



Probuss Club of Sydney

www.sydneyprobuss.org

Newsletter

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June 2020

Issue 421

MEETING DATES

June 2

DR JOHN KENIRY AM
Water Sharing in the Murray Darling Basin

WILL GO AHEAD ON ZOOM!

July 7

HON PETER MCCLELLAN AM
Observations on Royal Commissions and Criminal Law

ACTIVITIES

SADLY, ALL SOCIAL ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Due to the postponement of our physical meetings, extra topics are included in the Newsletter.

PLEASES SEND US MORE INTERESTING MATERIAL!

Storyteller

Posts from members

Favourite Travel

Destinations, Experiences, Hotels and Airlines

Favourite Books

With a very brief review

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen

May Meeting

Despite my significant trepidation the May meeting via Zoom was a tremendous success, thanks largely to the efforts of John Rawson who 'hosted' the meeting. We had an attendance of 73 members which was very pleasing.

June Meeting – Zoom again!

Despite the great success in battling the coronavirus, it looks like we will have to continue to meet online for at least the next two months. So, at our next Zoom meeting on June 2 our guest speaker will be Dr John Keniry, a former Commissioner of Natural Resources NSW, and he will speak on 'Reflections on Water Sharing in the Murray Darling Basin' – a highly topical subject. Please invite your friends to the meeting but to assist in our planning can you please advise me in advance?

Vale

Finally, I have to pay tribute to one of our more recent members, Bert Rosenberg, who sadly passed away in early April.

Annual subscriptions

Subscriptions are now overdue, please check the website [MEMBERS AREA](#) or contact our treasurer if you need further details.

treasurer@sydneyprobuss.org

Adrian Pilton

President

In the near future you will receive an email inviting you to join the JUNE General Meeting of the Club on Zoom

All you need to do is click on the link 5-10 minutes prior to 11.00am on JUNE 2

JUNE GUEST SPEAKER ON ZOOM!

DR JOHN KENIRY AM

Former Commissioner Natural Resources NSW

Reflections on Water Sharing in the Murray Darling Basin



After graduating in chemical engineering at Sydney, and a PhD from University College London, John's corporate life included 10 years as Executive Director of Goodman Fielder Ltd. Since 1994, he has been chairman or non-executive director of several leading ASX companies and government bodies, plus president of Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and chairman of Australian Wool Exchange. He was a member of the Prime Ministers Science Engineering and Innovation Council.

In 2011, John was appointed as Commissioner of the NSW Natural Resources Commission, where he was responsible for advising on natural resource issues such as forestry, native vegetation and water. He was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2000 and AM in 2005.

He owns a substantial sheep and cropping enterprise in central west NSW and spent 10 years as a director of Australia's leading agricultural think tank, The Australian Farm Institute.

PROVISIONAL GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAM

Peter James has prepared the following provisional schedule of outstanding Guest Speakers.

July 7

The Hon Peter McClellan AM

Former Chair Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
Observations on Royal Commissions and Criminal Law

August 4

Jim Maxwell AM

ABC Cricket Commentator.
Cricket - The view of a Broadcaster

September 1

Mike Munro AM

TV Presenter, journalist and author.
This is Your Life, and the Last Bushrangers

October 6

Richard Johnson MBE, AM

Architect

Meantime, any suggestions from members of possible speakers would be much appreciated. Please pass to Peter at <speakersprogram@sydneyprobus.org> Once we restart, it is possible that some of the above speakers may need to be replaced or rescheduled, perhaps even at last minute due to unexpected family or business commitments, sickness or whatever. So, having a suitable reserve that can be contacted to substitute at short notice may be especially helpful.

OUR NEW WEBSITE

The club's [new website](#) is now fully operational and includes full details of the above guest speakers as well as [past presentations](#). Previous editions of the Newsletter are posted but sadly there is no activity related material due to the Covid 19 pandemic. There is also useful information for club members in addition to comprehensive information for prospective members. [Check the full website now!](#)

ACTIVITIES

Joint Tour of the Snowy Mountains with Pymble Probus

The tour scheduled for May has been cancelled and a new tour organised for May 2021

Tour dates are Sat 8 May – Friday 14 May 2021

(Please note the dates on the linked brochure are for the cancelled tour this year but the content in 2021 will be the same)

To download the brochure [Click here](#)

If you are interested in joining the tour next May, please contact Peter Read on - peterjread7@gmail.com

DUE TO THE THREAT OF COVID-19, THERE WILL BE NO FORMAL SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES DESK

Manned by the Activities Team, it is open at meetings for bookings and details of events.

Full information is available on the Club website by [clicking on ACTIVITIES](#)

You may contact the team by email

social@sydneyprobus.org

PAYMENT FOR ACTIVITIES

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is the most used method for payment.

EFTPOS "Tap and Go" at meetings is a quick and efficient. Cash is no longer accepted

To urgently contact the Activities Team -

John Carter 0408 612 238

David Brand 0414 908 226

Bert Rosenberg

Our President, Adrian mentioned at the last (Zoom) meeting Bert passed away on April 6 after a two-month history of pancreatic cancer. He was inducted into the club last year having been nominated by the late Ron Hardwick. Both had been long serving Sydney Rotary members.

John Rawson describes Bert as a very active member of Sydney Rotary, supporting many of its projects financially and by doing the work. He was brought up in South Africa and left there like many South Africans because of apartheid. He was a humanitarian in the best sense of the word very sensitive to social issues.

He was the Quaker Fabric Sales Manager for Australia and New Zealand and operated as an independent agent, his thriving business was called Lowsuma

Bert was also a remarkable tennis player, last year he medalled in the men's masters singles at the Pan American Maccabi Games in Mexico City at the age of 87 and won the Australian 85+ men's national championships, earning an Australian singles ranking for that age category of six, and a world ranking of 45.

He finished the year by representing Australia at the ITF Super Seniors Tennis World Championships in Croatia.

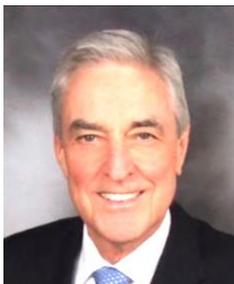
I enjoyed his company at the Christmas luncheon last year and recall his sincere nature and bubbling sense of humour

Bert will be sadly missed by many.

Editor

APRIL MEETING REPORT

On account of the Covid 19 pandemic, our April meeting was conducted via Zoom. It was a huge success with 73 members enjoying an outstanding presentation by Phil Scanlan. President Adrian Pilton and Vice President John Rawson (who managed the technical side) are to be congratulated on the success of the event. Two new members, yet to be formally inducted, were welcomed to the meeting, Dr Andrew Dowe and Peter Stafford. The President advised of the sad passing of Bert Rosenberg, see above.

**Phil Scanlan AM**

Founder Australian American Leadership Dialogue and
Australian Consul General New York-

***The Core Role of Australia-US Relations in
Australia's Global Engagement***

Phil was our first guest speaker presenting on Zoom. The session went extremely well with 73 members enjoying an outstanding presentation.

He is a self-confessed globalist who gave us a world view of recent events and the impact these may have on Australia and the consequent imperatives for us.

In response to the Covid 19 pandemic, the widespread impact will require each nation to make decisions about rebalancing the profound impact on their economy, public health, education, manufacturing, workforce etc.

He emphasised the need for nations to work together to guard against the inevitable pandemics of the future with particular emphasis on Australia's interaction with our Asian neighbours. This was a recurring theme.

Phil highlighted our position as a treasured country and on several occasions emphasised how we must add value to the world.

The ANZUS Treaty and the Colombo Plan established a healthy relationship with our neighbourhood, and he emphasised that our relationship with the US was an integral part of our global engagement. Another recurring theme.

Experience at Oxford and the Kennedy School at Harvard awakened Phil to the lack of a high-level relationship between Australia and the US. The creation of private networks can lead to relationships that build trust and so enable solutions to be found even between those with opposing views.

So, Phil with the support of Presidents Bush (senior) and Clinton, created the Australian American Leadership Dialogue. Meeting annually, this bi-partisan organisation of very high-level national leaders has done much over the past 28 years to shore up our alliance with the US. Nick Greiner and Kim Beazley were among Australia's initial participants. Phil outlined a number of the major achievement touchpoints that have flowed from these meetings.

Answering a member's question, he felt that President Trump actions speak louder than his language and have made some positive achievements for the US that don't always get international press recognition. He emphasised that we need to be mindful of press bias.

Phil had a level of concern about the money printing in the US. Combined with other major issues this could come back to bite America.

Regarding the apparent growing American isolationism, he noted that the country has had a long tradition of this aspect in its foreign policy. He pointed out how Trump had given NATO countries a wake up regarding defence spending and noted that in past years, America also underwrote our high standard of living enabling us to underspend on defence.

Phil placed a very strong emphasis on the importance of Australia keeping our country on the US radar. This being a continual challenge with the high turnover of Congress, given the election cycle every 2 years in this important Chamber.

He stated that our relationship with China is critical. While our US relationship is our bedrock security, the balancing of security and economics with China is one we must tighten up. Sometimes, we may have been naive. We need to become more realistic and consolidate our relationships to the North.

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE - DR FRANK CHEOK

Dr Frank Cheok OAM Playing the Last Post at an ANZAC Dawn service in a moving street ceremony.

[Click here](#) to view this clip on **ANZAC DAY 2020 Riverview** outstanding clip!



MEMBERS' STORIES

On the Orange Gin of P. Seas, Darwin, 1875



The gold miners of Darwin were increasing in number, influence and discontent with the local and national governments, particularly the revenue department. This was well known to the local policeman, one Peter Seas, whose father, Frederick Seas had been shipped to Australia for producing illegal spirits in Cornwall, England.

The close proximity of large numbers of thirsty miners had provided an opportunity for the Seas family to make use of their distillation skills, and P.C. P Seas was in a very good position to produce and market his own special product. Unlike most of the other producers of rather rough and ready moonshine whiskies and rums, P Seas made a more sophisticated product, to wit, an Orange-flavoured Gin.

The large scale of illegally distilled alcohol had not escaped the notice of the Revenue Men who were increasing their attempts to cut off the cheap, illegal, and untaxed, liquor supplies to the mining camps. This was causing great discontent among the miners, and there were even rumours of a possible rebellion.

P.C. Seas, well-knowing that serious trouble was brewing, was able, with a few well-placed cases of his best gin, to divert the attentions of the bureaucracy while he increased output and reduced the price of his gin to the miners, thus placating them and maintaining the peace as well as his reputation for effective policing.

Although there were some amongst the miners who did not believe in revolution, there is no doubt that Darwin's Orange Gin of P. Seas changed history. Some say that this hasn't yet been proven. You might think that, but I couldn't possibly comment.

Bill Cheshire

A Journey in India



I had to go to Bangalore on business and decided to take some days off after the meeting so that I could visit Mysore and Ootacamund, commonly referred to as Ooty. I hired a car and driver to make the 270 kilometre trip. Kyoko agreed to accompany me, and we planned two days of sightseeing and golf in Ooty. Ooty is a hill station in the Nilgiri Hills of Northern Tamil Nadu which was established by the East India Company. It is the centre of a major tea growing district, hence the good

hotels and golf courses.

The driver met us in the lobby at six in the morning and we proceeded to the car which was surprisingly small. I ordered a large car "I told the driver. He shrugged his shoulders and he said" This is our largest car". We had been in India long enough to understand that further discussion would be pointless, so we helped him load the car. One set of golf clubs was in the boot while the other was on the front passenger seat. We were crammed in the back seat with a suitcase between us. We covered the 140 kilometres to Mysore in a little over four hours. The road was unsealed, very uneven and wound its way through a treeless, densely farmed plain. Every few kilometres there was a squalid village and our passage was hindered by hordes of noisy begging children.

In Mysore we visited the Maharaja's palace which was an enormous, grim, two storied stone structure. The Maharaja was long gone and with him, the splendour. The interior was bare of wall hangings and furniture, was dirty and badly lit. India had disappointed us, yet again.

The road to Ooty winds a further fifty kilometres across the treeless plain and then spends seventy kilometres climbing up the hill to Ooty. Thirty kilometres out of Mysore we had a puncture. This caused confusion to the point of chaos. We were immediately surrounded by crowds of happy, curious spectators who were delighted by our driver's lack of tyre changing skills. When at last he completed the change, he received a spontaneous round of applause. Kyoko was not happy. She asked "What happens if we get another puncture?" The driver laughed out loud. This, after all, was India and it was inconceivable that we would have two punctures in one day.

Kyoko's second puncture occurred halfway up the mountain. The road was steep, and we finished up on a very sharp, blind bend. The car was so close to the roadside that you could not exit the car on the passenger side without falling fifty feet down a steep cliff. It was by now raining quite heavily and the unsealed road was becoming slippery so that speeding, oncoming traffic might hit our car and send it over the cliff.

The driver said that he would hitch a ride to the nearest town and have the spare tire repaired. I said that we would all go but we found it impossible to hitch a lift for three passengers plus a tyre. So finally, I let him proceed by himself. Since it was still raining, we had to sit in the car, terrified as each approaching car rounded the bend. After two hours of this torture, I noticed a bus coming up the hill towards us. I leapt out and forced it to halt and told the driver we wished to go to Ooty. No one on the bus spoke English but my request was soon understood, and we were welcomed on board. But the driver however insisted on his fare which we finally understood to be two rupees each. The smallest note I had was ten rupees but the driver, who was no fool, had no change. So, we settled for ten rupees which is about fifty Australian cents. The bus was packed, and the passengers were accompanied by baskets of produce, cages of

chickens and parcels of belongings. They squeezed up and found room for us. "What about our golf clubs" cried Kyoko? I was not interested and could have cared less. The passengers were fascinated by us and were endlessly curious. They were cheerful and happy, and we had great fun communicating with them even though we had no common language. The bus stopped every few kilometres so that we were joined by new passengers who had to be bought up to date. The fifty kilometres to Ooty took three hours and we enjoyed every minute of it.

The bus terminal at Ooty was typical Indian chaos but we found a taxi driver who knew our hotel and would take us there for two hundred rupees. So off we went and seven hundred metres later we arrived at the hotel door. That five-minute ride was twenty times more expensive than the three-hour bus trip. Still we were delighted to have arrived after travelling two hundred and seventy kilometres in thirteen hours.

Four hours later the driver knocked on the door and delivered our golf clubs.

Terry Young

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Our cruise from Sydney to London that became the cruise to somewhere but nowhere in particular



On February 11 my wife Johanna and I boarded the Viking Sun for our long planned 3 month cruise from Sydney to London. It had been in the planning for around 3 years since I finished working full time. Of course, the coronavirus had started then but seemed to be mainly confined to China and South Korea, so we were quite relaxed that we would be ok. The first stop was Brisbane and that was fine.

Then a strange thing happened, as our next stop was planned to be the Whitsundays, but an hour after we left Brisbane and while we were having dinner the captain came on the PA to say we were going to Noumea next as some of the planned ports in Asia were starting to close, in particular Hong Kong and Singapore and Bangkok.

The detour to Noumea killed over a week in timing (which I suspect was intentional). Two days getting there, two days actually there and three days to Cairns. Then we backtracked to Whitsundays only to not be able to disembark during inclement weather, then Townsville (not exactly on my hit list to visit) then onto Thursday Island and Darwin. By Darwin they were a bit unsure but thought everything would still be ok. Some of the "nervous nelly" Americans got off in Darwin (in hindsight a good move).

Then onto Komodo Island (we had been there twice before). Then the fun started. Semarang, we waited for a day offshore before the Indonesian authorities finally decided they would not let us ashore, even though they had temperature checked everyone on board twice. The Surabaya same thing, then Bali. We waited offshore Bali for a day before they eventually decided to let us go ashore after a mysterious visit by a very senior executive from Viking's head office. After Bali they told us everything looked good however they didn't allow any new people onboard at Bali. We then had only 350 passengers and 900 crew (for those that know cruising you will know this is very attractive service ratio).

Three days into our next step to Colombo, Sri Lanka and India closed their ports except for refueling and provisions. So, we saw Colombo port from the deck only. Then onto Oman which also closed its port, so we saw it from the deck only also.

Finally, the captain announced he had managed to get us into Dubai, and we would all have to get off there and fly home.

So, our trip was summarily terminated at that point exactly halfway through. Despite all this I couldn't fault Viking. They had terrific service food and accommodation and it wasn't their fault. Also, they have been generous with compensation arrangements meaning we will surely be travelling with them again. I would thoroughly recommend them.



Avoiding dehydration!



Reminds you of a member?



Shipboard living

Neil Martin

* * * * *

How a stimulus package works

With the Virus medical emergency starting to ease off, our minds are focussing on how the country will be able to deal with the economic consequences of the stimulus package adding billions of dollars to the Government debt. We have always been told that Govt Budget deficits are bad and ours will have grown to frightening proportions. Households are more indebted than ever before, and employment is in tatters.

Fear not. Study the following explanation of how a stimulus works. It will ease your mind.

It was a slow day in the small town, its streets deserted. Times are tough everybody is in debt and living on credit. A tourist visiting the region drives into the local motel puts a \$100 bill on the counter and asks the proprietor if he can inspect the rooms and choose one for the night.

When he goes off to look the proprietor grabs the bill and rushes out to pay his debt to the butcher. The butcher takes the \$100 to pay his debt to the pig farmer. The pig farmer heads off to pay his bill to his supplier, the Co-op. The Co-op owner rushes off to pay his debt to the local lady of the night who has been offering her services on credit.

She rushes off to the motel and pays off her room bill and the proprietor puts the \$100 bill back on the counter. The tourist returns and says the rooms are not suitable takes his money and drives off.

No one has produced anything, no one has earned anything, but the whole town is now free of debt and looks to the future with more optimism.

This, I am told, is how a stimulus package works. I hope it is true.

John Thom

THE MAN WHO REALLY SAVED THE ROCKS

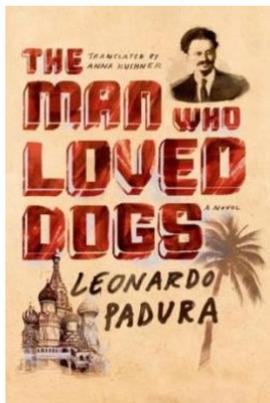
As Probus members would know, former Secretary of the Builders Labourers Federation, Jack Munday, died on May 10. The news media have since been full of stories about his green bans, including the role that he is said to have played in saving the Rocks precinct in Sydney from demolition. Convinced that the credit for this has gone to the wrong man, our member Les Anderson has put together from personal experience a report on what really went on in the Rocks in the 1960s and 70s and how the real saviour of the Rocks has been denied recognition.

Since this report is too long for inclusion in the Newsletter, it is being sent to members as a separate email, under the heading –

‘The man who really saved the Rocks’.

RECOMMENDED BOOK

The Man Who Loved Dogs by Leonardo Padura



This is a serious read – and not for the faint hearted. In a densely written 576 page book, the author (described on the blurb as "Cuba's greatest living writer") deals minutely with communism between the exile of Trotsky in 1927 and his assassination in 1940. It was first written in Spanish in 2009 but not translated into English until 2014.

As a historical novel, it lacks the lucidity of a Hilary Mantel – but she is a one-off in the world today. However, it is fascinating historically in covering the period of the Spanish civil war, the Russian Revolution and the political scenes in Cuba and Mexico – as well as the life and times of Trotsky. So, it can be read as history and also as an insight into the failure of the 1917 Russian Revolution. Obviously, Stalin is the principal villain, but so is the assassin of Trotsky.

The novel (in my view somewhat clumsily) melds together the interlocking stories of Trotsky and his assassin. It deals in detail with the failure of communism in Russia, Spain, Cuba and Mexico. Well worth reading for anyone not put off by length and the somewhat confusing structure of the book. A fascinating insight into an important historical era and the life and times of Trotsky.

David Castle

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Orange Cake in Blender



1 large whole navel **orange** cut into 8 pieces and blend

add 1 cup **sugar** and blend again,

add 3 **eggs** and blend, one at a time, add 175g melted **butter** and blend and then pulse in 1¾ cups of self-raising **flour**.

Cook in high sided ring tin 20 cm diameter, 180c **fan off** for approximately 35 minutes

ZOOM SCAM WARNING

Zoom's 200 Million Users Are Facing A Serious New Threat

Zoom's users have surged over recent months, and that's left them vulnerable to a very simple but serious threat.

Read in Forbes: <https://apple.news/Aazr4GYZkSgqKNlx6dhnkUQ>

Wayne Jones

JUST FOR FUN

A young boy asks his Dad, "What is the difference between confident and confidential?"

Dad says, "You are my son, I'm confident about that.

Your friend over there, is also my son, that's confidential."

* * * * *

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 72. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

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$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111$

$= 12,345,678,987,654,321$

* * * * *

First Text Message:

Hi, Max. This is Richard, next door. I've been riddled with guilt for a few months and have been trying to get up the courage to tell you face-to-face. When you're not around, I've been sharing your wife, day and night, probably much more than you. I haven't been getting it at home recently. I know that's no excuse. The temptation was just too great. I can't live with the guilt & hope you'll accept my sincere apology and forgive me. Please suggest a fee for usage and I'll pay you. Richard

Max, enraged and betrayed, grabbed his gun, went next door, and shot Richard dead. He returned home, shot his wife, poured himself a stiff drink, and sat down on the sofa. Max then looked at his phone and discovered a second text message from Richard.

Second Text Message:

Hi, Max. Richard here again. Sorry about the typo on my last text. I assume you figured it out and noticed that the darned Spell-Check had changed "wi-fi" to "wife." Technology, huh? It'll be the death of us all.



My wife sent me a text, "Your great"
So naturally, I wrote back, "No, you're great"
She's been walking around all happy and smiling.
Should I tell her I was just correcting her grammar or leave it?

* * * * *



SOME SLIGHTLY NAUGHTY BUT VERY FUNNY CLIPS!

Click on the links below the pictures –



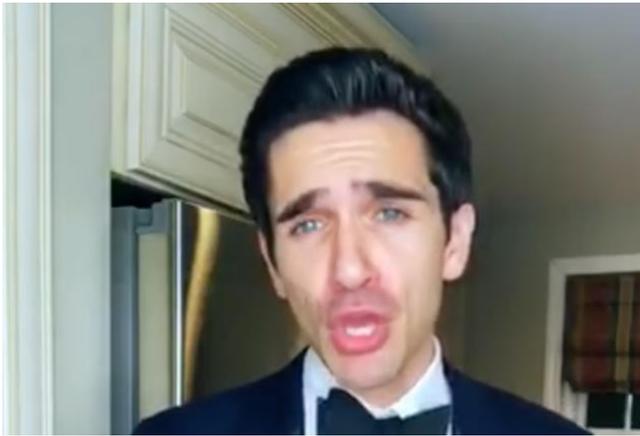
https://youtu.be/TkU1ob_IHCw



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoE86u1-e3Y>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-LTRwZb35A&list=LLzjoh9BRnVUUPZLnUcaysiQ&index=116>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w31L1cCoVYo>

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

- In isolation, watching **White Dragon** on **STAN** is fun!
- Sydney Opera House is streaming many outstanding programs
- National Theatre in UK is offering excellent performances through free streaming - nationaltheatre.org.uk
- Metropolitan Opera is offering live streams each night
- The Australian Ballet offers delightful regular performances
- Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals are available through the following link <https://www.smh.com.au/culture/theatre/andrew-lloyd-webber-musicals-to-air-for-free-on-youtube-20200403-p54gpy.html>

HOW TO CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER

To contact any committee member [Click here](#)

Please use email where possible or telephone if you require urgent contact.

IDEAS FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

You can still be the first member to contact the Editor, Tony Andrew!

newsletter@sydneyprobus.org

[0411 424 826](tel:0411424826)

DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?

Send your answer to

newsletter@sydneyprobus.org



FIRST THREE CORRECT ANSWERS

WILL RECEIVE A

CONGRATULATORY EMAIL!

Congratulations to

Winners from last month – Prof Peter Doherty!

Neil Martin
Michael Gracey
John Doherty