



PETER MORRIS

Our Post Prandial speaker this evening is Peter Morris, and his topic is “From Public School to Parliament and Beyond”.

Peter was a student at Lake Munmorah Public School, before coming to Cooks Hill and attending our school from 1944 to 1948.

In the early 1950s he had his first taste of Canberra, working at the Bureau of Statistics for 18 months. This was when Canberra consisted of 30,000 people and was very conservative.

In 1954, he returned to Newcastle to work at PJ Bearings (where Teterins was later established) as the paymaster and assistant secretary. Subsequently the company was bought by REPCO, and he was “rationalized” when REPCO decided it was cheaper to make bearings elsewhere.

He then decided that small business was the way to go, at least that way he would not suffer from the decisions of others and set up a health food business with his wife. Bear in mind that in those days, health food was not well accepted by the general population – it was a courageous decision in Sir Humphrey speak.

Peter helped others set up health food shops, from East Gosford to Foster, and supplied the initial stocks. In today’s business world, this would have been achieved through setting up franchises.

In September 1968, Peter became an alderman of Newcastle City Council, and continued in that role until 1974.

In 1972, he became Honourable. He was elected to the Federal seat of Shortland, in the House of Representatives, a position which he held until 1998.

His service included:

- seven years as Federal Shadow Minister for Transport
- seven years as Minister across a range of portfolios, principally in transport and industrial relations. He served as a member of Cabinet from September 1988 until April 1990.
- Then followed six years as Chairman of the House of Representatives Transport Committee which produced the Ships of Shame reports and major reports on waterfront efficiency, general aviation safety, the radio frequency spectrum, road construction and maintenance.

He has an extensive background in all forms of transport and is currently the Chairman of the International Commission on Shipping.

He chaired the International Commission on Shipping which conducted a worldwide inquiry into substandard shipping. Its report was presented on 7 March 2001 at the *APEC Symposium on Safe Shipping in the Asia-Pacific Region* in Sydney. The report received positive and constructive responses across the world.

He and John Sharp former Minister for Transport are in the final stages of an Independent Review of Australian Shipping (I R A S).

He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Transport and Logistics and a Fellow of the Nautical Institute, London.

While he is no longer Honourable, he has asked that he be introduced as Citizen Morris.

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I invite Citizen Morris to address us on his topic, "From public school to parliament and beyond".

Peter Scaife

7 August 2003