



Probuss Club of Sydney

www.sydneyprobuss.org

Newsletter

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July 2020

Issue 422

MEETING DATES

July 7

HON PETER MCCLELLAN AM

Observations on Royal
Commissions and Criminal Law

WILL GO AHEAD ON ZOOM!

August 4

JIM MAXWELL AM

Cricket - The view of a
Broadcaster

ACTIVITIES

SADLY, ALL SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
HAVE BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE

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Just for Fun

Mystery Photo

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen

I don't know about you but the recent relaxation of the Covid 19 restrictions has come as a great relief to me. The ability to mix with grandchildren and being able to return to the gym has been a joy. Sadly, it doesn't look as though it's going to be possible for us to meet 'in person' for some time yet but we can only hope it won't be too long.

In the meantime, we can look forward to another cracking online meeting in July when our guest speaker is going to be The Hon Peter McClellan AM, former Chair Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Can I remind you all that we welcome guests to these Zoom meetings? In fact, we positively encourage it as an avenue to seeking potential new members. All we ask is that you let me know the names of your guests in advance so that I can welcome them to the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you on July 7.

Adrian Pilton

President

**In the near future you will receive an email
inviting you to join the
JULY 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 JULY 7**

JULY GUEST SPEAKER ON ZOOM!

The Hon. Justice Peter McClellan, AM

“Child Sexual Abuse Royal Commission - What have we learned?”



Justice McClellan was the Chair of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, concurrently with his position as a Judge of Court of Appeal (highest court for civil matters in NSW) until retirement in 2018. Prior to that he was Chief Judge in Common Law in the NSW Supreme Court and has been involved in several high-profile commissions, reviews and inquiries (Maralinga, ICAC, Sydney Casino, Sydney Water, Trial Efficiency).

[For additional background on The Hon. Justice McClellan click here](#)

Then click on the symbol 

PROVISIONAL GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAM

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

August 4

Jim Maxwell AM

ABC Cricket Commentator.

Cricket - The view of a Broadcaster

[For additional information click here](#)

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>

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 – MEMBERS AREA

Our New Website has a Members Area. From there you can **contact the President** and all other Committee Members, see information about **Subscriptions** and print a **Nomination Form** when you need one. There is also a **Flyer for friends** who are interested in joining the club and the **Standing Regulations** and **Constitution** are there also.

[Click here to go to the Members Area.](#)

At the foot of each page of the website there are quick links to go to other areas.

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

JUNE MEETING REPORT

On account of the continuing Covid 19 pandemic guidelines, our June meeting was also conducted on Zoom. As before, it was a huge success with 72 members enjoying an outstanding presentation by Dr John Keniry. 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 presented their Life Before Probus story.

LIFE BEFORE PROBUS

Eric Campbell



When Eric was 12 years of age, his father became a POW. His mother worked in a munitions factory and his two siblings were sent to Church Homes in Carlingford. He attended Parramatta High School but was transferred to Sydney Boys High when his father returned from the war. Overwhelmed by the high standards, he left school to work in a local pharmacy. He matriculated while a pharmacy apprentice and went on to graduate in Medicine from the University of Sydney in 1954. After seven years in general practice, Eric turned to pathology ultimately joining a major Sydney practice. His interest in teaching eventually led to becoming Chief Examiner in general pathology. He retired from practice at age 80.

Eric is married to his second wife, Rosemary and has three children and three stepchildren. Golfing at the lakes was stopped by back surgery, but he remains a Life member. He plays bridge at the Australian Club and enjoys TV sport.

Bill Walter



Bill grew up at a number of construction sites as his father was a civil engineer. After Albury High School, he graduated in Medicine at Sydney University in 1966. He married Eve the same year and 3 years later moved to the UK for 4 years of study General Surgery. Back in Australia he gained his Fellowship in Orthopaedic surgery in 1974

10 years later, with other surgeons, Bill established a joint replacement unit at Baulkham Hills. When the Mater Private reopened he moved his practice there. His eldest son (now Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Sydney University) joined him in the practice and eventually took over when Bill retired in 2014.

His hobbies and interests include offshore sailing, travel, farming, golf, and spending time with his four adult children and ten grandchildren.

In retirement, Bill misses the contact with patients and colleagues, and the stimulus of surgery and research. Nonetheless he enjoys retirement with his wife Eve, close family, and many friends including his new friends at Probus.

DR JOHN KENIRY AM

Former Commissioner Natural Resources NSW

Reflections on Water Sharing in the Murray Darling Basin



Dr Keniry stated that his presentation was based on his personal views developed over sixty years involvement in Australian agriculture and they should not be taken to represent the views of any State or Commonwealth Government.

He emphasised the importance of the Murray Darling Basin. In area it extends North beyond Charleville in Queensland and South beyond Bendigo. It produces more than one third of Australia's agricultural produce and has 16 Internationally important wetlands. The basin is divided into two areas, North and South roughly along a line from Cowra to Broken Hill.

Dr Keniry then set out the history of how the current situation has emerged, irrigation started in the 1930s, grew rapidly after 1960s and now uses more water than 14 Sydney Harbours. Initial overallocation of entitlements, reduced flows into the Northern rivers when Queensland developed its own industry and flood plain harvesting, have all contributed to the current crisis. Tradable rights were introduced, exacerbating the situation along with flood plain harvesting and A-class licenses modified to facilitate increased extraction at low flows.

Dr Keniry felt that the Northern Basin rivers and the species that depend on them have been short changed. He cited opportunities for improvements, by reducing focus on average extraction, instead focusing on where water is taken and when, and protecting low flows, including buying back licenses that apply in times of low flows. However vested interests make progress difficult.

[Dr Keniry's slides are available in this link](#)

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE - DR FRANK CHEOK

This item has been repeated from the June Newsletter as it attracted such favourable comment. Some members may have missed it!

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

A WONDERFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCE – KOKODA TRAIL

In early 2007 I read Peter FitzSimon's book on Kokoda and being a New Zealander I had no knowledge of the Kokoda campaign and I was deeply moved by what I read and decided that later that year when I retired from Kimberly-Clark I would walk the Kokoda Trail. I mentioned this proposed adventure to some of my work mates and four decided to join me.

We trained hard to improve our level of fitness and even walked the City to Surf 14 kilometres in our trekking boots and with back packs. A colleague who had done the Trek the year before said get as fit as you can, BUT it will not be enough. How right he was!

Adventure Kokoda the firm we decided to trek with is owned by Charlie Lynn, at that time a member of the NSW State Parliament and a former Army Major and his staff are all ex-army and we were fortunate to have two excellent guides who had done the Trek many times and were passionate about imparting knowledge of the Kokoda Campaign.

The flight to Port Moresby on Viva Macau on 24 September 2007 was uneventful then straight to the Ela Beach Hotel to meet our guides and the other trekkers and then to watch a film of the Kokoda Campaign which was also part of our briefing. The next day the Trek started, and we were taken to Ower's Corner to meet our porters. Our group now comprised 25 trekkers, 2 guides, and 60 porters and we made good time to the base of Imita Hill where we camped for the night. Single person tents.

The start to each day was by a whistle blowing at 5.30am, breakfast at 6.30am, briefing and head out by 7.15am. Brief stops for morning and afternoon tea and lunch and at each stop there was a briefing on what action had taken place at that spot during the Kokoda Campaign. We often finished the day's trek in darkness, so there were a number of very long days.

The climb up Imita Hill is known as the Golden Staircase and it was about 1000 steps straight up from tree root to tree root and was then followed by another major climb up Ioribaiwa Ridge. We found the going tough and could only begin to imagine what the soldiers endured with heavy backpacks, rifles, ammunition, etc pushing through heavy tropical forests often in mud, and knowing that Japanese soldiers were nearby!

On the second day Chad one of our guides asked what were we thinking and the consistent answer was “what the fxxx am I doing here”. This quickly changed to one of satisfaction and pride for taking on the Kokoda Trail. On day five we had the pleasure of meeting 102-year-old Mr. Ovoru Idiki a Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel at Naduri Village. He was in his uniform and rightly very, very proud of his and his countrymen’s role in assisting the Australian troops.



A couple of days were completed in pouring rain and with mud up to the top of your boots and the one consistent thing every morning on getting out of one’s tent was to have to put wet clothes on – the dry set were for sleeping only!

Wherever we stopped there was a story about what had happened at that spot and also particular soldiers’ names were mentioned. At one spot we gathered around a flat circular rock that was just off the track and this we were told was used as an operating table to try and save Australian soldiers!

The most emotional experience was at Isurava where the four granite stones are mounted – Courage, Endurance, Mateship, Sacrifice, which was the site where Private Bruce Kingsbury was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions which saved Battalion Headquarters. Although not Anzac Day we had our own Dawn Service starting at 5.15am – Wow what an experience – a citation from our chief guide, then poems read by three new Australians including two of my work mates, “We Will Remember Them”, singing of the National Anthems of Australia and Papua New Guinea, and finally the porters sang “Coming Home”. There was not a dry eye in the house!

We flew from Kokoda back to Port Moresby in 9-seater single engine aircraft and it was great to see the distance we had covered on foot and some of the villages, from the air. From the airport we went directly to Bomana Australian War Cemetery – 3800 graves where we were given the names of the soldiers we learned about on the Trek and a Red Poppy each with the task of finding the grave of our allocated soldier.

I consider myself fortunate to have made this journey, which was hard physically, but extremely rewarding emotionally.

Wayne Jones

HOW NOT TO PAINT THE CEILING

Beecham Research Laboratories, where I worked in the nineteen sixties, included a semi-industrial scale "Pilot Plant". This was for scaling up and growing large quantities of promising experimental antibiotic-producing cultures for large-scale processing and chemistry.

During the development of a new, higher-yielding penicillin process, we were operating our largest fermenter (one thousand litres) which contained about a ton of mould culture. Because these cultures become very thick (the colour and consistency of warm porridge) we had to pump in air under high pressure to get enough oxygen to the culture.

Due to the pressures involved, our fermenters had various safety devices, including a bursting disc (a thin metal sheet that burst to relieve pressure if all other systems failed). Unfortunately, the disc on the large fermenter was faulty and, late one evening, it failed and burst.

The porridge-like contents of the fermenter were full of dissolved high pressure air (like the contents of an aerosol can of cream) and they became a high pressure jet of mould-porridge foam squirting from the fermenter to the roof twenty feet above, and coating everything in the plant in warm, steaming, mould porridge.

Although the culture was beige-coloured to start with, once it was on a surface and exposed to the air it starting developing a dense covering of dark green spores (the same as you see on mouldy fruit) and, despite valiant efforts by the cleaning and maintenance staff, stray patches of green mould were found in the most unlikely places for weeks afterwards.

Bill Cheshire

TYPING IS WOMEN'S WORK!

The very successful May Zoom meeting of the club demonstrates the remarkable advance in computer use by members over the past 15 to 20 years

During about 2005 I was developing the first web site of the club using a Dummies book for guidance, and as Membership Officer I compiled a list of members that was more than a set of labels for placing on envelopes.

I tried to encourage members to supply email addresses for inclusion on the list. Only about 20% of members did so. The others either thought an email address was a private thing to be given only to close friends, or they did not use a computer.

One member told me he did not want to use a computer because one had to type to use one. And typing was women's work!

Clyde Dickens

LOST IN TRANSLATION

A colleague visiting Switzerland some years ago was staying with a male friend in a high rise building in Zurich. During an afternoon drink a charming girl from across the corridor joined them. Unfortunately, she spoke no English at all, and the male friend translated for my colleague. In the course of conversation my friend asked -

"What does she do?"

It transpired she was a milliner however the answer came back -

"She's not doing anything tonight!"

Can you imagine how the evening evolved . . . ?

Tony Andrew

ENJOYING YOUR SMART PHONE?

Do you have a Smart Phone bought in the last 5 years?

Do you only use it just for emergency phone calls or when travelling?

Do you find it too complicated?

If it **yes** to any of these questions, please read further

If not, you may ignore this item!

Modern Smart phones are just like a computer. They do everything a computer does albeit with a small screen and a touch and fiddly keyboard.

So, these are main things I use it for.

You can of course do all these things on an iPad or tablet, but the iPhone or Android is much more convenient.

I happen to have an iPhone however the concepts are similar for an Android phone

Making phone calls

Much quicker than walking over to the landline handset

Sending/Receiving SMS (sometimes called Messages or Texts)

This is the most useful feature, sending or receiving a text message which can include a photo.

This is recorded by the phone so that you can refer back to what transferred.

You can also dictate the text if you wish

Contacts

Convenient way of having all the information regarding your friends and acquaintances. This can be changed easily

For each contact there is a Note area where you can put children's names or any other bits of trivia about the person you should remember.

You can store the contacts birthday and month (year is optional) so that you get a reminder when it is their birthday.

Many phone numbers can be stored, and you can change the label like Home, Holiday house etc

Using the Camera

When you see something in a magazine or on a brochure do not write it down take a picture. You can then send the picture to yourself by email (or others) so that you can pick it up on main computer

Using the Calendar

Much easier than a paper calendar

You can put in recurring events ie every Monday however the 1st Tuesday of the month is a bit tricky. A reminder can be set for a range from 1 week to 5 minutes prior

A great record of what you have done

Using the Notes

Great for recording your thoughts

These can be typed in or dictated using the built in microphone

Using the Reminders

Great for recording something that needs be done not on a particular day - that would be a Calendar entry

Example Book a car service, have a haircut etc

Some very useful apps (Applications) can be downloaded from the App Store (for iPhones) or Google Play (for Android phones)

Ordering a taxi

I am a taxi fan so I use the 13Cabs app but there is an Uber app as well

The app knows where you are and you get a progress report on when the car will arrive

Checking the traffic/bus and train timetables

For traffic and road congestion use Live Traffic

A number of others Tripview and Triptastic are the ones, these may not be free

Checking the weather

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has an excellent app BOM Weather or Weatherzone. There are others. You can just type in 'Sydney weather' into Google and you get a good 5 day summary

Checking the News

My news comes from the ABC news app just search for ABC in the App Store or Google Play

Reading ebooks

I have a medium size iPhone which sits comfortably in my hand but even so, I read an ebook quite comfortably

These I get from Amazon or Apple Books at very low price.

After reading a good review of a book I can have it available to read on any of my devices iPhone included in about 10 seconds flat, providing of course it is available from Amazon or Apple Books

This is all for about AU\$5 to AU\$20 per book. Many of the classics are free.

The only slight snag is that you can't lend or give the book away as you can with a conventional book, but they can be shared for free within your family

There are 1000's of apps available Games and Puzzles, you just have a browse in App Store or Google Play.

Just watch; some cost money albeit not much.

Well I hope I have encouraged you to further explore your smart phone.

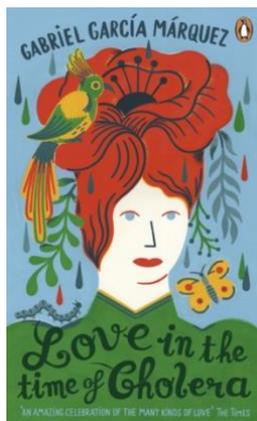
David Bruce-Steer

Neutral Bay Probus Club

By permission (Edited)

BOOK REVIEW

Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez



Written in Spanish by this famous Colombian author in 1985 (but translated into English, the book is considered a classic. Marquez won the Nobel Prize in 1982.

Love, in all its forms, is the major theme. Cholera is incidental. So, there is little of use for us in the time of Covid. However, paraphrases of the title are everywhere – including "Sex in the Time of Covid". So, its title is almost a household word and it has been widely recommended to 21st century readers in this time of plague.

There is much of interest and some marvellous passages –but too much meaningless detail. The three main characters are fully delineated, but there are far too many other incidental people. The main protagonist has waited more than 50 years to reunite with his first love. Her husband, while mostly admirable, died an unusual death.

So the book is about love and age. The lives of all three are tracked in great detail. For the modern reader, there is too much detail, too little psychological insight and not enough story. However, there are many brilliant passages. My favourite is worth the cost of this Penguin Classic (\$12.99). How is this for a description of growing old? – ... *"but on the horizon, he could see nothing more than the unfathomable sea of imaginary illnesses, the drop-by-drop urinations of sleepless nights, the daily death at twilight"*.

There are many more like this and reminders of the expansive great 19th-century writers like Dickens Thackeray and George Eliot. In the time of pandemic, we have the time to catch up with a Spanish classic – despite its disappointments.

David Castle

BACKGROUND TO XI JINPING

Squiz is a daily newsletter that provides a brief outline of the news. Occasionally a shortcut is included which features an issue or person in the news. Here is their shortcut for **Xi Jinping the Chinese President** who has made himself leader for life. It looks at his background, how he rose to the top, his broad agenda, and how he's using his power.

[Click here for the podcast included or you may read it.](#)

RECIPES OF THE MONTH

OVEN-BAKED CHICKEN AND MUSHROOM RISOTTO

Serves 6

Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil
500g chicken thigh fillets, cut into
3cm pieces
1 medium brown onion, finely diced
3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
250g mushrooms, sliced
2 cups Arborio rice
4 cups chicken stock
50g baby spinach leaves
1/2 cup grated parmesan
Lemon wedges, to serve



Method

Preheat oven to 160°C fan forced. Heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a large ovenproof pan over medium-high heat. Brown chicken in 2 batches. Transfer to a plate and set aside.

Heat remaining oil in the pan over medium heat. Add onion and garlic. Cook, stirring for 3-4 minutes until onion softens. Toss through mushrooms and cook for a further minute.

Stir in rice. Cook, stirring until rice is glossy. Add stock and return chicken to pan. Stir to combine and bring to the boil. Cover and bake for 25-30 minutes or until rice is tender and liquid has almost been absorbed. Toss through spinach. Sprinkle with parmesan. Serve with lemon wedges

Lynne Hurley

BEETROOT OATCAKES by

RACHEL KOO

Makes 16 biscuits

Ingredients

50g raw beetroot (approx. ½ a beetroot)
30g oats
70g plain flour
½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp sea salt
½ tbsp sugar
50g butter, melted and cooled



Method

Preheat the oven to 360F/180C/Gas 4. Peel and finely grate the raw beetroot, then place in a bowl. Add the oats, plain flour, baking powder, salt and sugar, mix well, then add the cooled melted butter and bring together to form a ball.

Roll out with a rolling pin between two sheets of baking paper to about 4-5mm thick. Cut into rounds using a 5cm pastry cutter and put on a lined baking tray. Roll the leftover dough out again and cut out some more rounds, so that you have 16 oatcakes in total.

Bake for 25-30 minutes, then leave to cool on a rack.

Lynne and Bill Cheshire

We actually used double the quantities above as, what can you do with half a beetroot?

JUST FOR FUN

FAST FOOD STORES' GROWTH OVER THE YEARS

Here is an interesting graphic showing the growth of fast food stores throughout the world from 1972 to 2019.

In 2000, McDonalds was way ahead with approximately 25,000 stores

See if you can guess who has the most now?

Click on the link below and discover -

<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/1160235/>



Two Ladies - Talking in Heaven

1st woman: Hi! Wanda.

2nd woman: Hi! Sylvia. How'd you die?

1st woman: I froze to death.

2nd woman: How horrible!

1st woman: It wasn't so bad. After I quit shaking from the cold, I began to get warm and sleepy, and finally died a peaceful death. What about you?

2nd woman: I died of a massive heart attack. I suspected that my husband was cheating, so I came home early to catch him in the act. But instead, I found him all by himself in the den watching TV.

1st woman: So, what happened?

2nd woman: I was so sure there was another woman there somewhere that I started running all over the house looking. I ran up into the attic and searched, and down into the basement. Then I went through every closet and checked under all the beds. I kept this up until I had looked everywhere, and finally I became so exhausted that I just keeled over with a heart attack and died.

1st woman: Too bad you didn't look in the freezer---we'd both still be alive.



AN IRISH BLONDE IN A CASINO

An attractive blonde from Cork, Ireland arrived at the casino. She seemed a little intoxicated and bet twenty-thousand Euros on a single roll of the dice.

She said -

"I hope you don't mind, but I feel much luckier when I'm completely naked."

With that, she stripped from the neck down, rolled the dice and with an Irish brogue yelled -

"Come on, baby, Mama needs new clothes!"

As the dice came to a stop, she jumped up and down and squealed -

"YES! YES! I WON, I WON!"

She hugged each of the dealers and then picked up her winnings (and her clothes) and quickly departed.

The dealers stared at each other dumbfounded. Finally, one of them asked -

"What did she roll?"

The other answered -

*"I don't know - I thought **you** were watching the dice."*



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.

DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS FAMOUS LADY IS?



Send your answer to

newsletter@sydneyprobus.org

FIRST THREE CORRECT ANSWERS

WILL RECEIVE A

CONGRATULATORY EMAIL!

Congratulations to

Winners from last month – Gladys Berejiklian

Sorry, too numerous to list, but congratulations anyway!

HOW ABOUT A FEW SUGGESTIONS EH?

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

newsletter@sydneyprobus.org

[0411 424 826](tel:0411424826)