



PROBUS NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2016

“For Probus Members Only”

President:	Keith Huxham	4862 5648	thelmahuxham@gmail.com
Secretary:	Francis de Beaujeu	4862 3532	fdebeaujeu@bigpond.com
Treasurer & Vice President:	Arthur Delbridge	4869 5453	arthurdelbridge@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor and Webmaster:	Brian Collath	4869 2140	collath@bigpond.com www.probusmossvale.org.au
Postal Address:	PO Box 456	MOSS VALE 2577	
Cheques payable	Payee: Probus Moss Vale		
Online Payments	Account Name: Probus Club of Moss Vale	BSB=032723	Account No.= 750434 Ref= “identify yourself”

Your President and Committee members announce that there are now 96 ordinary members, 3 Non-active members and 1 Life Member, hence there are 8 membership vacancies. The January Meeting was attended by 57 members and 4 Visitors.

This follows the recent resignations of two Members, for private reasons:-

- **Mr. Mac ELLIOTT**
- **Mr. Tom DOLAN**

Members are asked to keep Membership Officer, Graham Balfe, up-to-date with any changes in their details they may have, see below, to assist him in keeping the club’s membership list valid.

- change of address?
- change of phone number or email address?
- other amendments or corrections to their entry?

You are requested to pay your monthly meeting fee of \$5.00, with an as crisp as possible **Five Dollar Note**. This greatly assists your Membership Officer to swiftly count the takings and pay the Golf Club Management for us.

February 2016 Birthdays

Pat BOWLEY, Ron CAMPBELL, John DECK, Geoff MacBEAN, John MAFFEY, Richard MIAL, Brian PEMBERTON and David SADLER

Inductions for February 2016

Mr. John MacDONALD, wife’s name is Robyn, proposed by Mr. Geoff MacBEAN, and seconded by Mr. Francis de Beaujeu.

Ten Year Awards for February 2016

Mr. Frank CONROY

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Meeting		Guest Speaker	Topic	Background	Club Speaker	Topic
February	11	Esther Landells	Waste Management in the Southern Highlands	Wingecarrabee Shire Council Waste Education Project Officer	Piero Dal Bianco	Racing Cars
March	10	Hugh Mackay	TBA		N.A.	N.A.

Members are asked to put on their thinking caps and see if they can come up with potential guest speakers and topics. Also, to consider themselves doing a long or small talk on their topic of choice to members. Our speakers program has been excellent in the past, and is a hallmark of our club's success. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated and worthwhile to the club.

Just let **John te Wechel** (4861 7679 or jwechel@bigpond.net.au) or any other Committee Member know of your suggestion.

TOURS and FUNCTIONS

The tours and functions organisers, and your treasurer, now inform members that they are now able to pay online by direct debit to;

Probus Club of Moss Vale

Westpac Bowral BSB= 032723 Acc No.= 750434 identifying themselves as the payee.

Note: It is important for the Treasurer that members identify themselves when paying online.

Also, when paying for tours and functions please pay separately for each item as paying one lump sum is too difficult for the Treasurer to itemise or identify.

Contact for Tours and Functions is:-

Gordon Dummer 4862 4989 or email gordolyn@hinet.net.au

TOURS

VICTORIA BARRACKS ARMY MUSEUM

- Visit to 175 year old Victoria Barracks at Paddington to include a guided tour of the Barracks and a tour of the Army Museum.
- Lunch at Paddington RSL Club.
- Date Thursday 25th February
Proposed to travel by train and bus leaving (remember your Opal Card for the train and bus)
Moss Vale at 8:42 am
Bowral at 8:49 am
Mittagong at 8:53 am
Train arrives Central at 10.34 am
Walk to Eddy Avenue, Stand B
440 Bus departs 10:41 am
Arrives opposite Victoria Barracks near Brodie Street. Paddington, at 10:58 am
Cross Oxford Street, and walk to the Gate House.
- Those who wish to travel by car can meet at the Gatehouse at 11.00 am.
- Note: Unfortunately there is no on-site parking available.
- Those attending will need to supply licence nos. as it is a secure site.
- Due to the 175 year celebrations of the Barracks to be held in March we needed to lock in the trip in February, so apologies for the short notice.
- Please confirm your intention to attend a.s.a.p.
- Cost \$2.00 for a poppy donation for the Remembrance Wall.

Email your details to Gordon gordolyn@hinet.net.au or 'phone him on 48624989

FUNCTIONS

Changeover Lunch (after AGM)

Date: Thursday 10th March 2016

Venue: Bowral Golf Club

Time: 12:30pm for 1:00pm

Menu:

Mains:-

1. Marinated slow roasted pork scotch fillet on roast potatoes with beetroot marmalade and seasonal vegetables
2. Pan fried barramundi on vine ripened tomatoes and spinach, with Kipfler fingers and roast pepitas.

Desserts:- (Alternate drop)

1. Flourless chocolate torte with double cream
2. Spiced apple trifle

Wine:- 2 bottles per table

Cost:- \$47.00 per person

COFFEE CLUB

**Next meeting at 10:00am on Wednesday 24th February 2016
in the International Cricket Hall of Fame,
in The ASHES Room (not the Café area),
and entered from the double doors facing the St. Judes Street.
Please do not walk through the kitchen to pay.**

The Coffee Club meets every last Wednesday of the month (except December), hence on your new 2016 calendar please mark these in for your attendance so you do not miss out.

**Please consider a topic for discussion, and phone or email Gordon Dummer 4862 4989
or email gordolyn@hinet.net.au to book your attendance.**

JANUARY 2016 GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker was **Susie Arnott**, a daughter of Capt. P G Taylor (the Man Who Saved Smithy) who gave a wonderful talk on her father, not only on his adventures but also about her life as a young girl growing up in Pittwater.

Sir Patrick Gordon Taylor (1896-1966), aviator and writer, was born on 21 October 1896 at Mosman, Sydney, third son of [Patrick Thomson Taylor](#), manufacturer's agent, and his wife Alice Maud(e), née Sayers. As a child he so disliked his Christian names that he called himself 'Bill'. In his dinghy, *Query*, on Pittwater, he adventured to uninhabited Lion Island and acquired a lifelong love of the sea.

Soon after leaving The Armidale School, where he was senior prefect, Taylor was rejected by the Australian Flying Corps and went to Britain. Commissioned in the Royal Flying Corps on 12 August 1916, he joined No.66 Squadron which was equipped with Sopwith Pup scouts. Awarded the Military Cross in July 1917, he was promoted captain and served with Nos.94 and 88 Squadrons. He later wrote: 'I deplored the killing and all the other evils of war'.

In 1919 Taylor returned to Australia. During the 1920s he flew as a private pilot, worked for De Havilland Aircraft Co. in England, completed an engineering course and studied aerial navigation. He operated a Gipsy Moth seaplane from Sydney Harbour (1928-32) and also flew as a captain with Australian National Airlines Ltd (1930-31).

He was second pilot and navigator in the Fokker *Southern Cross* on [Sir Charles Kingsford Smith](#)'s 1933 and 1934 flights (Australia-New Zealand-Australia) and navigator aboard [Charles Ulm](#)'s Avro Ten *Faith in Australia* for two flights in 1933

(Australia-England-Australia). Disappointed at missing the Victorian Centenary Air Race, 'Smithy' and Taylor completed the first Australia-United States of America flight, via Suva and Hawaii (21 October–4 November 1934) in the Lockheed Altair, *Lady Southern Cross*.

On 15 May 1935 Taylor was Kingsford Smith's navigator in the *Southern Cross* for the King George V jubilee airmail flight (Australia-New Zealand). After flying for six hours, the heavily-laden aircraft had almost reached half-way when part of the centre engine's exhaust manifold broke off and severely damaged the starboard propeller. 'Smithy' closed down the vibrating starboard engine, applied full power to the other two, turned back to Australia and jettisoned the cargo. The oil pressure on the port engine began to fall alarmingly. The flight appeared doomed.

Taylor reacted heroically. Climbing out of the fuselage, he edged his way against the strong slipstream along the engine connecting strut and collected oil from the disabled starboard engine in the casing of a thermos flask. He then transferred it to the port engine. With assistance from the wireless operator, John Stannage, he carried out this procedure six times before the aircraft landed safely at Mascot some nine hours later. For his resourcefulness and courage, Taylor was awarded the Empire Gallantry Medal, gazetted on 9 July 1937; it was superseded by the George Cross (instituted in May 1941).

Taylor portrayed his exploit in the 1946 film, *Smithy*.

From 1935 Taylor operated a succession of Percival Gull Four and Gull Six aircraft on private and charter flying; having visited Britain in 1938, he became agent for Percival Aircraft Ltd in Australia. His marriage on 29 December 1924 in St James's Anglican Church, Sydney, to Yolande Bede Dalley, niece of [J. B. Dalley](#) and granddaughter of [W. B. Dalley](#), had quickly proved disastrous; she eventually divorced him in March 1938. On 10 May he married Eileen Joan Broadwood (d.1950) in the Methodist Church, Mosman. He made the first flight across the Indian Ocean from Port Hedland, Western Australia, to Mombasa, Kenya, in the Consolidated flying-boat *Guba II* on 4-21 June 1939.

Taylor ferried flying-boats from U.S.A. to Australia in 1941. On 9 June 1943 he was commissioned flying officer in the Royal Australian Air Force. Transferring to the Royal Air Force in 1944 as a civilian captain, he ferried aircraft from Canada across the Atlantic Ocean. At his own request, he commanded the R.A.F. Catalina *Frigate Bird* in September-October 1944 on a pioneer Pacific Ocean survey flight from Bermuda to Mexico, Clipperton Island, New Zealand and Sydney. In March 1951 he flew across the South Pacific from Australia to Chile, via Tahiti and Easter Island, in the Catalina *Frigate Bird II*.

A writer of distinction, subtle and realistic, Taylor published eight books: *Pacific Flight* (1935), *VH-UXX* (1937), *Call to the Winds* (1939), *Forgotten Island* (1948), *Frigate Bird* (1953), *The Sky Beyond* (Melbourne, 1963), *Bird of the Islands* (Melbourne, 1964), and *Sopwith Scout 7309* (London, 1968). In 1963 he took part in the Australian Broadcasting Commission's television film, *An Airman Remembers*. Taylor lived at Bayview on Pittwater, where he sailed a 35-ft (11 m) sloop and in 1947 established Loquat Valley School for his daughters. On 4 May 1951 he married Joyce Agnes Kennington at St Mark's Anglican Church, Darling Point.

Chairman of the family firm, P. T. Taylor Pty Ltd, and a director of Trans Oceanic Airways Pty Ltd, 'P.G.' operated the Sandringham 7 flying-boat *Frigate Bird III* from Sydney on Pacific island cruises in 1954-58. A wiry man, greying at the temples, with crowsfeet edging his blue eyes, he belonged to the Union Club and Royal Aero Club of New South Wales.

Awarded the 1951 [Oswald Watt](#) gold medal for his Australia-South America flight and the Johnson memorial trophy of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators, London (1951 and 1952), Taylor was knighted in 1954 (and known as Sir Gordon). He died in Queen's Hospital, Honolulu, on 15 December 1966. His ashes were scattered over Lion Island where the dreams of his adventurous life were conceived. His wife, their son and two daughters survived him, as did the two daughters of his second marriage. [Norman Carter](#)'s portrait of Taylor is held by the Art Gallery of New South Wales. *Frigate Bird II* is held by the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, and *Frigate Bird III* by the Musée de L'Air, Le Bourget, France.

As a pilot and navigator, Taylor was a perfectionist, fastidious, demanding, sharp and candid. Yet, his character was complex. Those 'with the patience to come to know him discovered a man of immense sensitivity, intelligence and courage'.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS ON THURSDAY 10th MARCH 2016