



# Probis Club of Sydney

[www.sydneyprobis.org](http://www.sydneyprobis.org)

## Newsletter

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

### May 2021

Issue 431

#### MEETING DATES

May 4

DR JOHN HEWSON AM  
2021-An Even More Challenging  
Year?

June 1

JILLIAN BROADBENT AC  
The Fun of Diversity

#### ACTIVITIES

May Friday 21

Riverboat Postman

June Monday 21 and 28

Tour the Defences on North Head

#### BRIEF MEMBER BIO

Please submit a short bio  
for the Member Directory  
*See inside*

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Social Activities

Level Entry to the UUSC

New Website

General Meeting Report

Book Review

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### *Gentlemen*

The April meeting was a great success with 76 members in attendance and 43 staying for lunch. Meeting in the dining room gives a better line of sight and more open space. And now being able to mingle at last means that we can enjoy some social fellowship at meetings, which of course is one of the reasons why Probis clubs exist. The COVID outlook seems promising so hopefully we are returning to a more normal environment for meetings from now on.

We still ask members to register for meetings and social events through the website. For social events the registration has to go through the members only section of the website, so you have to log in to do that and payments are easily facilitated. You can also register via the direct links in the Newsletter.

We have a number of events coming up and an excellent speaker again for the May meeting in Dr John Hewson AM so please register and come along.

Sadly, as reported earlier we lost two stalwart members in the last month. A celebration of John Aitken's life was held at Royal Sydney Golf Club on Wednesday 7 April and a service for Peter Golding was held at St Therese Church Mosman on Monday 12 April.

Finally, please join the many members who have already responded to the request for a brief personal bio to be added to the Member Directory on the website. There is more information in the Newsletter.

#### **John Rawson**

President

**Note – Covid guidelines, Registration required!**

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

**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](#)

**JUNE 1**

**JILLIAN BROADBENT AC**



*The Fun of Diversity, as an enthusiast and participant*

Jillian Broadbent has had a career across the Australian business, public and arts sectors. She serves on the board of Macquarie Group Limited and has recently completed an 11 year term as Chancellor of the University of Wollongong and

9 years on the Board of Woolworths Limited.

She was 15 years on the board of the Reserve Bank of Australia, the inaugural Chair of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and has served as Chair of the board of Swiss Re Life and Health Australia Limited, and as a director on the boards of ASX Limited, Special Broadcasting Corporation (SBS), Qantas Airways Limited, Westfield Property Trusts, Woodside Petroleum Limited and Coca-Cola Amatil Limited.

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

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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

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**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, all are included in the cost.

Participants with special dietary requirements should contact David Brand [davidhbrand@icloud.com](mailto:davidhbrand@icloud.com)

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

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

**You will need your password to book. If you have misplaced your password or not yet received one, please contact –**

Tony Andrew - [tony.andrew@gpa.net.au](mailto:tony.andrew@gpa.net.au) 0411 424 826

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## **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)

## **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](mailto: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

## **LEVEL ACCESS TO THE UNION, UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOLS CLUB**

The UUSC provides an alternative entry to the club that is completely level for members and guests who find it difficult using the stairs leading into the main entrance. The alternative entry is ideal for members using walking aids or even wheelchairs.

The entry is from Bligh Street. It is the very first driveway on the left adjacent to 2 Bligh Street, approximately 60 meters from the corner of Bent and Bligh Street. It is possible to drive into the basement level of the club and dropped off and picked up. Once in the carpark it is a short and level distance to the entry and the lifts to all floors of the club.

If you are planning to take advantage of this facility it is essential to make arrangements with the Club in advance by telephoning the UUSC Reception on (02) 9232 8266.

For further information, please contact our Club Services Committeeman, Robert Warburton on [robertfwarburton@gmail.com](mailto:robertfwarburton@gmail.com) or 0411 478 767

## NEW WEBSITE INFORMATION



**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](mailto: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' or just click [here](#)

### **How to Register for a Meeting**

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

### **The screen appears to go blank white**

Some members have been having difficulty scroll to the foot of pages. This has been corrected, but on certain pages there is white space, so please scroll up or down if your page appears to go blank white. There are a few ways to scroll -

- 1 Use the scroll wheel or scroll function on your mouse (usually works best!)
- 2 Scroll with 2 fingers on your trackpad (if you have one)
- 3 Use the side bars.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

### Life Before Probus

#### Darcy Wentworth



Darcy told us of his early days in the mining industry working underground in the mines at Cobar and Blackwater in Queensland. He subsequently became a mine manager and then moved onto CSR where he was the manager of their group of mines.

Later in life he developed a keen interest in renewable energy and studied at the UNSW where he became a part time lecturer in renewable energy. Darcy has a particular interest in Electric vehicles.

### President John Rawson inducted three New members

#### Don Katauskas



Don came to Australia from Lithuania as a post-war immigrant. After a period in Bathurst Refugee Camp, he settled in Canberra. He was awarded Bachelor of Engineering from Sydney University and a Masters in Geotechnical Engineering from the University of Western Ontario, Canada.

For more than 50 years he worked as a geotechnical engineer around the world including Canada, Central America, South Korea and Australia. He finally set up his own consultancy in Sydney from which he is now mostly retired.

He is married to Jennifer and has 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren. He enjoys travel, reading, food and wine.

## John Fitzpatrick



After doing arts/law, then Master of Business Law and Master of Health Law, all at Sydney Uni, John was awarded a Master of Law at UTS.

He then worked for the Corporate Affairs Commission but switched to life as corporate lawyer for Tooth Brewery who also owned Penfolds Wines. After CUB took over, he changed to become General Counsel of Email, which later became Electrolux, who remained a long-term client after he switched to private practice. After partnerships at Norton Smith, then Middletons, in 2006 he established a city firm called Sydney Legal Advisers.

John married Jo 48 years ago, and they have 3 children. Jo was a high school and adult education teacher until retirement 3 years ago.

Aside from being a very keen and talented golfer, he has been a keen runner, including 41 City2 Surfs, but these days he and Jo find skiing and bushwalking more suited to mature joints and muscles. They have been very active travellers overseas

## Stuart Murray



Stuart was born and raised in Roseville Sydney. After a 5year apprenticeship in the printing industry he graduated with a Business degree in accounting from the UTS. He has spent his working life running the family typesetting and graphic design business which he has now sold and subsequently retired.

He is married to Carol with whom he has 2 daughters who have both married Englishmen and live in London with the 3 grandchildren. Stuart and Carol visit their family in London and normally spend about 4 months each year in their London apartment.

Stuart's interests are golf, sport in general, gardening and travel. He belongs to Killara and Avondale golf clubs as well as the Australian Turf Club and Ascot Race Club in England.

## GUEST SPEAKER

### CHRIS MASTERS



Chris reflected on his distinguished career in the media that has spanned 45 years.

He was thankful for the broad training and foundation values of decency and honesty, that were learnt in his first posting for the ABC at Albury and other regional centres. He also drew on the guidance of his mother, who was also a country reporter, who believed that one should report



the facts, then let the readership make up their minds about what matters. This, and the importance of independent press, contrasts too often with common modern media focus on unchecked statements/opinion, “narrowcasting” rather than broadcasting.

His child’s ill-health necessitated a move to Sydney. He joined Four Corners where he became the longest serving reporter spanning 26 years. Among the numerous far-reaching investigations covered there, his talk focused on corruption, and especially on the “Moonlight State” report which led to the Fitzgerald Inquiry into corruption within the Qld Police and Government. He referred to the modern scientific investigations and policing methods now in place, contrasting with the influence of some key corrupt officers and politicians over 20 years ago.

He drew on his many visits to battlefields in Vietnam, Timor, Rwanda and Afghanistan. He expressed pride in Australia’s war history, with recent generations of our forces doing fine jobs in difficult and dangerous circumstances. In peace keeping roles they are like diplomats and social workers, showing courageous restraint to endeavour to win the hearts and minds of the local communities. Unfortunately, serious misconduct has allegedly occurred, called out by decent honest soldiers. Though these alleged war crimes are very uncomfortable, he commended the Australian Government and ADF leadership for being prepared to do the decent thing to uphold the principles on which our military history is based and on which we can be so proud. For those looking for more detail, read his book “No Front Line”, published by Allen & Unwin

## VALE

### **John Napier Aitken**

(18.5.1937 - 18.3.2021)

John was educated at Sydney Grammar. He became a chartered accountant working with David Fell & Co and then Troup Harwood before starting in investment management with International Pacific which later became Rothschild Australia. He established the fund management business of Perpetual Trustees where he worked for nearly 20 years and subsequently managed funds for the Vincent Fairfax family. He was a member of Royal Sydney Golf Club for 65 years, his mother was a member for 75 years and his wife, who was a member for 48 years, became Lady Captain. He was a cricket tragic. In our Club he was a member for 5 years, three of which he served as Treasurer. He was a very regular attender at meetings and functions and his friendly cheerful manner will be sorely missed.

## MEMBER BIOS ARE NOW IN THE MEMBER DIRECTORY

Your Committee has decided to enhance the Welcome our club offers to New Members by requesting existing members to add a brief bio to their entry in the Member Directory. This is a region of the website that is entirely confidential to members.

This will enable New Members to quickly identify members with similar backgrounds and interests so they will find it easier to initiate conversations and establish links at meetings, luncheons and activities. Members will also learn about New Members joining our club

### **Please Take a Few Minutes Today!**

Our aim is for every member to have a brief bio in the Member Directory.

Thank you to the many members who have already responded to the broadcast email.

### **Guidelines for Member Bio** (approximately 200 words please!)

Career highlights – Vocation and interesting work locations

Education – especially Tertiary and Postgraduate

Major activities since retirement – especially anything unusual

Main hobbies and interests -

Family outline -

Something that has happened in your life that might surprise members!

Email it to [tony.andrew@gpa.net.au](mailto:tony.andrew@gpa.net.au) who will post it on your Member Profile where you may edit it at any time.

## OUR ITALIAN HOLIDAY STARTED IN SOLOMEO by JOHN HYSLOP

### **From Solomeo (Umbria) to the Senate in Rome**



*The Cucinelli Factory*

Detailed planning for our 2017 two-month trip around northern Italy was well advanced when I read a fascinating article about a high-quality clothing manufacture in *The Economist* magazine '1843': "The philosopher king Brunello Cucinelli takes as much care over his workers as his clothes. Luke Leitch visits a model factory in the heart of Umbria." So, I said, "why don't we visit Solomeo? it's near Perugia".

It was quite simple to incorporate tiny Solomeo into our itinerary and we booked AirBnb farm-type accommodation on the outskirts of the village for a week. But arriving there wasn't so simple as our GPS destination terminated in bramble bushes on the edge of an olive grove. After a phone call to our host, we were met outside the church and easily arrived at our destination.

The following day we returned to the church, wandered around the town square and narrow streets, and visited Cucinelli's showroom. We were full of admiration for the beautifully designed and tailored luxurious cashmere - unfortunately well beyond our price range. Every detail of the showroom is impeccably designed and executed. The attention to quality and detail continues throughout the village including a wonderful concert hall and library donated by Cucinelli. Around 3,000 people in the surrounding area work for the company, which has established specialised training schools there. The company has 106 "retail stores around the world located in the most exclusive shopping streets." My memory of Cucinelli's background is that his earlier interest in studying engineering dissipated, and he turned to an interest in philosophy while contemplating in bars.



And one thing led to another . . . . Rome!

*Something borrowed, something blue!*

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

## SICK BAY

### Ray Hyslop

I visited Ray on Thursday, 8th April, for a good hour, at the Rehabilitation and Aged Care facility, Wallarah Point Care Community, 149 Main Rd, Toukley. The facility is open, light and airy, with views over Tuggerah and Budgewoi lakes.

Ray and I chatted in his room for most of the time, both of us sitting in comfortable chairs. Discussion was humorous and wide-ranging, the Probus Club, Australian Club, an odd medical reference to mutual friends and events, and his family.

Ray spoke well, commenting about a bit of forgetfulness of the right words, not reading too well, but TV is OK. His right arm is not so useful, but right leg was good. He walked, unaided, in leading me to the Community recreation area and outside verandah.

Ray was certainly aware of the clock, because, at quarter to twelve he went to his cupboard, retrieved shoes and socks and asked me to help to put them on for his floor walking with me, and the later external visit.

He is progressing.

### John Doherty

There are a couple of ways to contact Ray. He has a direct line in his room, but he can also be contacted via the nurses' station and they will be able to track him down. He would love to hear from members.

Contact details are:

Wallarah Point Care Community  
153 Main Road  
Toukley  
NSW 2263

Direct line: +61 (02) 4397 6342

Nurses station: +62 (02) 4397 6100 (extn Mannering)

## BOOK REVIEW

### **A Room Made of Leaves by Kate Grenville (2020): 317 pages**



Supporters of Governor Bligh, other opponents of John Macarthur and feminists will love this book. Others may not be so happy. But worth reading for the beauty of the writing, although do not expect to meet Bligh, or any other governor (except Phillip) within its pages.

The book is told through the eyes of Elizabeth Macarthur as the long-suffering wife of John. However, in my view historical accuracy is not allowed to stand in the way of a good tale; the story of Elizabeth from birth in 1766 until her death in 1850. We are transported in detail from her early life in Devon, through marriage to John, long voyage to Australia and the early years of the first settlement. Only the last section of the book deals with Parramatta and sheep – so don't be disappointed.

The problem with historical fiction is that the author is dealing with real people, about whom much has been written and who themselves have left records. Without recourse to the history books and factual sources, it is difficult to gauge the accuracy of her treatment of John Macarthur, William Dawes and Capt Tench. Only Dawes comes out well. In this book, the only good things about John Macarthur are his enforced absences overseas. On the other hand, Elizabeth is painted like a Jane Austen heroine (think Elizabeth Bennett) but even smarter and more 21st-century.

However, the descriptions of the early settlement, scenery and aborigines are vivid and memorable – as you would expect from the author of *The Secret River* and other books. She has obviously done considerable research – but was John Macarthur as bad as he is painted? If nothing else the book will make some of us reach for the history book – while enjoying the writing and colour.

To what extent is it fair to require historical fiction to be accurate or reasonably accurate?

**David Castle**

## Scottish Policeman Apologising



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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

### **AWFUL JOKES!**

A jumper cable walks into a bar. The barman says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

Two antennas meet on a roof, fall in love and get married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was great.

Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other, "Does this taste funny to you?"

A man takes his Rottweiler to the vet and says, "My dog is cross-eyed. Is there anything you can do for him?"

"Well," says the vet, "let's have a look at him." So, he picks the dog up and examines his eyes, checks his teeth, etc. Finally, he says, "I'm going to have to put him down."

"What? Just because he's cross-eyed???"

"No, because he's really, really heavy."

## 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 MAN'S NAME?



Send your answer to

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

Members with correct answers will receive  
recognition in the next Newsletter

*Many members identified **Mathias Cormann!***

***Congratulations to -***

David Brand, Frank Barr-David, Peter James, Robert Wilson, Wayne Jones, Alastair Brown, John Doherty and Ralph Cohen

## CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS ARE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED!

Please contact the Editor, Adrian Pilton!

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

0421 236 750