 bus from Glenrose shops to Manly Wharf, then a pleasant 30 minute ferry trip to the Quay arriving at 9.50am.

We will wander through the garden's many highlights culminating in a visit to the Calyx. This is a reasonably new addition at the gardens and is an amazing sight.

Follow <https://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/> to Calyx link.

Explore a world of colour and light with **in BLOOM at The Calyx!** This new exhibition will allow you to immerse yourself in a spectrum of visible delights surrounded by flowers of every colour and beyond — into a mysterious world.

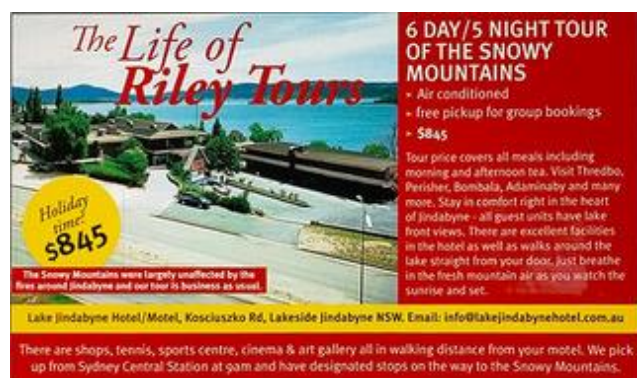
inBLOOM has over 20,000 plants on display, and one of the largest living green walls in the Southern Hemisphere. Curated by the horticultural team at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney.

Entry to the Calyx is by donation, light lunches available at the gardens.

Please register at the club website or email me at johnwrobinson@bigpond.com

SNOWY MOUNTAINS TOUR - 6 – 11 APRIL 2021

COST - \$845 PER PERSON



DAY ONE

Our tour starts at Central Station, we depart Sydney at 9am for Goulburn, where you may purchase lunch. Then it's back in the coach to head for the wonderful Snowy Mountains. Once you have checked into your hotel unit overlooking Lake Jindabyne, you can come up to our restaurant for a glass of wine before dinner. There you can meet the staff and get to know fellow passengers on the tour. You will then sit down to a hearty three-course meal. After dinner you may relax in your room with TV, join the locals for a drink in the bar, or have a game of pool.

DAY TWO

Today we head off for the mountains, first stop Thredbo Village. You have the option of a chair lift ride or a stroll around the village. From here you board the coach and drive to Bullocks Flat for a look at the one and only famous Skitube of Australia and a delicious morning tea beside the beautiful Thredbo River. Then it is back in the coach for a

scenic drive through the mountains looking at Smiggins, Perisher and Charlottes Pass. Here we stop for Lunch while looking over at Australia's highest peak, Mount Kosciuszko. After a big day of all that sight seeing we head back to the hotel.

DAY THREE

Today we pass over the Eucumbene Dam wall on your way to visit the Snowy Hydro System with a visit to the Snowy Scheme Museum at Adaminaby. This is an informative display celebrating the people and the power of the scheme. This peaceful town is where you will also have morning tea. Then it is back on the bus and off to Cooma where you will have lunch in the park before heading to the Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre on the edge of town. You will be given a tour of the facility giving an over view of how the scheme actually works.

DAY FOUR

This is your half day and we make a later start by heading to the Jindabyne Visitors Centre at 9.00 am for a short film and an opportunity to explore the centre. You then hop back on the bus for a short trip to the Gaden Trout Hatchery where you will have a guided tour and discover how cold water sport fish are bred. Then you are off to the Wildbrumby Distillery for free tastings of their locally produced schnapps, gin and vodka. You are also free to wander through their extensive sculpture gardens. It's then back to the hotel for a BBQ lunch on the deck. The afternoon is your time to explore Jindabyne. Being located in the center of town makes it easy to explore, you can also go for a stroll along the concrete footpaths that wind around the lake.

DAY FIVE

Today is one for the history buffs. We head for Cooma Gaol which was constructed from 1870 in local granite and is still a functioning corrective facility today. You will receive a tour of the living museum by suitable inmates. You will have morning tea at the Gaol before travelling through Nimmitabel to Bombala. This is where you will tour historic Burnima House, a victorian homestead. Guests will have lunch in the gardens and then return to Jindabyne via Dalgety, the only town remaining along the banks of the Snowy River.

DAY SIX Today is an early breakfast before setting off for the journey home; we will arrive in Sydney approximately 4.30 pm.

John Robinson

Now; who was Riley?

WALKING GROUP

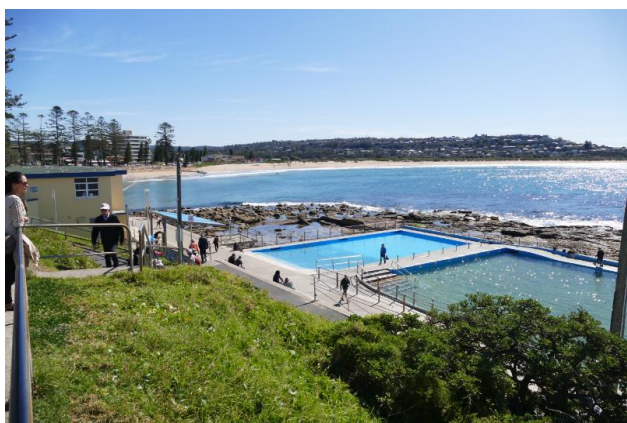
Helen Miles (0407 078 963)

OCTOBER WALK

Our October walk is on Friday 30th and is Collaroy to Long Reef. Park and meet at the end of Beach Road overlooking Collaroy Pool at 9.30am. The walk is along the coast, up Long Reef Headland and around the golf course. Hopefully we will be able to get coffee at the Golf Club Cafe on our return trip.

AUGUST WALK

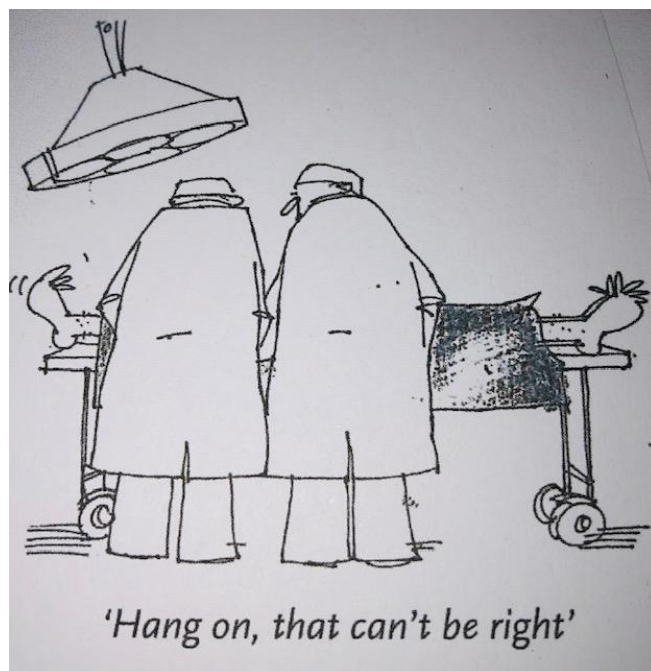
Our August walk was attended by 20 members on a perfect Winter's day. Starting at Cromer we walked to Dee Why Beach and around to the pool where we enjoyed our coffee overlooking the water before returning by the same route.



Helen Miles

WELFARE

Robyn Wood (0424 243 457)



WINE APPRECIATION

Mike Staniland (0417 234 346)

TOO MUCH WINE REPORT



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Geoff Jones (0412 420 213)

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY TO NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

If you would like to submit input for the October Newsletter, please do so by 25 October 2020. Input can be sent to me, the Newsletter Editor at geoffjones1874@gmail.com

Many thanks once again for all the squares knitted or crocheted by the Probus members and their friends to enable another 10 wraps to be created to take our overall total to 887.

Shown below are some of the wraps from the squares



Margaret Hobson

THE MASK

Now we have learnt to wash our hands

We have another task

Like people in many other lands

We must learn to wear a mask

A mask can help control the spread

Of the Covid disease

With Many Many people dead

Won't you wear one please

A mask can be in many styles

And made in any size

You can never see the wearer's smiles

But you can always see their eyes.

Kevin Radford (Probus Poet Laurette)

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



- 1st** **Kevin Radford**
Jimmy Carter, 39th US President (born 1924)
- 2nd** **Alan Bennett**
Groucho Marx, comedian Marx Brothers (1890)
- 3rd** **Doug Davidson**
Chubby Checker, singer, musician (1941)
- 4th** **Raymond Gray**
Dennis Miles
St. Francis of Assisi, Catholic religious leader (1181)
- 5th** **Malcolm McLean**
Ray Kroc, founder of McDonald's (1902)
- 10th** **Lyn Cameron**
James Clavell, writer (1924)
- 11th** **Tina Hewes**
Henry John Heinz, founder Heinz Ketchup (1844)
- 16th** **Marsha Fordred**
Oscar Wilde, poet, playwright (1854)
- 17th** **David Barnes**
Pope John Paul, 263rd Pope (1912)
- 25th** **Phil Allan**
Pablo Picasso, artist (1881)
- 26th** **Margaret Knorr**
Leon Trotsky, Russian Communist Leader (1879)

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY – OSCAR WILDE



Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde (16 October 1854 – 30 November 1900) was an Irish poet and playwright. After writing in different forms throughout the 1880s, the early 1890s saw him become one of the most popular playwrights in London. He is best remembered for his epigrams and plays, his novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and the circumstances of his criminal conviction for gross indecency for consensual homosexual acts, imprisonment, and early death at age 46.

Wilde's parents were Anglo-Irish intellectuals in Dublin. A young Wilde learned to speak fluent French and German. At university, Wilde read Greats; he demonstrated himself to be an exceptional classicist, first at Trinity College Dublin, then at Oxford. He became associated with the emerging philosophy of aestheticism, led by two of his tutors, Walter Pater and John Ruskin. After university, Wilde moved to London into fashionable cultural and social circles.

As a spokesman for aestheticism, he tried his hand at various literary activities: he published a book of poems, lectured in the United States and Canada on the new "English Renaissance in Art" and interior decoration, and then returned to London where he worked prolifically as a journalist. Known for his biting wit, flamboyant dress and glittering conversational skill, Wilde became one of the best-known personalities of his day. At the turn of the 1890s, he refined his ideas about the supremacy of art in a series of dialogues and essays, and incorporated themes of

decadence, duplicity, and beauty into what would be his only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890). The opportunity to construct aesthetic details precisely, and combine them with larger social themes, drew Wilde to write drama. He wrote *Salome* (1891) in French while in Paris but it was refused a licence for England due to an absolute prohibition on the portrayal of Biblical subjects on the English stage. Unperturbed, Wilde produced four society comedies in the early 1890s, which made him one of the most successful playwrights of late-Victorian London.

At the height of his fame and success, while *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895) was still being performed in London, Wilde prosecuted the Marquess of Queensberry for criminal libel. The Marquess was the father of Wilde's lover, Lord Alfred Douglas. The libel trial unearthed evidence that caused Wilde to drop his charges and led to his own arrest and trial for gross indecency with men. After two more trials he was convicted and sentenced to two years' hard labour, the maximum penalty, and was jailed from 1895 to 1897. During his last year in prison, he wrote *De Profundis* (published posthumously in 1905), a long letter which discusses his spiritual journey through his trials, forming a dark counterpoint to his earlier philosophy of pleasure. On his release, he left immediately for France, never to return to Ireland or Britain. There he wrote his last work, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* (1898), a long poem commemorating the harsh rhythms of prison life.

.....Earlier this year Jenny and I were in Paris and visited Oscar Wilde's grave. We found the historic cemetery and where he is buried (3rd photo). I have to say it was not what we expected and none of us thought it appropriate. Apparently, it was paid for by a lady who much admired Oscar Wilde's work but did not have his aesthetic taste
Geoff Jones





OSCAR WILDE QUOTES

Be yourself; everyone else is already taken
I can resist everything except temptation.
To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all.
We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.
I have nothing to declare except my genius.
The truth is rarely pure and never simple.
Patriotism is the virtue of the vicious.
To lose one parent may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness.
Always forgive your enemies - nothing annoys them so much.
What is a cynic? A man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.

LEISURE BY W H DAVIES

This is a poem about time and the use of time, that use being defined as leisure. Leisure implies taking time out from being busy. The iambic rhythm has been likened to a heartbeat and heartbeats are a measure of time. Also, the repetition of the two syllables 'no time' in each line reinforces the passage of time.

What is this life if, full of care,
 We have no time to stand and stare.
 No time to stand beneath the boughs
 And stare as long as sheep or cows.
 No time to see, when woods we pass,
 Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
 No time to see, in broad daylight,
 Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
 No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
 And watch her feet, how they can dance.
 No time to wait till her mouth can
 Enrich that smile her eyes began.
 A poor life this if, full of care,
 We have no time to stand and stare.



William Henry Davies (3 July 1871 – 26 September 1940) was a Welsh poet and writer. Davies spent a significant part of his life as a tramp or hobo, in the United Kingdom and United States, but became one of the most popular poets of his time. The principal themes in his work are observations about life's hardships, the ways in which the human condition is reflected in nature, his own tramping adventures and the various characters he met. Davies is usually classed as one of the Georgian Poets, although much of his work is not typical of the group, in either style or theme.

1919 FAMILY LETTER ABOUT THE AUSSIE FLU PANDEMIC

101 years ago, the letter below was written by Liz Pawsey's Great Grandfather, Arthur W Pain. Much will sound very familiar. AW Pain was born in England in 1841 and trained as a Church of England minister and became a Curate. By 1867 his health was deteriorating and was advised he only had about three months more to live.

He was advised to go to a dryer climate and he left England in 1867 and voyaged to and arrived in Sydney in January 1868. His health dramatically improved and he held parishes at Cobbitty (near Camden), Darlinghurst and then became the first Bishop of Gippsland, located in Sale, Victoria.

He retired from Sale in 1917 and returned to Sydney to live in Beecroft. He died in 1920, 53 years after he'd been given 3 months to live.

The following letter, written by AW Pain and dated 12th February 1919, was written from his Beecroft home to a friend, Corporal Cyril Chambers, who was serving in England through WW1 and was wanting to return to Australia.

The subject is remarkably familiar to us today.

My very dear Cyril,

I must write a line in reply to your most welcome letter of 9th December although I have the feeling that you may have started for Australia before it reaches its destination.

We are now in a very sad condition by reason of the influenza scourge which is not withstanding the rigid and successful precautions taken in this State when we were threatened last November and December, has at last found an entrance - all because of lack of vigilance and decision on the part of Victoria. There the cases are numerous - some two or three hundred daily and here every case which occurred for some considerable time came from Victoria.

Our highest number was 19 yesterday and we have heard only three deaths - but the evil is spreading. And alas serious friction exists between the two states and also between New South Wales and the Federal Government located in Melbourne. No passengers are allowed to travel by bus or by rail. Those who come by boat have to undergo quarantine. But who can wonder at this stringency? It was absolutely needful for self-protection.

One very sad complication has arisen. A number of returned men on reaching Melbourne were compelled for some utterly inadequate reason to land in Victoria. That of course meant, that they had to go into Quarantine on reaching Sydney Harbour. This they resisted and 900 of them broke quarantine and in despair of everybody marched out. Then some of our brave fellows who had been away four years and endured untold hardships and dangers for us have cast a slur upon their reputation and have incurred penalties instead of getting a hearty reception. It is very, very sad. I am writing of what appeared in today's papers. Whether or not some way will be found for excusing them I know not. The quarantine was sincerely justified for a case of influenza has occurred since the ship load arrived in these waters. Their stop was clean and had they remained on board in Port Philip they would have been clear on arrival here.

We are all compelled to wear masks. Quite a large number of persons have been prosecuted for not doing so. Hotel bars are closed, so are all schools. No meetings or church services are allowed, not even in the open air. Train and tram services are considerably reduced. I was expecting to go to Melbourne at the end of next week for a meeting of our Church Missionary Society Council but of course that is impossible now.

I am wondering very much what is happening to you, and I am looking forward to the receipt of your next letter. As you are a single man, I suppose you will be among the last to leave. It may even be that it is proved necessary to detain a considerable number of Australians, though I can see that there will be difficulties in doing so now that there is no actual fighting.

But truly we are living in anxious times - and there is more need than ever for prayer, and for a real turning to God. That after all is the true solution. All your war experience has shown you, I trust, over and over the joy of belonging to Christ and be drawn closer to Him. May the day soon come when I see you again and know that you are in training for the ministry. My warm and ever true love.

Yours always very affectionately,

Arthur W Pain. Bishop

This is from the Hastings archives which the editor is unreliably advised go back to 1066.

ADVICE FROM THE PAST

Delay at Spit Bridge – In view of the enormous traffic over the Spit Bridge at weekends and on holidays, it is absolutely necessary that a rule should be adopted requiring car drivers to have the exact change.

The Daily, October 1925

Debate at St Luke's Young Churchman's Institute – The subject of the evening was a debate on the question as to whether "mixed bathing is detrimental to the moral welfare of New South Wales. It was the opinion of the majority that mixed bathing (as is carried on at present – not the ideal mixed bathing) is detrimental to the moral welfare of New South Wales.

The Resident, 1907

How to Lessen Danger of Epidemics – This matter of disposal of household refuse by fire is solely within women's province. The women of Australia have the health of the nation in their charge to a certain extent and to this one item they should attend first. There would be far less danger of epidemics than under existing habits of throwing everything promiscuously into the rubbish bins.

The Resident, February 1907

Aunt Daisy's Hints

- **To Kill Blowflies** – Oil pine tar 3 parts, castor oil 2 parts, oil of penny royal 1 part. Spread on gauze.
- **Grease Spots on Suede Shoes** – Rub with clean rag dipped in glycerine.
- **Freckles** – To remove freckles from face and hands, take 1 oz. lemon juice, ¼ drachm powdered borax, ¼ drachm sugar, mix well, let it stand in a bottle 3 days, when it will be fit for use. Rub on gently every other night.
- **Dandruff** – Equal parts of olive oil, castor oil. Bottle and stand in warm water. When fairly hot, massage well into roots of hair, leave all night, shampoo next day being careful to rinse well. Repeat 2 or 3 times a week.
- **Asthma Cure** – Wear amber seeds next to skin night and day. Must not be any metal in their threading.

Aunt Daisy Cookery Book, 1920's

(With thanks to Judee Radford)

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PAYMENTS

You may receive another economic stimulus payment. This is indeed a very exciting programme and I'll explain it by using a Q & A format:

- Q. What is an economic stimulus payment?
A. It is money that the Federal Government will send to taxpayers.
- Q. Where will the government get this money?
A. From taxpayers.
- Q. So, the government is giving me back my own money?
A. Only a smidgen of it.
- Q. What is the purpose of this payment?
A. The plan is for you to use the money to purchase a high-definition TV set, thus stimulating the economy.
- Q. But isn't that stimulating the economy of China?
A. Shut up!

Below is some helpful advice on how to best help the Australian Economy by spending your stimulus cheque wisely.

If you spend the stimulus money at K-Mart, Big W, Target or the host of \$2 shops we have, the money will go to China, Vietnam or Sri Lanka.

If you spend it on petrol, your money will go to the Arabs.

If you purchase a computer, it will go to India, Taiwan or China.

If you buy an efficient car, it will go to Japan or Korea.

If you purchase useless stuff, it will go to Taiwan.

If you pay your credit cards off, or buy stock, it will go to management bonuses and they will hide it offshore.

Instead, keep the money in Australia by:

1. Spending it at garage sales or
2. Going to footy games or
3. Spending it on prostitutes or
4. Beer or
5. Tattoos

(These are just about the only Australian businesses still operating in Oz)

Conclusion: Go to a footy game with a tattooed prostitute that you met at a garage sale and drink beer all day!

No need to thank me, I'm just glad I could be of help.

(With thanks to John Robinson)

MORRIS CARS



Interesting looking at this pre-war Morris car design which seems to me was soon adapted later into many early MG designs...

This model in the 1931 photo attached had very narrow tyres when compared to the heavier American cars of that era. These early Morris's were very identifiably English with their 2 doors & convertible designs. Maybe a purchase price of £200 back then in 1931.

Learning to drive in your pre-war 8/40 Morris still some 60 years is still such a good memory to have with you progressing along the different models, soon after with a Morris Minor, then a Mini then various MG models....

Disc brakes I remember adapted by the British for formula racing I think in 1961 was the big advancement in safety in what I have read was engineered by the British aircraft industry & adapted to the car industry by Jaguar

Anyway back to the Mini's & Morris's Well done three fingers & a thumb to the Lord Nuffield badge .

But you never took to Morris dancing with all this heritage & loyalty to this marque !!

However maybe you can take it up now.

Please see link to more Morris car information

<https://tinyurl.com/y4k2dldv>

(With thanks to Malcolm McLean who like Geoff Jones once owned a Morris car)

RADAR AND RADIO ASTRONOMY

PROGRESS ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY MONUMENT

At our last Probus General meeting, the first since last March, I was given the opportunity to speak a little about one of my current projects. For 5 years, I've been working with the Northern Beaches Council to place a monument on Collaroy Plateau to recognise the birthplace and birthdate of Australia's world leading Radio Astronomy science.

Just before the commencement of WW2, Australia and the UK recognised Australia's remoteness and vulnerability and the UK provided early highly secret radar technology to Australian scientists. In January 1940 the CSIR (later CSIRO) established a highly secret laboratory called the Radiophysics Lab in Sydney. During the War years, this Lab produced a number of very successful radars.

On the 3rd October 1945 three Radiophysics Lab scientists went to the RAAF Radar Station located on top of the nearly barren top of Collaroy Plateau, to conduct an experiment. The Radar Station there surveyed the northern and eastern approaches to Sydney in search of and to identify, any Japanese approaching ships or aircraft. The Station was established and manned from 1942 through 1946 and apart from an early Japanese reconnaissance flight over Sydney's Eastern suburbs and the Japanese midget submarine attack into the Sydney Harbour, there was no invasion force aiming at Sydney.

Throughout the War years, the Radiophysics Lab used both the RAAF Collaroy Plateau Radar Station, as well as at the Army Dover Heights Radar Station for experimenting and testing their new radar designs.

During the year 1945, it was apparent that Australia was no longer fearful of attack by the Japanese and progress was such that the end of the War was expected very soon. So, with the radars successfully designed and built, the then Government was faced with a decision as to what to do with this highly successful organisation made up of physicists, mathematicians, electrical engineers, mechanical engineers and all the required supporting roles of draftsmen, administrators, stenographers, etc.

By the end of WW2, most of the significant countries decided to break-up their radar design establishments and allow the employees to return to civil life, into, universities, research establishments, teaching, etc., wherever they could find employment. The Countries included, the UK, Germany, Canada, the USA, etc. The background behind these decisions was, because the War was over, it was then perceived that there would no longer be any use for radar. People of those years could not have seen how many types of radar are used today. In addition to the military, we're well aware of, aircraft and meteorological bureaus enabled to see rain ahead when flying or when seeing and

predicting weather. Also, in some aspects for assisting aircraft to land, being able to look into the ocean, ground penetrating radar to see what lies below the surface and we cannot forget the highly successful road speed detection radar.

But what did the Australian Government decide for the Radiophysics Lab? They recognised that this group, consisting of a highly efficient group of many skilled members, could easily be converted from a secret military organisation into an effective civil research organisation. So, in the second half of 1945, the Radiophysics Lab joined the already existing divisions within the CSIR, such as, Mining, Geology, Health, Agriculture, Grain and Wool, Land and Water research and others. But what research should Radiophysics conduct?

The Radiophysics Lab suggested about 12 different areas of research and after consultation with the Govt., four were chosen and one was the study of Cosmic noise, radio waves from the sky.

So as the new Division, on the 3rd October 1945, three Radiophysics scientists went to the Radar Station on Collaroy Plateau and using one of the radars there, pointed the aerial at the sun at sunrise. Strong radio Signals were detected. So, they turned the radar aerial to face west and waited for the sun to set. Again, strong signals were recorded.

This experiment was the first successful Australian radio astronomy experiment and Collaroy Plateau was Australia's radio astronomy's birthplace. Radio Astronomy quickly became established as one of the few new sciences in Australia and rapidly progressed, but not at Collaroy Plateau. My father was one of the three scientists that conducted the experiment on Collaroy Plateau in 1945 and remained its leader until his death in 1962.

From 1945, the science successfully grew at new field stations through Sydney, then as most know, Parkes, then others in NSW and now one located in a small desert location of Murchison, WA, called the SKA Pathfinder. Australia remains a leader in this world science.

Though I grew up with Radio Astronomy in our household, I was not aware of its birthplace at Collaroy Plateau. When I became aware of this in early 2015, I decided to ask the then Warringah Council to consider some sort of monument to highlight its birthplace and its birthdate.

Since August 2015, I've been focussed on the Council to install one. Draft concept designs were developed by the Council, which of course changed into the Northern Beaches Council in 2017. It's been long and tedious, but I'm thrilled that the final monument is today being installed on Collaroy Plateau, in its community sports park, Plateau

Park, on the site of the WW2 Radar Station. It's far less than the initial concepts, but am very pleased it'll be installed.

The monument won't be completely finished on the 3 October, for the public to see on the 75th Anniversary of that first successful experiment, but may only miss by a week or two. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a ceremony couldn't be planned so instead a Webex (similar to Zoom) virtual meeting is being planned by the CSIRO, to take place on the 3rd October.

At the closing date for this Newsletter, I cannot give the appropriate details of the planned Webex virtual meeting, but will publicise these by a broadcast email as soon as I receive them.

In a later Newsletter, I will provide a picture of the finished monument.

For those who would like a little more detail, may I refer you to the CSIROpedia web. It has an extraordinary array of subjects about past and present work by the CSIRO. The Collaroy Plateau story is covered in the link, <https://csiropedia.csiro.au/radar-and-the-birth-of-radio-astronomy-in-australia-at-collaroy-plateau/>

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