



# Probud Club of Sydney

www.sydneyprobud.org

## Newsletter

*Private and confidential – for Probud use only and not to be used for any other purpose*

### October 2020

Issue 425

#### MEETING DATES

October 6

RICHARD JOHNSON AO MBE

The Sydney Opera House –  
Legacy and Lessons

**AT THE UNION, UNIVERSITY &  
SCHOOLS CLUB AND ON ZOOM!**

November 10

PROF MARY O’KANE AC

NSW Bushfire Inquiry 2020

#### ACTIVITY

October - Tuesday 27

Archibald Preview

#### PROVISIONAL ACTIVITIES

November Friday 20

Rotary Regatta on the Harbour

December Tuesday 8

Christmas Luncheon

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Guest Speaker Program

Social Activities

General Meeting Report

Book Reviews

Recipe of the Month

Mystery Photo and more!

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

##### *Gentlemen*

Our last meeting, which was the first ‘live’ meeting of my presidency (!), was a great success. I was very pleased at the number of members who came along (I think it was around 50) and I hope that those who were unable to be with us in person managed to enjoy the Zoom broadcast, despite a few technical issues at the beginning.

The good news is that we are about to do it again! A booking system will again be set up so that we are able to tell the Union, University and Schools Club the likely number of attendees for catering purposes. However, if for any reason you aren’t able to be there, we will again be providing a Zoom broadcast.

We also managed to organise our first outside event for quite some time with a tour of the recently completed Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park. I was unable to go due to a 24-hour isolation period for a Covid test (thankfully negative) but I understand it was an excellent visit so thanks to Michael Flynn for his help in organizing the event.

An important heads up – our November meeting will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Adrian Pilton**

President

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81748245323>

**The link above is to the October Zoom meeting**

**Click 5-10 minutes prior to 10.00am on Oct 6**

## OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKER IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM!

### PROFESSOR RICHARD JOHNSON AO, MBE

*Architect*



*The Sydney Opera House –  
Legacy and Lessons*

**Director, Johnson Pilton Walker Pty Ltd**

Richard Johnson graduated with First Class Honours in architecture from UNSW in 1969 and a Master of Philosophy in Town Planning from University College, London. He was awarded the RIAA Gold Medal in 2008, a Life Fellow in 2012, a Life Governor of the AGNSW in 2012, and a Distinguished Alumni Award from UNSW in 2013.

In 1976 he was admitted as a Member of the Order of the British Empire for Public Service in the field of architecture. Richard was appointed as architectural advisor to the Sydney Opera House Trust in 1998. He was awarded the RIAA Gold Medal in 2006, a Life Fellow in 2008, a Life Governor of the AGNSW in 2012, and a distinguished Alumni Award from UNSW in 2013. In 2014 Richard was appointed an AO for distinguished services to architecture, particularly the design of iconic Australian public buildings, to the visual arts and the museum and galleries sector, and to professional associations.

His work includes the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra, the Anzac Memorial in Sydney, the Asian Galleries at the Art Gallery of NSW, the Eastern Courtyard at the Australian War Memorial and the Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney.

## PROVISIONAL GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAM

### NOVEMBER 10

### PROF MARY O'KANE AC



*NSW Bushfire Inquiry 2020*

After a stellar career in academia and serving the community, including being NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer and currently Chair of the NSW Independent Planning Commission, Prof O'Kane was appointed with Dave Owens APM to lead the January 2020 NSW Bushfire Inquiry. The Government has announced that all 76 recommendations will be accepted.

**DECEMBER 1**

**DR MICHAEL SPENCE AC**



*Current Challenges and Plans for the Future at Sydney University*

Dr Michael Spence has been the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Sydney since 2008. An alumnus of the University of Sydney, Dr Spence graduated with first-class honours in English, Italian and law.

In 2017, Dr Spence was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia for eminent service to leadership of the tertiary education sector, to the advancement of equitable access to educational opportunities, to developing strategic programs focused on multidisciplinary research, and to the Anglican Church of Australia.

In December he will step down to become head of the prestigious University College London.

Meantime, any suggestions from members of possible speakers would be much appreciated. Please pass to Peter at <[speakersprogram@sydneyprobus.org](mailto:speakersprogram@sydneyprobus.org)>

## PROVISIONAL SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

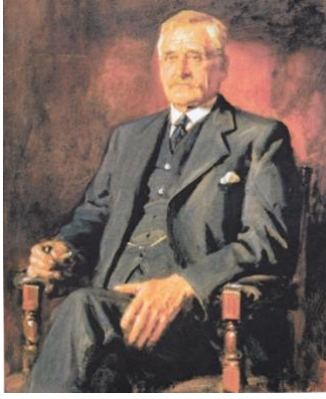
**Here is a list of Provisional Activities. We are in the grip of the virus and confirmation of activities will be announced as soon as possible.**

**The October Archibald Tour is CONFIRMED, but please do not book any other activities until their confirmation is announced.**

### **OCTOBER – CONFIRMED!**

**Private Guided Tour of the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Entries**

**Tuesday, 27 October 2020**



**We meet at 9:15am at the Art Gallery Entrance**

Please don't be late as our tour commences promptly at 9.30am

Previous participants have marveled at the magical way our guides bring the entries to life during our one-hour private tour. The activity is enhanced by much of the tour being undertaken prior to the gallery opening.

Morning tea is at the Gallery Café is from 10.30am at our own expense

**Banjo Patterson winner 1935!**

*Owing to changed arrangements at the gallery, the Highlights Tour has been cancelled.*

**COST for tour only is \$25**

[Click here to Book and Pay](#)

**Note- Public transport does not operate to the Art Gallery until 10.10am**

*Why not invite a guest! An excellent way to introduce potential new members to our club! Of course, partners are always welcome.*

**NOVEMBER – Save the date!**

**Rotary Charity Regatta on Sydney Harbour**

**Friday 20 November**

**Embark at 12.45pm for a 1.00pm sharp departure**

**At the Commissioners Steps at the very Western end of Circular Quay**



Captain Cook 111 returns at 5pm, after a 4.30pm drop off at Rose Bay. Pre-luncheon drinks and canapés precede a **delicious seafood buffet**.

Our vessel will follow Sydney's leading yachts as they compete in this charity race. There is on-board expert commentary as well as four-piece jazz band providing lively entertainment.

**DECEMBER – Save the date!**

**Our Famous Christmas Luncheon at Dunbar House at Watsons Bay**

**Tuesday 8 at 12.00noon**

**Quarantine the date now!**



### **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES DESK**

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

[To book for activities click here](#)

You may contact the team by email

[social@sydneyprobus.org](mailto: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 contact the Activities Team urgently –

John Carter 0408 612 238

David Brand 0414 908 226

## **SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT**

### **FINALLY, A FACE TO FACE MEETING AT THE UNION, UNIVERSITY & SCHOOLS CLUB!**



Yes, 45 members enjoyed a physical meeting in the Club Dining room. We were seated cabaret style around tables and were served morning tea at our tables. President Adrian, John Carter and John Rawson also managed another excellent zoom meeting. A large number of members stayed for lunch, set up at tables beside the meeting.

### **LIFE BEFORE PROBUS**

## **Peter Stafford**

Being a grazier's son, Peter grew up in Glenn Innes. He attended The Kings School before studying Commerce at the UNSW. He joined PWC and then completed a Masters degree in Commerce also at UNSW. He worked in a range of companies from Cleanaway to International Telecommunications. Following a takeover which would have involved a transfer to HK he retired and, as he said took up gardening on a golf course instead!

## **STORYTELLER**

### **David Greatorex**

*David told us an interesting tale about the Centennial Park area.*



Water supply in early Sydney was initially by bucket from the Lachlan Swamp area, now Centennial Park, to Hyde Park. In 1837 Busby's Bore was completed. It transported water from Busby's Pond near the South East corner of Lang Street to Hyde Park. It was built by convicts over 10 years and is 3.6km long.

<https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/stories/2019/busby-and-the-bore>

As public parks were quite a new thing in the Victorian era, to commemorate the centennial year of the NSW colony, Centennial Park was created in 1880 the opening of which was attended by huge 30,000 crowd.

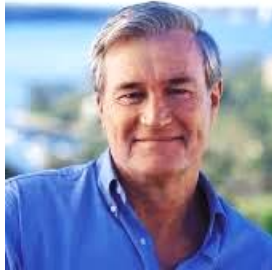
Moving on to 1980 David outlined the establishment of the Centennial Park Authority following the sacking of the City of Sydney Council by the NSW Government. Subsequently he and a number of Commissioners were appointed who blocked the planned sale to a developer of Moore Park Golf Course, the ES Marks Athletic Field and adjacent land. The government gave the land to the Centennial Park Trust to ensure the land is preserved in perpetuity for the public of NSW.

<https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/about-us/centennial-park-moore-park-trust>

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

### **Mike Munro AM**

*The Last of the Bushrangers and This is Your Life*



Mike's presentation was in two parts. Firstly, he told his own family history including his two Great Uncles who were Australia's last bushrangers, and then some of his experiences presenting *This is Your Life*.

Mike had a difficult upbringing with his mother who was a lovely caring well-read Dr Jekyll when sober, but a horrendous abusive alcoholic Mr Hyde for much of his younger life, together living in a seminary, after being estranged from his father since an infant. He described his father as an Irish rogue with whom he didn't have a good relationship, although there was some recontact as Mike became an adult

Mike was 30 years old and an established TV journalist when his dying father told him of the incredible story of the Kenniff brothers, the cousins of his grandfather, who had changed his name from Kenniff to Munro out of shame. From initial disbelief, Mike's subsequent investigations revealed the full gruesome story culminating in the brothers killing a policeman and a station manager on Easter Sunday 1902, burning their bodies and putting the remains in police saddle bags.

The story was exciting, and Mike's delivery brought it to life. He outlined the many controversies of the Trial and the Appeal, the pastoralists versus the squatters, the Catholics versus the Protestants, the allowing of testimony from an aboriginal, the Trial judge sitting on the Appeal panel etc.

Then in response to a member's question, Mike regaled us with a range of memorable experiences from his time as presenter of *This Is Your Life*. Having undertaken hard hitting investigative journalism in newspapers and TV, including on *Willesee*, *60 Minutes* then hosting *A Current Affair* and *Sunday Night*, Mike was somewhat hesitant to take on the family show. He decided that unsung heroes would make excellent candidates. He then described many hair-raising experiences, some as consequences of secret phone calls required to create a personal profile, misunderstandings and hilarious incidents, many with celebrities.

He was firm however that the surprise introductions looked and were absolutely genuine, and a number of high-profile shows were cancelled when details were leaked in advance.

Ray Hyslop's vote of thanks accurately reflected members' enjoyment of a thoroughly stimulating highly entertaining professional presentation.

Many members purchased Mike's book, a review of which will be included in the November Newsletter. For those who were not able to attend the meeting, or who missed out on the fully sold copies, the book 'The Last Bushrangers' can be purchased through your local bookshop, or on the Booktopia website <https://bit.ly/3ledZAX>

## THE NEW DEMOCRACY FOUNDATION

Members enjoyed an interesting presentation from Iain Walker of the New Democracy Foundation, in April last year when he referred to the use of 'Citizens Juries'

**A Leader in the Economist** September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 highlights the growing importance of such programs. As Iain said, "We don't need better politicians, we need a better system". Some members may dispute this! Ed.

[Click on the link below to read the full article](#)

## THE WEBSITE

### ARTICLES ON THE WEBSITE NOTICE BOARD

**Citizens' Assemblies** - Economist Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**TEXT4myBACK** - Innovative study for people with low back pain

**An Interesting Tour of Western NSW** - Peter James's

**The Guide to the New Website**

To view any of these articles [click here](#)

## SQUIZ SHORTCUT

### THE AUSTRALIA-CHINA RELATIONSHIP

**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.

In this episode of Squiz Shortcuts, they're taking a look at how Australia's ties with China were established, how we've thrived together – and how we've recently hit some very choppy waters. Click on the link to listen to the 10-minute podcast or read the short story.

<https://www.thesquiz.com.au/shortcuts/squiz-shortcuts-the-china-australia-relationship/>



## IMPORTANT NAME BADGE UPDATE

If you or your partner are unhappy with the pin fastener on your badge, our Membership Officer, Peter Nochar has arranged for you to have a new badge with a magnetic clasp free of charge.

If you have misplaced your badge, he can order a replacement costing \$15.00

*(Hint – request a new magnetic one for free! Ed.)*

Contact Peter on [membership@sydneyprobus.org](mailto:membership@sydneyprobus.org)

## AND WHILE WE HAVE YOU . . .

### **A little religious tale – well not really!**

An eyewitness account from New York City, on a cold day last December,

A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering With cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, 'My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!' 'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,' was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes.

She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head.

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her.

'Are you God's wife?'

### THE RIJKSMUSEUM IN HOLLAND HAD AN IDEA

Let's bring the art to the people and then, hopefully, they will come to see more at the museum. They took one Rembrandt painting from 1642, Night Watch, brought to life the characters in it, placed them in a busy mall, and the rest you can see for yourself!



**Before You Click** on the link below, take a good look at the painting above. Then click to enjoy the video.

[http://www.youtube.com/embed/a6W2ZMpsxhg?feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/embed/a6W2ZMpsxhg?feature=player_embedded)

\* \* \* \* \*

### A FASCINATING DOCUMENTARY

Click on the link below to view

[Sydney's Super Tunnel | Documentary | SBS On Demand.](#)

The four parts will have gone to air by the time our Newsletter reaches you. Take a look at it, or you can wait to see just part 4 on free-to-air Channel 3. Wednesday or a week later.

**Available AT SBS On Demand until Nov 8**

\* \* \* \* \*

### VIRTUAL TRAVEL

Given the continuing Covid travel restrictions, here is an opportunity to enjoy free armchair travel to many interesting locations. Click on the link below to enjoy your destination of choice. The videos are about 3-4 minutes in duration

[https://www.airpano.com/360video\\_list.php](https://www.airpano.com/360video_list.php)



## MORE DELIGHTS FOR LEXOPHILES

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia — the LAN down under.

Every calendar's days are numbered.

A lot of money is tainted—taint yours and taint mine.

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

He had a photographic memory that was never developed.

A midget fortune-teller who escapes from prison is a small medium at large.

Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

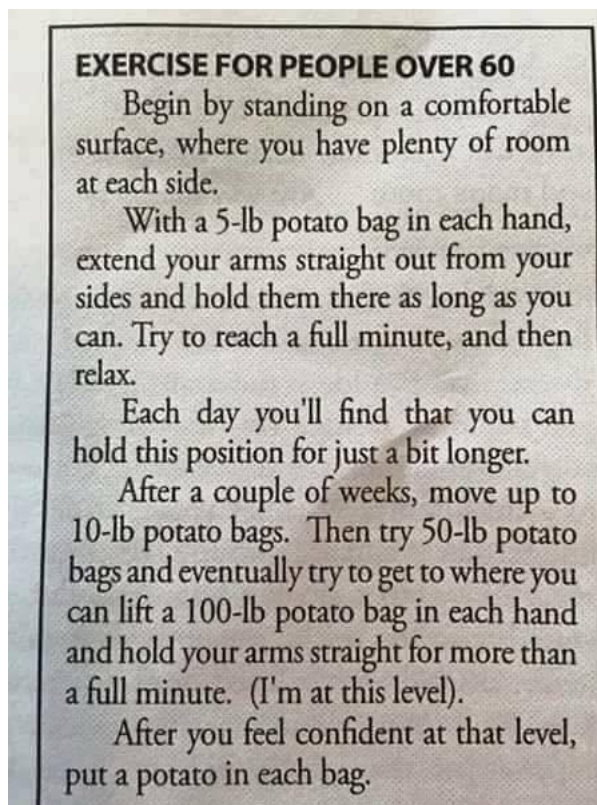
When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de feet.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

Acupuncture is a jab well done.

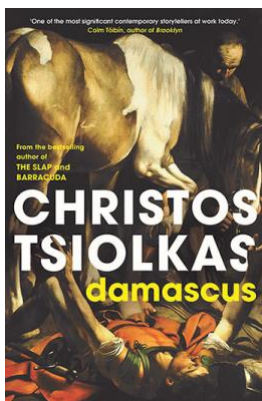
## A SIMPLE EXERCISE PROGRAM FOR YOU!



## BOOK REVIEWS

### DAMASCUS

Christos Tsiolkas



Here is yet another book that comes with the same warning – not for the fainthearted. This author loves blood and guts so the early years of the Christian era (AD 35 – 87) provide fertile ground. It is not a fairy story or particularly cerebral. Those early years were turbulent, violent and bloody; and the author revels in it.

Nor does it purport to be a history of St Paul and his life. It is a novel, but with a point to prove there is room in the Christian Church for those who do not believe in the resurrection and those who are practicing homosexuals – like the author.

However, as an excellent novelist, these points are made through the thoughts, actions and interactions between the real and fictional characters of Paul, Timothy, Thomas, Lydia and others.

*"Who was Paul? And is it possible to reconcile what is revelatory and crucial in Christian ethics with the fraught history of Christianity itself? That questioning is what led me to writing this book."* (Authors note)

Its strengths lie in its detailed and bloody descriptions of everyday life in the Middle East under Roman rule. The life and times of Jews, Romans, Greeks, slaves, women, the literate and illiterate are all described in detail. The author has a gift for powerful language. Only the very rich and privileged seem to have lived the type of life we would find acceptable today.

Its weaknesses lie in the very idiosyncratic view the author takes of real and imagined characters. It is unlikely that there are any insights for those interested in the true history of biblical characters like St Paul and St Thomas. On the other hand, it does give an insight into what it might have been like to have lived in those turbulent, violent and bloody times. On that basis the book has been well reviewed and is worth reading.

**David Castle**

## DO YOU HAVE LOW BACK PAIN?

Researchers from the University of Sydney are conducting an innovative study using text messages to support recovery of people suffering from low back pain. The study is a remotely conducted clinical trial named 'TEXT4myBACK'. **The study is being led by Prof. Manuela Ferreira, who is ranked as the 3<sup>rd</sup> researcher in the world in the field of low back pain.** The study was approved by the Northern Sydney Local Health District Ethics Committee (ETH 13895).

[Click here for more information](#)

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH!

**Ricciarelli**

**MAKES 24-30 DELICIOUS BISCUITS**

Gluten free

## Ingredients

3 cups almond meal  
1 cup caster sugar  
2 egg whites  
finely grated zest of 1 lemon  
1 dessertspoon lemon juice  
1 teaspoon almond essence  
icing sugar for dusting



## Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C. Line a baking tray with baking paper.

Mix the almond meal and sugar in a large bowl. Add the egg whites, lemon juice and lemon zest and mix through to create a paste using your hands.

Roll the dough into a log and cut into small rounds of dough. Shape the dough with your hands into an oval about 1cm thick.

Dust in the icing sugar to coat well then place onto the lined tray leaving room for spreading.

Bake for 10 minutes or until the cookies look slightly marked and the bottom is firm. Cool on a rack.

**Lynne Hurley**

## 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.**

## HIS PEOPLE ARE REBELLING AGAINST HIS LEADERSHIP, WHO IS HE?



**Send your answer to**

**[newsletter@sydneyprobus.org](mailto:newsletter@sydneyprobus.org)**

**FIRST THREE CORRECT ANSWERS**

**WILL RECEIVE A**

**LUNCHEON VOUCHER!**

***Congratulations to***

***Winner last month identified***

Terry Young

“Peter Ridd lost JCU appeal against his unfair dismissal win.  
He will appeal to High Court.”

HEY, READERS WHERE ARE YOU, SUGGESTIONS PLEASE?

**Please contact the Editor, Tony Andrew!**

[newsletter@sydneyprobus.org](mailto:newsletter@sydneyprobus.org)

0411 424 826