

Probus Neutral Bay Guest Speaker – Tues. 11th February 2025

IAN THOMPSON – A Man of Many Interests



“Iconic Australian Inventions of our Time”

An Introduction: At this time of year, we proudly celebrate Australia Day. What better time than to show how ingenious Australians can be. You will be surprised by the many inventions we have contributed to changing the World. And it’s not just the Boomerang and Vegemite. The Australian government has suggested that Australian inventiveness springs from the nation's geography and isolation as an island continent, connected to the rest of the world via only air and sea. Hence inventions in maritime and aeronautical matters. Hence significant inventions in medical technology. Australia's main industries have been agriculture and mining. Hence many inventions in these areas. Other areas include: useful household items and tools; combatting counterfeiting and scamming; Wi-Fi technology; the list goes on and on.



Our Guest Speaker .. Ian Thompson – After first graduating in Chemistry then followed by Entomology, Ian worked for the majority of his working life as a Research Chemist in curbing insect pests in both agricultural crops and the urban environment. With a passion for Science, Ian regards himself as a tinkerer, together with a strong interest in Australian colonial history and the inventions and discoveries of our early settlers in this land we call home.

Ian now presents a wide range of general science and other topics for non-profit organisations such as Probus, U3A, historical societies and garden clubs.

He has lived in Collaroy Plateau since 1969 and is married (wife deceased) with four children, one son living in Japan. He has three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

His Presentation ... Ian looks at the people and the science behind some of our classic Australian discoveries and inventions from the 19th century colonial era through to our present time.