



Probuss Club of Sydney

www.sydneyprobuss.org

Newsletter

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August 2020

Issue 423

MEETING DATES

August 4

JIM MAXWELL AM

Cricket –

The View of a Broadcaster

[WILL GO AHEAD ON ZOOM!](#)

September 1

MIKE MUNRO AM

This is Your Life and

The last of the Bushrangers

ACTIVITIES

SADLY, ALL SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
HAVE BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE

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Recipe of the Month

Just for Fun

Mystery Photo

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen

It's difficult to know what's going to happen with the coronavirus restrictions and how that might affect us as a club, but we are looking at ways of getting back together again at the earliest possible time. This could perhaps involve smaller meetings in the short term (only 50 people can meet at the UUSC) with some form of digital link so that others can 'watch' the meeting on screen in a separate room or at home. Obviously, this has pros and cons and the technology required may not be feasible. If you have any thoughts, I'd be delighted to hear from you, particularly if you have any relevant technical expertise.

Whilst we continue with our Zoom meetings, we haven't been idle and your Committee has been looking at a few issues apart from the more 'normal' routine matters, including:

- a new **Database** is being developed to enhance our Club records
- an updated **Constitution** is being prepared and once it has been approved by Probuss South Pacific it will be circulated to members
- a new method for circulating the **Newsletter via a link** in a group email has been successfully trialed
- a **Notice Board** has been added to the Members Area of the website

This month's speaker will be Jim Maxwell AM and I look forward to joining you then!

Adrian Pilton

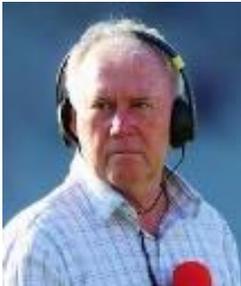
President

**In the near future you will receive an email
inviting you to join the
AUGUST 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 AUG 4**

AUGUST GUEST SPEAKER ON ZOOM!

Jim Maxwell, AM

“Cricket – The view of a broadcaster”



In 1973 Jim Maxwell joined the ABC, initially working as trainee, he later moved on to sports commentary and is best known for his coverage of Australian cricket. He has provided radio commentary for 306 Tests Matches and numerous One Day Internationals, including seven World Cups.

In his youth, he grew up listening to celebrated cricket commentators such as Australian Alan McGilvray and Englishman John Arlott, both of whom he greatly respected. Jim has his own unique style – at once inflective and laconic – is built upon the authoritative approach of the former with poetic touches reminiscent of the latter, displaying also a wry sense of humour. He is highly respected for his remarkable knowledge of the history of the game, as well as his perceptive comments during his commentary.

[Click here for more details about Jim Maxwell](#)

Then click on the symbol 

PROVISIONAL GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAM

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

September 1

Mike Munro AM

TV Presenter, journalist and author.

This is Your Life, and the Last Bushrangers

[For additional information click here](#)

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.

NOTICE BOARD ADDED TO OUR WEBSITE

Articles that are a little too long for the Newsletter will in future be posted on the **Notice Board** in the **Members Area** of the **website**

Should you wish to read an uplifting story, [click here](#) to check out the amazing **Story of Lennie and Ginger Mick**

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If you are sick of buying products from overseas that can be produced in Australia, here is a list of **Supermarket items that are believed to contain Australian produce and be made by Australian owned companies**, [click here](#) to jump onto the **Notice Board**

* * * * *

“There's a lot to admire about Australia, especially if you're a visiting American,” says David Mason. “More often than you might expect, Australian friends patiently listening to me enthuse about their country have said, we need outsiders like you to remind us what we have. So here it is - a small presumptuous list of what one foreigner admires in Oz.”

David Mason is a Writer, Professor and Poet Laureate for Colorado USA

To read his encouraging assessment of Australia [click here](#)

To go to the Home Page of the website [click here](#)

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

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 here](#)

You may contact the team by email

social@sydneyprobus.org

PAYMENT FOR ACTIVITIES

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is the most used method for payment. [Click here for details](#)

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

JULY MEETING REPORT

On account of the continuing Covid 19 pandemic guidelines, our July meeting was also conducted on Zoom. As with previous Zoom meetings, it was a huge success with 74 members enjoying another outstanding presentation this time by former Justice Peter McClellan. He spoke about the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse which he chaired. President Adrian Pilton and Vice President John Rawson (who again managed the technical side) are to be congratulated on the success of the event. Ian Struthers gave us an interesting insight into his "Life Before Probus".

LONG STANDING MEMBERS RECOGNISED

President Adrian made special mention of two members of 30 years standing, Ross Swan and Rob Robson - see below. He also noted that three members have each accumulated 25 years of membership, Clyde Dickens, Dan Kelly and Bill Rutherford. Bill, who now lives in Melbourne and was the Newsletter editor for 9 years, said a few kind words about the current club management and how he enjoyed receiving this Newsletter!

GUEST SPEAKER

The Hon. Justice Peter McClellan, AM

"Child Sexual Abuse Royal Commission - What have we learned?"



We were privileged to be addressed by former Justice Peter McClellan on The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which he chaired, lasting over 5 years. He noted that although many more children are abused in family and other non-institutional contexts, the Royal Commission was created from a concern that sexual abuse in institutions may be both widespread and lacked an appropriate response from the institutions in which it occurred.

The thorough work can be seen in the data. The Commission was contacted by 16,953 people who were within the terms of reference and interviewed 7,981 survivors of institutional child abuse in private sessions. These covered 3,489 institutions where abuse had occurred. 2,562 matters were referred to the police. 58% of survivors said they were abused in an institution managed by a religious body, 32% in a Government institution and 10% in a non-Government, non-religious institution. It was realised that many more would have been identified if the time for the Commission had been further extended.

Of those abused in a religious institution, 61% said they experienced abuse in a Roman Catholic institution, 15% in an Anglican institution and 7% in a Salvation Army institution. Almost two in three survivors were male. The average age of survivors when first abused was 10 years.

Many survivors spoke of having their innocence stolen, their childhood lost, their education and prospective career taken from them and their personal relationships destroyed.

It was apparent there have been many offenders, where the abuse was covered up, particularly in the Catholic Church, where offenders were moved to protect the Church, which inevitably endangered other children. In offering an excuse, some Catholic leaders perceived the offending to be a moral failure rather than a crime. The speaker stated he cannot comprehend how any person could consider the rape of a child to be a moral failure but not a crime.

The Commission recommendations included:

- a National Redress Scheme for survivors to provide adequate funding of ongoing professional psychological care as well as a modest financial contribution
- specific changes to various churches
- changes to management of institutions making them child safe
- improved support and therapeutic services
- changes to civil litigation and criminal processes, noting children may not report a sexual assault until their adult years and that (also for adults) trauma can lead to some circumstances being forgotten or a false memory developed but this does not mean the central reported facts are fabricated or the complainant is lying.

As with previous Guest Speaker presentations, this summary is on the website [available here](#)

MEET SOME LONG STANDING MEMBERS

Ross Swan AO CBE

A 30 year Member!



Rothesay Swan joined Sydney Probus in July 1990, exactly 30 years ago. He was born on the 1st June 1926, the son of a Headmaster and spent his first ten years in the NSW country towns of Gulgong and Corowa. He joined the Naval College in 1940 at the age of 13 Years, where for four years he was educated to university entrance standard and developed into a “man” at age 17. Ross saw war service in 1943-45 in the Pacific in HMAS SHROPSHIRE. During his 43 year naval career he specialised in Signal/Communications He also commanded five ships from the smallest, a Fairmile to the largest HMAS MELBOURNE. For his service in Command of HMAS HOBART in Vietnamese waters in 1970 he was awarded the CBE (Commander of the British Empire). He was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Military Division for Distinguished and long Service in the Department of Defence.

After retirement he joined the Bicentennial Authority as Director Tall Ships and had numerous meetings with Prince Philip. Ross has been President of the State Branches of the Australia/Britain Society, The Order of Australia Association, The Australian Sail Training Association, the Australian Representative on the International Sail Training Association and the Administrator of Opera Foundation, which helps young opera singers gain another rung on the ladder to fame.



Ross has been presented to Queen Elizabeth II and had an audience with Pope Paul VI.

Rob Robson CBE

A 30 year member!



Rob joined the club in 1990. He was elected President the following year and is still a regular attendee at meetings where his playful sense of humour brings joy to all. He was raised and educated in Melbourne achieving degrees in Mathematics and Civil Engineering at Melbourne University. He was later awarded Master of Science (Engineering) from the Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg. Rob was with Rocla Industries for 20 years, the last 5 as MD. He then went on to BMI and then AGC both as MD for a further 15 years.

Rob has held a number of directorships of major public companies in the manufacturing and pharmaceutical

industries as well as Ready Mixed Concrete. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Quarrying.

He has held a number of senior Government appointments in a wide range of fields.

He was awarded the honour of a Commander of the British Empire CBE in 1980 for services to industry. He did war service from 1945 as an aircrew trainee and then joined the AIF, after being de-mobbed in 1947 he went on to serve in the Army Reserve, Engineers and Infantry, for a further 9 years

His current interests include the theatre, cinema and music, writing, Tai Chi, computer accounting, and "Staying Alive!" (computer humour).



It is pleasing to report that we also have three members have been with the club for 25 years

CLYDE DICKENS

DAN KELLY

BILL RUTHERFORD

HOW TO BE AN OUTSTANDING GRANDPARENT

Many members have grandchildren, and even great grandchildren. Hardly anything in their lives is more important than the development of their self-image. This 10-minute clip by Carol Dweck outlines the crucial factors that contribute to the development of a positive approach to life's challenges. At this time of considerable adversity, Carol's TED talk is an appropriate reminder of the important contribution to be made by grandparents. Click on the link below to find out **how to be an outstanding grandparent**.

https://www.ted.com/talks/carol_dweck_the_power_of_believing_that_you_can_improve?language=en

MEMBERS' STORIES

TWISTS OF LIFE



If nothing else I was an early learner – shunted off to boarding school at age 4 beneath the shadows of NZ's Mt. Egmont. Four years later and after an absence of 5 years my father re-introduced himself. Today the remains of his Halifax Bomber lie buried beneath the entrance to Brussels airport.

At the Sydney Opera House in 2010 as part of vacating the role I had the privilege of introducing the new Australian "Father of the Year" – Sir Angus Houston former Chief of Air Force and Chief of the Defence Force. Encountering a brief off-stage delay, I commented "my father was in the Air Force during WW2". "So was mine" said Sir Angus. "Mine was shot down over Belgium", I replied. "So was mine", said Sir Angus. "My father ended up spending 3 years in Stalag Luft 3" I added. "So did mine" said Sir Angus.

Due to the consideration and guidance of Sir Angus, a "just in time" phone contact with my father's then 91 year old pilot in Quebec was achieved. Five families of the seven crew are now engaged in exchanging records, outcomes both tragic and humorous and debating the varying finer points including those buried within the official report of the Luftwaffe ace who brought Halifax W1021 TL-3 to its unscheduled demise.

A MOST UNUSUAL HOUSE CALL

This is a **true story**, the words are exactly as I remember them.

It's 9.30am on a Saturday morning a few years ago

The phone rings

"Doctor, Doctor **COME QUICKLY!**

"What's the problem?"

"Harry isn't breathing"

"Oh hell, how long has he not been breathing?"

"About five minutes!"

"Oh, this could be **SERIOUS**"

"Do you think he **MIGHT BE DEAD?**"

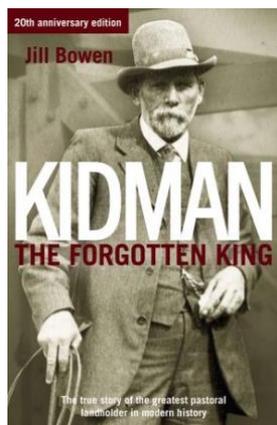
"Well"

"OH, GOD, WHAT WILL I TELL HIS WIFE!"

Tony Andrew

BOOK REVIEWS

Kidman - The Forgotten King



This is a book I read some years ago and found extremely interesting. It was commissioned by Mr. Dick Smith, very well researched and written by well-known Sydney journalist, Jill Bowen.

It deals in great detail about one man's experience in the settlement of the Australian outback, on a massive scale much of it, of course, before the days of the motor car and telephone.

Sidney Kidman started into the outback from the Adelaide area as a teenager going on to become the greatest pastoral landholder in modern history.

He acquired a legendary reputation both in Australia and abroad and when died in 1935 was unquestionable the best known Australian within the "Empire" and the United States but today has been forgotten by all but rural Australians.

This is a timely reassessment of the life of an extraordinary Australian known as the Cattle King.

As well as being a grazier on a vast, mammoth scale, there was also the development of a passenger coach business second only to Cobb and Co. and the making of a significant contribution to Australia's war effort.

He developed a grand plan for the remote, arid areas of Australia to effectively cope and successfully manage with drought.

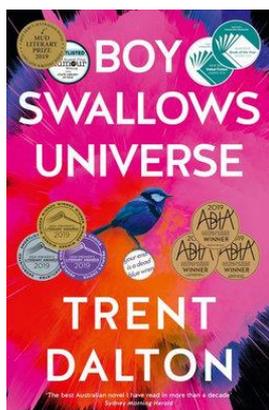
Sidney Kidman, later Sir Sidney, who was counted by Australians along with Dame Nellie Melba and Don Bradman in Australian society, did not change with wealth, power, fame and honours, enjoyed a savage loyalty from his workers.

Controversies and untruths dogged him later in life and this book sorts out the facts from fiction giving a balanced and most entertaining account.

John O'Connor

* * * * *

Boy Swallows Universe by Trent Dalton



This is a good read for anyone not frightened by drugs, the underworld and Brisbane in 1985. It has some scary moments and a degree of realism – all mixed in with magic. As a first book by a Brisbane journalist it deserves its bestseller status. The author is very fond of three word chapter headings and summaries – so the best I can do is "Underbelly Meets Cinderella", which about sums it up.

The reality of the detailed Brisbane underworld, seen through the eyes of a 12-year-old, is mixed with a number of improbable situations. However, the story races to a thrilling climax, and is never dull. Much better than your typical airport thriller, but not a great work of art. The "newspaper" scenes appear to be accurate and realistic.

Although the detailed description of the Brisbane then "slums" will add to the enjoyment of those who know Brisbane, most of you will enjoy the journey – if you are not looking for a literary masterpiece.

David Castle

BACKGROUND TO JOE BIDEN – THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING!

JOE BIDEN

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 **Joe Biden** who currently heads Trump in the polls, his background, his family, his politics and how he came to be the man up against Trump come November. At the top of the Joe Biden page there is an opportunity to access other "Short cuts" that may be of interest such as **TikTok, Israel and Palestine, Belt and Road** and many more.

[Click here for the Squiz Short Cut for Joe Biden](#)

LAMB SHANKS WITH CANOLINI BEANS

Serves 4

Ingredients

4 lamb shanks
Salt and pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 onions cut into wedges
5 cloves garlic minced
2 carrots chopped
2 teaspoons mixed herbs
1 400g cans diced tomatoes
250ml chicken stock
125ml red wine
1 400g can cannellini beans
rinsed and drained



Method

Pre-heat oven to 170°C. Season lamb shanks with salt and pepper. Heat oil in a large heavy based casserole. Brown lamb shanks for 2-3 minutes and transfer to a plate.

Sauté onion, garlic and carrot for 3-4 mins.

Return shanks to pan. Add herbs, tomatoes, stock and red wine. Cover and bake in oven for 1-1½ hours until the lamb is tender. Add cannellini beans and warm through.

Serve with a green vegetable

Lynne Hurley

JUST FOR FUN

Mac Attack

I was in the McDonald's drive-through this morning and the young lady behind me leaned on her horn because I was taking too long to move up in the queue.

"Take the high road," I thought to myself. So, when I got to the first window, I paid for her order along with my own.

The cashier must have told her what I'd done, because as we moved up, she leaned out her window and waved to me and mouthed, "Thank you.", obviously embarrassed that I had repaid her rudeness with a kindness.

When I got to the second window, I showed them both receipts and took her food too.

Now she has to go back to the end of the line and start all over again.

Don't honk your horn at old people. We hate that.

Italian Man

The elderly Italian man went to his parish priest and asked if the priest would hear his confession. "Of course, my son," said the priest.

"Well, Father, at the beginning of World War Two, a beautiful woman knocked on my door and asked me to hide her from the Germans; I hid her in my attic, and they never found her."

"That's a wonderful thing, my son, and nothing that you need to confess," said the priest.

"It's worse, Father; I was weak, and told her that she had to pay for rent of the attic with her sexual favors," continued the old man.

"Well, it was a very difficult time, and you took a large risk - you would have suffered terribly at their hands if the Germans had found you hiding her; I know that God, in his wisdom and mercy, will balance the good and the evil, and judge you kindly," said the priest.

"Thanks, Father," said the old man.

"That's a load off of my mind. Can I ask another question?"

"Of course, my son," said the priest.

The old man asked, "Do I need to tell her the war is over?"

* * * * *

Comment in the Australian Newspaper on review of Christopher Pyne's book

Comment

We had Malcolm Turnbull's tome just in time for the first wave of COVID-19, and now what a relief that Pyne's book arrives just in time for the second wave.

Response

Is that because we need something to read whilst isolated or to mitigate another hoarding rush on bathroom products?

A COUPLE OF ENJOYABLE CLIPS!

How is this for balance?

(click on the link below the picture)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtGE2WmolcE>

Do you enjoy dancing to stay alive!
(you'll love this clip, click on the link below the pic)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mz3CPzdCDws>

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.

WHO DO YOU THINK THIS YOUNG MAN IS?



Send your answer to

newsletter@sydneyprobus.org

FIRST THREE CORRECT ANSWERS

WILL RECEIVE A

CONGRATULATORY EMAIL!

Congratulations to

Winners from last month – Marie Curie

Terry Young and John Doherty were the winners!

HEY, READERS WHERE ARE YOU, SUGGESTIONS PLEASE?

Please contact the Editor, Tony Andrew!

newsletter@sydneyprobus.org

[0411 424 826](tel:0411424826)