



Probus Club of Sydney

www.sydneyprobus.org

Newsletter

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March 2021

Issue 429

MEETING DATES

March 2

CHARLES AITKEN

The Local and Global
Investment Climate

**AT THE UNION, UNIVERSITY
& SCHOOLS CLUB & ZOOM**

April 6

CHRIS MASTERS

From Albury to Afghanistan

ACTIVITIES

March Friday 19

Ansto Science Discovery Tour

Lucas Heights

April Friday 30

HARS Aviation Museum

Albion Park

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Social Activities

New Website

General Meeting Report

Book Reviews

Mystery Photo and much more

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen

The February meeting was hugely successful in many ways. The overall attendance was back to pre-Covid levels with the numbers the largest since we started our 'hybrid' meetings back in September. We also had to overcome the late withdrawal of our guest speaker but thanks to Ian Lansdown, we managed to entice Tom Switzer as our speaker and he was an excellent choice, so thanks Tom!

Also, at the February meeting Tony Andrew introduced us to Wild Apricot, our new club management software. It was then launched online and there has been an excellent take up by the majority of the members, so thank you to all! It will make life considerably easier in the future for all of us.

This year has been a challenge with the pandemic and so I would like to say a huge thank you to the Committee members and the UUSC staff who have risen to the occasion and steered us through successfully. Our next meeting, the AGM, will mark the end of our use of Zoom so, unless there is another Covid outbreak, we will be reverting to the 'normal' meeting format in April.

Adrian Pilton

President

Note – To Register to attend the March meeting in person - [click here](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88332328757?pwd=YW40aTNhMVhGZ0FNbXdEMDVKOEEMxQT09>

**Click the blue link above to join the
March Zoom meeting
5-10 minutes prior to 10.00am on March 2**

MARCH GUEST SPEAKER

Note – If you plan to attend the March meeting, because of Covid regulations you need to Register [here](#)

MARCH 2

CHARLES AITKEN

CEO Aitken Investment Management



The Local and Global Investment Climate

Charlie Aitken will bring us up to date on the current financial environment. Members will recall that his presentation last March was immediately preceding the impact of Covid 19 pandemic. So where are we now?

Read more about Charles Aitken and Register to attend the March meeting [here](#)

FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS

APRIL 6

CHRIS MASTERS



From Albury to Afghanistan

The longest serving reporter on Australia's longest running current affairs program, Four Corners, Chris will reflect on a life in investigative journalism.

Registration is not yet available, but you may read more about Chris [here](#)

* * * * *

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

NOTE – The Tour of Cowra and Orange has been postponed until Spring.

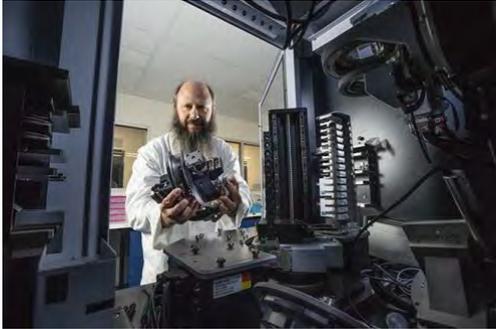
MARCH

Ansto Science Discovery Tour

Friday 19 March

Meet at the facility at 10.30am

New Illawarra Rd, Lucas Heights



ANSTO works across areas such as health, the environment and nuclear fuel cycle to find solutions to some of the biggest questions in science for the benefit of all Australians. It operates much of Australia's landmark infrastructure including one of the world's most modern nuclear research reactors, OPAL, along with the Synchrotron

and the National Research Cyclotron.

This is a fascinating tour, offering members an understanding of one of Australia's most important scientific institutions. **Cost is \$20**

John Carter will send full details about meeting location and any special requirements to Registrants at a later date.

As always, partners and guests are encouraged to attend

To Register, you will require your password to log into the website, [click here](#)

If you have misplaced your password or not yet received one, please contact –

Tony Andrew - tony.andrew@gpa.net.au 0411 424 826

APRIL

Tour of HARS Aviation Museum at Albion Park

Friday 30 April

Meet at the Museum at 10-30am for morning tea



This Museum comes highly recommended and holds the largest collection of airworthy and static aircraft in the southern hemisphere, 12,500 square metres under roof. We will meet at the Museum at 10.30am for morning tea followed at 11.00am by a guided tour. Lunch will be at the on-site cafe. Travel options include a train from Central followed by a short walk to the museum.

For more information about HARS - <https://hars.org.au>

Cost is \$25 with lunch at your own expense

As always, partners and guests are encouraged to attend

To Register, you will require your password to log into the website, [click here](#)

If you have misplaced your password or not yet received one, please contact –

Tony Andrew - tony.andrew@gpa.net.au 0411 424 826

SNOWY MOUNTAINS & NSW HIGH COUNTRY TOUR



**Sydney – Bungendore – Cooma – Thredbo – Charlotte Pass –
Corryong – Tumbarumba -Sydney**

Saturday May 15 – Friday May 21

On the 15th May 2021, there is an exciting 7 day/6 night Probus Tour to the Snowy Mountains & High Country arranged through Pymble Probus Club & "Scenic Journeys by Rail". This tour was originally planned for 2020 but COVID intervened!

Please book directly with Scenic Journey by Rail and also make payments to them. It is important to note that your deposit is not refundable as it is used to pay for bookings that for the most part cannot be cancelled.

Full details of this exciting tour are available on the Notice Board by [clicking here](#)

Scenic Journeys by Rail conduct a wide range of quality tours around Australia and Internationally when Covid conditions allow – sjr@digitor.com.au

RECENT SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

FERBUARY

Chau Chak Wing Museum Tour



On Tuesday 16 February, 25 of us visited the newly opened Chau Chak Wing Museum at Sydney University. It is beautifully designed & incorporates large glass windows which take advantage of its site between the Great Hall & the Main Entrance of the campus. The guided tour concentrated on an extensive number of exhibits from previous University museums, particularly the Nicholson & Macleay

Museums, along with a large number that had not seen the light of day for many years. Highlights included artefacts from the Roman Empire, ancient Greece & Pharaonic Egypt along with Australian birds, mammals (eg thylacines), shells & even anti-gravity suits designed at the University in 1945! In particular, the Egyptian Mummy Room was memorable

The excellent Cafe on-site provided a satisfying meal after the morning's intellectual stimulation.



John Carter

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES DESK

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

[To Register for activities click here](#)

You may contact the team by email

social@sydneyprobus.org

PAYMENT FOR ACTIVITIES

Online payment by Credit Card is preferred, Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is also available

[Click here for details](#)

To contact the Activities Team urgently –

John Carter 0408 612 238

David Brand 0414 908 226

How to Access the New website

Entering 'sydney probus' or 'probus sydney' into your search engine (eg Google) should take you to the webpage, which looks just like the old one. If you have difficulty, the address is 'sydneyprobus.org'

How to Register for a Meeting

Due to Covid regulations, we are currently required to Register to attend meetings. You do not need to log in with your password. To Register for the March meeting [click here](#)

How to Register for an Activity

You will need to log in with your password to Register for a tour or other activity.

To Log in [click here](#) and then go to **ACTIVITIES**

If you have misplaced your password or not yet received one, contact Tony, below.

The full [Guide to the New Website](#) is located in Members Area on the Notice Board to view it - [Click here](#)

If you have any questions, issues or suggestions please contact -

Tony Andrew tony.andrew@gpa.net.au 0411 424 826

Bill Cheshire bjlcheshire@westnet.com.au 0434 774 705

FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT

ANOTHER FACE-TO-FACE MEETING AT THE UNION, UNIVERSITY & SCHOOLS CLUB!

Congratulations to President Adrian and Club Services Robert Warburton for the complex organisation of the simultaneous face-to-face meeting in the UUSC Dining Room and online Zoom.

Outline of the New website and Wild Apricot System



Tony Andrew gave a brief presentation describing the new website and its operation. A full **Guide to the New Website** is [here](#)

President Adrian conducted three Inductions

Roger Williams



Roger graduated in Medicine from Sydney University and established a career in Ophthalmology with appointments at Westmead and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. where he became head of the department. Along the way, he worked with the Flying Doctor Service for 10 years and coordinated Ophthalmology for Aus Aid for the Pacific Islands for a further 5 years.

With his wife of 50 years, Janet he bought a farm in the Kanimbla Valley where they breed Angus cattle. Roger plays golf at Royal Sydney and Elanora Clubs. Having travelled extensively overseas, especially in the Middle East. Roger and Janet have three children and six grandchildren.

Robert Hansen



Robert spent his formative years in Midwest USA. He has a degree in Economics and Finance from New York University. He had several years in the US Army and served as an Infantry Officer in the Vietnam War.

He moved to Australia in 1969 and held various positions in the finance, investment banking and IT industries including IBM Australia. Robert is currently self-employed and runs his own family investment company. He obtained Australian citizenship in 2006 and renounced his US citizenship in 2019.

He is married to Annabelle Farnsworth who is the Medical Director of Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology. They have two sons, both living overseas. Robert and Annabelle have been long term supporters of the MCA and other Sydney arts organisations and are keen collectors of contemporary art.

David Hogan



David grew up in Sydney, attended Trinity Grammar and then pursued valuation studies. His career path has been significantly in merchant and investment banking and property funds management including several personal investment ventures in developing economies in SE Asia.

He has recently retired as head of Property Assets for Trilogy Funds Management of which he was a cofounder. David has been a Senior Vice president of the Union Club and still serves on a number of club committees.

He married Jan 51 years ago, lives in Mosman and enjoys gardens, walking, surfing, cricket and travel when possible. David has a keen interest in architecture, particularly heritage, Australian exploration and colonial history. He is also an ardent collector of Australian and aboriginal art.

GUEST SPEAKER

TOM SWITZER

What China's rise and America's decline could mean for Australia



Tom Switzer is the executive director of the Centre for Independent Studies, a public policy research organisation based in Sydney operating since 1976. CIS promotes free choice and individual liberty and defends cultural freedom and the open exchange of ideas. Through its research scholarship and public events, political leaders are encouraged to put in place sound policies to grow the economy, spread prosperity, allow more education choice and protect and defend intellectual freedom.

CIS relies on the generosity of individuals who want to make Australia a freer and more prosperous place. For more information, see <https://www.cis.org.au/> and learn how to become a member: <https://www.cis.org.au/join-cis/>

In his address, Tom's theme was, because we lived for so long in a unipolar world that was dominated by our closest ally and because East Asia was so peaceful during that period, Australians came to think it was forever.

It was hard to imagine great-power rivalry ever returning to this region.

But that world has gone away, mainly because of China's rise, which we helped fuel.

The Sino-American rivalry is likely to be the defining feature of international relations in the century ahead and it's mainly going to take place in our neighbourhood.

He concluded this is not a welcome development by any means, but it is our future.

In developing the above conclusion, he noted relations between Australia and China have not been so dismal since before reopening ties with Communist mainland half a century ago. In the past year, in response to Canberra's implementing foreign

30 YEAR MEMBER RESIGNS



Many members will be disappointed to learn that **Rothesay (Ross) Swan** AO CBE who joined our club in July 1990 has decided that he can no longer make the regular trip into the city. He is now in his 95th Year and is a full time carer for his wife. Ross had a celebrated career in the Navy, commanding five ships including the HMAS MELBOURNE. After retirement he was involved in a wide range of community activities especially sail training and helping young opera singers up the ladder.

Members will also be sorry to learn that **Peter Stern** has resigned after 10 years with the club.

SICK BAY

Ray Hyslop

Here is an encouraging report about Ray.

Last week we called and saw him at home in Gwandalan where he had returned a couple of days earlier and was recovering from a fall at home.

Yesterday he and daughter Serena came to our place for lunch. Hard to believe that we sat out on the deck under an umbrella for a 4+ hour lunch with wide-ranging conversation. I imagine they were both glad to get out. I feel that Ray was pretty much with it and his speech improving. When they left, he shook hands with his right which has a firming grip (right side previously deadened).

John Hyslop

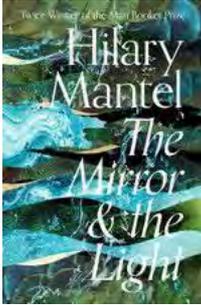
Peter Golding

Peter was discharged from hospital a week ago after some six weeks in hospital. He and Denise are now living in another apartment in Mosman, without steps, as Peter would have been unable to manage steps to access their earlier home. He is *very* frail and has lost a lot of weight. Six months ago, at 98 and nearly totally blind, Peter was walking 7 km every day, but now he has limited movement with a walker. Denise says, though he is smiling, it is a tough time for him.

If any members would like to give Peter a phone call, this can be done by calling Denise, who could then manage a time for Peter to speak with you. Visiting is certainly possible and again this would need to be arranged with Denise by phoning her on 0438 684 496

Denise's email is dplayoust@bigpond.com

The Mirror and the Light by Hilary Mantel (2020) – 875 pages



For those who enjoyed *Wolf Hall* and *Bring up the Bodies*, this is a must read and completes the Thomas Cromwell trilogy. It takes us in minute detail from the execution of Anne Boleyn to that of Cromwell, himself. We are privileged to lead the life of Cromwell on a day-by-day basis.

The reign of Henry VIII continues to fascinate. In this volume we also become intimately acquainted with Jane Seymour and Anne of Cleves together with all the main players in 16th century England and Europe. It was an amazing time, which shaped the future of today's world – Renaissance, Reformation, Luther, Sir Thomas More, Wolsey and the future queens, Mary and Elizabeth.

Even if you have not read the first two massive volumes, you can still enjoy this one – as there are plenty of flashbacks.

For anyone not satisfied with historical fiction by possibly the best living historical novelist, you can supplement your reading with "Wolf Hall Companion" by the historian Lauren Mackay. You will then be able to judge whether you prefer historical fiction or such of the "true" history as records permit. I know which I prefer. History by fact lacks the magic of historical fiction in the hands of a master (or mistress) like Mantel

David Castle

SQUIZ SHORTCUT

The Coup in Myanmar

The coup in Myanmar is the latest flex of military muscle in a nation that is 70 years into a fight for democracy. In this episode of Squiz Shortcuts we cover Myanmar's chequered democratic history, the rise of its popular de facto civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi and what led to the coup on 1 February.

<https://www.thesquiz.com.au/shortcuts/squiz-shortcuts-the-coup-in-myanmar/>

DON'T MISS THIS AMAZING CLIP!

While these diners at “Le Petit Chef” await their dessert, this amazing technology projects it onto the table in front of them!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgN7nKN2GJw>

WHILE WE HAVE YOU

Three old guys are out walking.

First one says, 'Windy, isn't it?'

Second one says, 'No, it's Thursday!'

Third one says, 'So am I. Let's go get a beer.'

* * * * *

A man was telling his neighbour, 'I just bought a new hearing aid.

It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect.'

'Really,' answered the neighbour. 'What kind is it?'

‘Twelve thirty.'

RECIPE OF THE MONTH!

ROAST LEMON CHICKEN

Serves 4

Ingredients

½ cup olive oil
4 large potatoes peeled and cut into 3cm pieces
16 French eschalots or tiny onions peeled
4 chicken Marylands or 8 thighs bone in
6 cloves garlic finely chopped
1 tablespoon oregano
2 lemons



Method

Pre-heat oven to 180°C. Drizzle ¼ cup olive oil over base of large roasting pan, top with potato and eschalots and roast for 20 minutes turning once. Tuck chicken pieces among potato and eschalots then scatter with herbs and garlic.

Cut lemons in quarters and squeeze juice over chicken then and tuck peel around chicken. Drizzle with ¼ cup extra olive oil add salt and black pepper to taste. Roast at 180°C for 40 minutes or until chicken is tender and golden.

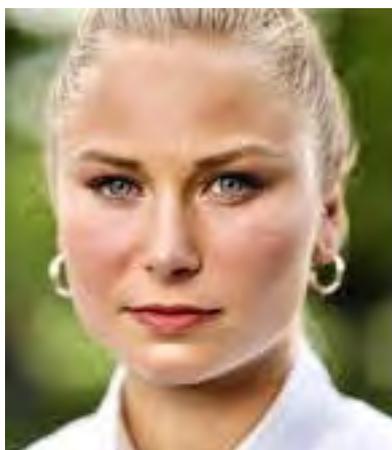
Lynne Hurley

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.

DO YOU KNOW THIS YOUNG LADY'S NAME?



Send your answer to

newsletter@sydneyprobus.org

Members with correct answers will receive recognition in the next Newsletter

Congratulations to

Those who identified Dr Kerry Chant

John Doherty, Terry Young, David Barnett, David Castle, Robert Wilson and Ian Struthers

HEY, READERS WHERE ARE YOU, CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE?

Please contact the Editor, Tony Andrew!

newsletter@sydneyprobus.org

0411 424 826