



Probus Club of Sydney

www.sydneyprobus.org

Newsletter

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

April 2021

Issue 430

MEETING DATES

April 6

CHRIS MASTERS

From Albury to Afghanistan

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

**THERE IS NO ZOOM MEETING
THIS MONTH!**

May 4

DR JOHN HEWSON AM

2021-An Even More Challenging
Year?

ACTIVITIES

April Friday 30

HARS Aviation Museum

Albion Park

May Friday 21

Riverboat Postman

June Monday 21 and 28

Tour the Defences on North Head

CONTENTS

Guest Speaker Program

Social Activities

New Website

General Meeting Report

A Visit to Kazakhstan

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen

Your Club is in great shape. Membership numbers are strong, governance is sound, finances excellent and a competent management team is in place. Particular thanks are due to Past President Adrian Pilton and President before him Tony Andrew. Thanks to Tony the Club has a number of new systems that have brought us into the 21st Century, and Adrian has steered us through the difficulties caused by COVID.

We have decided to return only to face-to-face meetings as COVID is at bay (touch wood) and the hybrid meeting structure was only ever intended as an interim measure. Furthermore, the latest news from the Union, University & Schools Club is that we are now allowed to mingle, and meetings will continue in the main dining room.

Whilst some members found Zoom convenient, they also had to put up with some poor technology results and the last meeting's Zoom was the worst experience. A few very determined members listened in via an audio link through my mobile phone! For those who missed out the slides are available through our very much improved website. I hope that everyone is now used to booking through the website and of course now paying your membership fees. Tony Andrew would like to hear from you if you have any issues.

John Rawson

President

Note

To Register to attend the April meeting at the Union, University and Schools Club - [click here](#)

Subscription Reminder!

To renew your Membership of \$130 for 2021-2022 [click here](#) and log in to the website!

APRIL GUEST SPEAKER

Note – If you plan to attend the April meeting, to comply with Covid regulations you must Register [here](#)

APRIL 6 CHRIS MASTERS



From Albury to Afghanistan

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

He earned a Gold Walkley Award for his 1985 report on the French Government's involvement in the sinking of the Greenpeace vessel Rainbow Warrior. Over his career, he won 5 Walkleys (including best non-fiction book) and a Logie.

He was awarded the Public Service Medal, the Centenary Medal (for "service to Australian society in journalism"), an Honorary Doctorate, and Induction to the Australian Media Hall of Fame.

He has published 6 books including the controversial and acclaimed "Jonestown: The Power and Myth of Alan Jones".

More recently, after numerous visits including an assignment living with front line troops, he wrote "No Front Line: Australia's Special Forces at War in Afghanistan". He and fellow multi Walkley award winner Nick McKenzie have contributed regular in-depth articles for the SMH/Age about the Afghan war situation, including recently the alleged abuses by some SAS soldiers.

[REGISTER to attend Chris's presentation here](#)

MAY GUEST SPEAKER

MAY 4

DR JOHN HEWSON AM



2021- An Even More Challenging Year?

Honorary Professorial Fellow

**Crawford School of Public Policy
ANU College of Asia & the Pacific**

After growing up in Sydney and graduating from Sydney University, then University of Regina (Canada), John Hewson obtained a doctorate in economics at John Hopkins University, along the way to a remarkably wide distinguished career in academia, bureaucracy, business, politics, and the media.

He is currently a Professor in the Crawford School of Public Policy at ANU, and an Adjunct Professor at Curtin, UTS, Canberra and Griffith Universities. Previous senior posts include Professor and Head of the School of Economics at UNSW, and Professor of Management and Dean Macquarie Graduate School of Management at Macquarie University.

More information about Dr Hewson – [click here](#)

* * * * *

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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

APRIL

Tour of HARS Aviation Museum at Albion Park

Friday 30 April

Meet at the Museum at 10-45am for morning tea

Tour commences at 11.00am



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 10.45am 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. There is ample on-site car parking.

An email with full details will be sent to Registrants prior to the tour.

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

MAY

Riverboat Postman on the Hawkesbury River

Friday May 21

Dangar Rd Brooklyn

10.00am is the departure time



Our May Probus activity will be to take the Riverboat Postman trip on the Hawkesbury River

The trip starts at 10am at the wharf at Dangar Road Brooklyn and lasts for approximately 3 hours.

The first Riverboat Postman started the run in 1910, and the tradition continues today. The Riverboat visits Dangar, Milson Islands, Kangaroo Point, Bar Point, Marlow Creek, Fisherman's Point, and Milson's Passage before returning to Brooklyn at 1.15pm.

The ferry office is only about 50 metres from the lift at 'Brooklyn Station', whose correct name is Hawkesbury River

Coffee, tea and biscuits are served for morning tea and a ploughman's lunch, both are included in the cost.

Participants with special dietary requirements should contact David Brand davidhbrand@icloud.com

The cost is \$49 for Seniors and \$59 for Adults

To Register and pay to join this trip, [click here](#)

JUNE

Monday 21 and Monday 28

(Due to tour number limits)

Tours commences at 10.30am

Defence of Sydney Tour



The Probus activity in June will explore the defences at North Head.

This is an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of men and women who served at North Fort. We will be accompanied by a knowledgeable guide and inspect heritage gun emplacements and descend into the 200metre long military tunnel complex.

Finally, we will enter the once secret Plotting Room which controlled naval shipping in the region during the Second World War.

As the numbers per tour is limited, we have been able to organise two tours. The first tour on Monday 21 June and the second on Monday 28 June. Each tour will take 16 persons so a total of 32 members and guests can attend. Both commence at 10.30am

This tour involves a steep incline and some uneven surfaces, and it is not suitable for wheelchairs. A moderate level of fitness and mobility is required.

Duration of the tour is 90 minutes, metered Parking is available nearby

Lunch is available at an adjacent Bella Vista Café at own expense

Full details will be forwarded to participants prior to the event

To Register to join this tour, [click here](#)

Cost \$10

(This includes a small donation to the volunteers who maintain the facilities)

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](#)

As time is short, if you would like to join this tour, please contact Owen Johnstone-Donnet urgently at – sjr@digitor.com.au

RECENT SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY

Chau Chak Wing Museum



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.

For additional photos of the museum – [click here](#)

MARCH

ANSTO Science Discovery Tour

Report Friday 19 March



Eighteen Sydney Probus members and guests visited the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) at Lucas Heights. We had an excellently guided 3hour tour of the facility, which was established in 1953. It is spread over 70 hectares and has approximately 1200 staff.

ANSTO has a research reactor regarded as one of the world's most effective multi-purpose reactors. It is used for many purposes, including producing approximately 10k nuclear medical vials per week for distribution to Australian hospitals. Amongst the medical research being undertaken is to better understand diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

The Organisation has a range of neutron beam instruments with which research is being undertaken on metal products to identify structural flaws or defects. This is of paramount importance in the aviation and rail sectors. Research is also being undertaken to create more effective hydrogen fuel cells for clean energy systems.

We were very fortunate to have been able to view the particle accelerator that separates out carbon 14 which is used to determine the age of fossils and other things. This enjoyable and interesting tour concluded with lunch in the ANSTO cafeteria.



David Brand

VALE - John Aitken

We have just been notified of the very sad passing of our esteemed Past Treasurer, John Aitken. He passed away on Thursday 18th March. John will be sadly missed by so many members. An obituary will be in the May Newsletter.

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 –

David Brand 0414 908 226

John Carter 0408 612 238

NEW WEBSITE NOW IN OPERATION



Any member who is having difficulty logging into the new website or has not yet received a password, please contact Tony Andrew - tony.andrew@gpa.net.au 0411 424 826

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 limited 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 next 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**

Past Presentations prior to 2018 are now available

To view earlier presentations of Guest Speakers, go to **MEETINGS** on the website

Annual Subscription is due on April 1

To pay your Annual Subscription of \$130, [click here](#) and **log in**

* * * * *

If you have misplaced your password or not yet received one, contact Tony, at the address above.

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

MARCH MEETING REPORT

Zoom cancelled due to internet service disruption

Owing to a disruption of internet services to the UUSC area, the planned Zoom meeting was unfortunately unable to proceed.

Maybe a first for our club?



Ralph Cohen brought his Dad to the March meeting!

Here's a photo of him at our Christmas luncheon!

Life Before Probus

Dr Andrew Dowe



Andrew was educated at Mosman Prep and then Shore and entered medicine in 1955. On graduating in 1961 he became a Medical Officer at Royal North Shore Hospital where he had trained as a student.

Andrew completed his specialist surgical training as an ENT surgeon in the UK. He has English, Edinburgh and Australian Surgical Fellowships. He was appointed an Honorary ENT

Surgeon and later Visiting Medical Officer at RNSH, Camperdown Children's Hospital, Concord Repatriation Hospital and Auburn Hospital. He had practices at St Leonard's and Auburn.

Andrew retired from surgery in 2004 and continued consulting and medico legal work, until quite recently. He worked in the Aboriginal Medical Service and local Aboriginal Settlements in Alice Springs, and under the auspices of the College of Surgeons, consulted and operated in Samoa. He was the Secretary of the ENT Society for a number of years and NSW President for four years.

He has been married to Barbara for 54 years and they have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

Andrew's main interests are painting, golf, bridge, music and travel.

President Adrian Pilton Inducted four New members



Dr Tim Rankine



After schooling in Tamworth and Cranbrook, Tim attended Sydney University as a resident of St Pauls College and graduated in computer science then honours in civil engineering. After a few years consulting, he formed a computer software company Mosaix Technologies Ltd in 1983, later listing it on ASX, and then in 1993, transferred its head office to Silicon Valley, whilst continuing his role as CEO/Chairman from his Sydney home.

In 2001, he retired from MXL to undertake consultancy and director roles, plus study, for which he was awarded a PhD by Western Sydney University for his analysis of software entrepreneurs seeking to grow their business to a larger sustainable

enterprise. He then became a lecturer for the MBA and management programmes at WSU and UTS until retirement in 2015.

This enabled him to devote even more time to golf, including 3 years as Captain of Royal Sydney Golf Club, where he has had a single figure handicap for decades. His enthusiasm has seen him travel extensively, especially in USA, playing at two thirds of the world's top 100 golf courses, and 95 of Australia's top 100. He married Letitia in 1975, and they have 3 children and a grandson

Ted Anderson



Ted obtained his customs agent licence in 1966 and travelled to London meeting his wife Meg on the ship. He returned in 1970 travelling overland by Lambretta to Madras with two colleagues and then from Perth to Sydney via the Nullabor

Ted started his own customs and forwarding business in 1974 with offices in Sydney and Melbourne with many overseas agents.

He held numerous positions with the Customs Agents Institute of Australia including state and federal President. He started a publishing business producing newsletters and software for customs agents.

Ted joined Rotary 20 years ago and was instrumental in introducing scholarships for indigenous medical students, a program that is now Australia wide.

He and Meg have three children and 10 grandchildren. His wide range of interests include tennis, squash, sailing, golf, skiing, cycling, walking, piano, French language and wines, opera, politics and foreign policy.

Anoop Sud



Anoop started his professional career after training and induction into the Information Technology industry at IBM Education Centre, India in 1970 as a Software Programmer

He has lived and worked in many countries around the world including Asia, Africa, North America, Europe and Australia. He retired in 2011 after his last consultancy with St George Bank in Sydney

Anoop lives in a multi-generational family format with three generations living under the one roof. Having worked in so many locations around the world and so many different organisational structures, he has many interesting stories to tell.

Werner Whiteford



Warner has had a lifetime career in musical theatre. He studied overseas principally in Germany and Austria in the 1960's. Subsequently he worked with The Australian Opera for five years and then moved to Sydney Opera House Management in the Publicity Dept.

In 1992 Warner joined ABC Classic FM, where he was involved in Administrative and programming duties. He still does music programming duties with ABC Classic FM

His other interests include the performing and visual arts, especially indigenous arts. He is a member of the Art Gallery of NSW Foundation, loves bushwalking, yoga, swimming.

GUEST SPEAKER

CHARLES AITKEN

The Local and Global Investment Climate



Charlie Aitken last spoke to us almost exactly a year ago just as the stockmarket was crashing in the wake of the realisation of the impact of covid-19 on global business and life. So, his return was very timely in providing a review of that extraordinary 12 months and an assessment of the investment climate both in Australia and globally.

After a period of lockdowns with unprecedented fiscal and monetary support, he described how a normalisation phase is starting to take shape with some confidence arising from the global roll out of highly efficacious vaccines now underway. This phase has seen increased confidence in the health situation, and emerging recovery in non-essential out-of-home economic activity, though at lower levels than pre-crisis.

The next phase is called the New Normal, where hopefully public health is well managed thanks to the vaccine, but many businesses and sectors may struggle while governments seek to wind back the massive support of the last 12 months. Investment questions arising include:

- What behaviours have changed permanently?
- What trends are reinforced/broken?
- What social or geopolitical changes lie ahead?
- What businesses will grow market share or benefit from changes (or both)?

Charles Aitken's Full Summary and Notes are [here](#)



The meeting was conducted by Adrian Pilton, our outgoing President. The Minutes of the 2020 AGM, and the Treasurers Report were adopted, Sean Wareing and Derrick Docherty were elected as auditors for next year and we enjoyed the President's Report [click to read it](#). There were few changes to the incoming Management Committee, Neil Martin joined as

Vice president and David Brand replaced John Carter as Activities Coordinator. Adrian Pilton handed over the Chain of Office to the new President, John Rawson and then we all had morning tea!

A SHORT VISIT TO KAZAKHSTAN by JOHN HYSLOP

A Short Visit to Kazakhstan

“Go to Astana for two weeks, prepare a water supply and sanitation situation report for the country and deliver a draft to ADB (Asian Development Bank) HQ Manila by 22 December [2000].” This was my brief. I left Hong Kong for Frankfurt (12 hrs.), Almaty (7 hrs.) and Astana (1.5 hrs.).



The first thing that went wrong was that the Almaty runway had iced up, the plane was diverted overnight to Tashkent, and I missed the first project meeting in Almaty. I then flew on to Astana, the relatively new capital, although some federal agencies remain in the former capital, Almaty. On arrival in Astana the air temperature was -

36 °C.

The ADB country office was in the Intercontinental Hotel and that is where I stayed for the duration. I was provided with a Russian interpreter, who accompanied me to the first meeting at the local municipal engineering office on the edge of town. Only five minutes into the meeting and their office phone rang. The call was for me. As I looked across at the photo of Lenin on the wall, my caller was a Kazakh research engineer who asked whether he and a Russian design engineer could accompany me to my next meeting at the Ministry of Health. My response: “Of course.”

To read John's fascinating story [click here](#)

Ray Hyslop

"He is making good progress, I felt that he was able to get more words out this time. Jacqui said that he is now doing things like setting the table.

Ray would welcome Probus members calling him".

John Hyslop

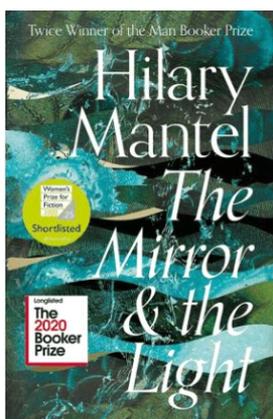
Peter Golding

After an initial improvement because of proper nutrition when he returned home, Peter's health has steadily declined. This was expected because at his age treating advanced cancer was not a sensible option, the aim has been to manage the symptoms. He is still able to walk around but has not been out for a week. A nurse comes each weekday morning to assist him, and he has been well supported by his GP and other health professionals. The plan is to keep him at home until he needs two people to manage his care. Sad, but he says, accurately, "I am a very old man".

Denise Playoust dplayoust@bigpond.com

TWO BOOK REVIEWS

[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.

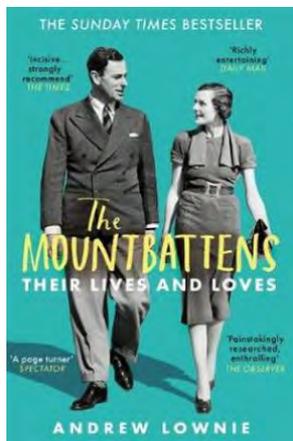
Even if you have not read the first two massive volumes, you can still enjoy this one – as there are plenty of flashbacks.

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

[The Mountbattens by Andrew Lownie](#)



I would judge this book to be a modest success. Its purpose is to tell us what sort of people the Mountbattens were and how they spent their lives. The author gives much detail, the story is complete, and it is clearly written. But it is superficial, non-judgemental, descriptive and lacks analysis. The author lacks curiosity and too many questions remain unanswered.

By the time I had finished I was sick of the Mountbattens. Until the war she devoted her life to a social round which included constant travel. She neglected her children and was constantly and publicly unfaithful. She probably had grounds for dissatisfaction with her marriage, but a dignified separation would have been a reasonable solution. She probably stayed because of the access to royalty that the marriage provided. He was capable of hard work, was not unintelligent but without intellectual capacity, was devious and untrustworthy. He was very ambitious but spent most of his career well above his pay level. His career depended on his connections which he consistently exploited. He was not happy with his marriage but did nothing about it. I suspect he did so for the money. It was a marriage of inconvenience.

I do not blame Mountbatten for the tragedy of Partition. The situation was beyond solution by the time he arrived, and his incompetence was irrelevant. One could surmise that the British Government threw him under a bus, except that, they later made him First Lord.

Mountbatten was in the navy as a full-time officer yet seemed to take a lot of time off to travel and socialise with his friends. The privilege he enjoyed was truly remarkable. His wife enjoyed similar treatment when she held senior positions during the war. She spent her time travelling, visiting the troops. I would like to know who, back in head office, was actually running the show?

I said the book lacked analysis. For instance, how did they arrange their finances, why did they stay together, who covered for them during absences from work, did George VI and Elizabeth really approve of them, was his relationship with Windsor a problem and did nobody raise questions about his competence when he was proposed as First Lord?

In spite of these questions, I found the book interesting and enjoyable.

Terry Young

CALLING ALL MEMBERS OVER 70!



**ARE YOU OVER 70?
DO YOU LIVE IN NEW SOUTH WALES?**

We are looking for witty and wise older adults who would like to appear in an exciting, new global television series about how to live better for longer.

Produced by award-winning, international television production company **Nutopia**. This series will be a landmark in documentary filmmaking and will be filmed in New South Wales soon.

If this excites you or you know someone who would be perfect for the series, we'd love to hear from you so we can tell you more about it.

**Please email or call the producers at CastingAustralia@nutopia.com
Natasha- 0455 104 921 or Taylor- 0492 207 461**

JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED 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 – YOU’LL LOVE HER!



<http://bit.ly/3beVF6G>

Be sure to turn on the sound in the lower right corner before you run it

Two young things were at their grandfather’s funeral.
One of them asked “Do you know what his last words were?”.
Yes, said the other, they were “Which one of you is holding the ladder?”

* * * * *

Frank Layden, Utah Jazz president, on a former player:
I asked him, 'Son, what is it with you? Is it ignorance or apathy?'
He said, 'Coach, I don't know, and I don't care.'

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 MAN’S NAME?



Send your answer to

newsletter@sydneyprobus.org

**Members with correct answers will receive
recognition in the next Newsletter**

Congratulations to

***The only member who identified Grace Tame
(Australian of the Year!)***

Wayne Jones!

HEY, MEMBERS WHERE ARE YOU, MORE CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE!

Please contact the Editor, Tony Andrew!

newsletter@sydneyprobus.org

0411 424 826