

## Probus Neutral Bay Guest Speaker – Tues. 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**KEVIN FITZPATRICK – Distinguished Member of Neutral Bay Probus Club**

### **“MAWSON OF THE ANTARCTIC”**



Sir Douglas Mawson ( 1882 – 1958). An Australian geologist, Antarctic explorer and academic.

In 1911 Mawson became the leader of an expedition to explore thousands of kilometres of unexplored regions, collect geological and botanical samples and make important scientific observations. His plan was to split his expedition into four groups, nominating himself to lead the Far Eastern Shore Party, a three-man team assigned to survey several glaciers hundreds of miles from base. Mawson’s journey has gone down in the annals of polar exploration as probably the most terrible ever undertaken in Antarctica.

He will long be remembered for his heroic escape from almost certain death when his companions, Ninnis and Mertz, died. Their deaths forced him to travel 160 miles alone for over a month to return to the expedition’s main base.

Mawson was knighted in 1914.

[Please see page 2](#)

**Our Speaker .....**KEVIN FITZPATRICK. Kevin was asked for a few words on himself to place here but, as depicts his very modest nature, not one was received. Our speaker program has been a little disrupted with uncertainly over venue, zoom etc. Naturally Kevin volunteered at the last minute to fill in, irrespective of the situation. Shows the mark of the man.

His teaching and history research background led to a 40 year fascination with Antarctica and its famous explorers. He is therefore more than qualified to talk on this subject.

**His Presentation.....** Kevin will highlight Mawson’s career and invite you to visit Mawson's Hut, the Mawson Laboratories in Adelaide University and his marriage to Paquita. Her love sustained him in his struggle to survive. His strength of leadership and professional scientific skills led to Australia becoming guardian of 42% of Antarctica.

Mawson's image appeared on several Australian postage stamps, several coins, and from 1984 to 1996 appeared on the Australian 100 dollar note.

