



Probus Club of Sydney

www.sydneyprobus.org

Newsletter

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June 2021

Issue 432

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JILLIAN BROADBENT AC

The Fun of Diversity

July 6

KIM OATES AO

Errors in Health Care

August 3

LIZ ANN MACGREGOR

ACTIVITIES

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July 19

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AGNSW

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen

Thank you to those who stood in for me at the May meeting. I am now almost fully recovered from a severe sinus infection that resulted in two short hospital stays etc. I now have huge respect for those who suffer sinusitis on a regular basis. By all reports the May meeting with John Hewson was a cracker and there was a very good roll up (74 members and 5 guests).

Peter James, our hard-working speaker organiser, keeps coming up with the goods and the June meeting with Jillian Broadbent should also be very hard to beat.

Please register yourself and any guests if you are coming. This is part of the COVID 19 safety procedures, but also enables the UUSC Club to provide enough seats, morning teas etc. If you have any problems in registering just contact Tony Andrew on 0411424826 who will guide you through the process.

Unfortunately, in May we lost a further two members, Michael Gracey and Warwick Mayne-Wilson, who had both been unwell for some time.

John Rawson

President

Note

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

JUNE GUEST SPEAKER

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.

JULY 6

PROFESSOR KIM OATES AO

Errors in health Care: Why they occur and your role in making your own healthcare safer

Kim Oates has had a 50-year career in paediatrics. A general paediatrician, he has long-standing clinical and research interests in child development, child behaviour and child abuse. He is internationally recognised as a child advocate, particularly with regard to his pioneering research in child protection and as a clinician, researcher, teacher and administrator.

He has held various positions at the Children's Hospital (first at Camperdown and then at Westmead) including Head of Community Paediatrics, Head of Child Protection, Head of Child Development, Head of Children's Assessment Centre, Director of Medical Services and Chief Executive.

In 2020 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia.

AUGUST 3

LIZ ANN MACGREGOR, Director MCA

We are fortunate to have arranged for Liz Ann Macgregor talk to us before she leaves Australia to return to the UK.

* * * * *

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 will be held in October. Details to follow.

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

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

MAY MEETING REPORT

Due to John Rawson's illness, the meeting was chaired by Vice president Neil Martin.

Life Before Probus

Noel Dan



Noel told us about his career in medicine and neurosurgery in particular. Following his education at Sydney University he gained experience and further qualifications in Scotland before he returned to Australia to train as a neurosurgeon at St Vincents. By a fortunate coincidence he was offered a senior role as a neurologist at Concord Hospital where he stayed for 36 years. He had opportunities which he would

not have received at St Vincents including working with military veterans. He is now retired and stopped operating a decade ago but he is gratified to still receive referrals for veterans from the hospital which gives him an opportunity to assist those who need help to apply for military pensions and the like.

He told us how he played a small role in the introduction of CAT scans in NSW when radiologists at St Vincents thought that they were just a passing phase! Neurologists and neurosurgeons therefore decided to purchase and use the machines. Neurosurgery has been greatly helped by the introduction of MRI.

Acting President Neil inducts Ian Rodwell AO



Acting President Neil inducted Ian Rodwell AO into the club. Ian was born and educated in Melbourne but has lived in Sydney since 1970. He has worked for a number of companies including Unilever Australia, Hunter Douglas and Neville Jeffress Advertising. In 1978 he personally established Adcorp Australia with offices throughout Australia and New Zealand.

He remains the majority shareholder and Chairman. The company has now diversified into market communications, video and film production with sales to Netflix. He has been active in a number of philanthropic entities such as Diabetes Research Australia and MND Australia (Motor Neurine Disease). He is married to Susan and has 3 daughters and 7 grandchildren. He is still trying to master golf!

GUEST SPEAKER

DR JOHN HEWSON AM



Drawing on his wide experience in economic policy, government policy, and politics, Dr Hewson addressed the challenges facing Australia. He eloquently argued that the large challenges at this time are as great as at any time in the past half century, while forecasting is harder. However, too often governments focus on the short term, seldom looking beyond tomorrow's headline or the next election. Rarely is there more than lip-service to programmes for 10 years out or longer.

Recently (especially under Covid), some of the traditional economic theories have not worked:

- The link between money, liquidity and inflation, with last refusing to rise
- The link between inflation and unemployment
- Negative interest rate was thought impossible, and negligible rates inconceivable

Policies have been too often poorly thought through, or too aligned to small interest groups or political supporters, rather than for the overall health of the economy. He noted President Trump delivered very few election promises, but one that he did implement, namely greatly reduce corporate tax rate, in fact boosted dividends, but had minimal impact on stimulating spending and hence job creation.

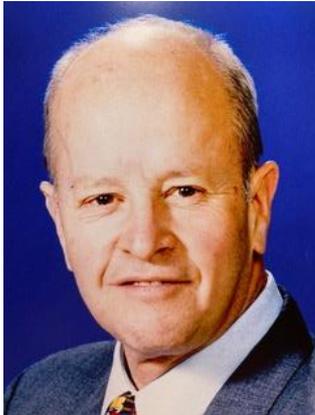
The Covid pandemic has been notable for government's "learning by doing" on the run, albeit with the future outlook unclear, including of vaccine effectiveness against mutations, long term consequences of taking vaccines, etc. There have been positive impacts, including major changes of behaviour (health awareness/care, hand-washing, zoom, travel reduction, workplace flexibility, public transport), that show how quickly people can change.

The Australian Government was a continuing theme. Notwithstanding the need for short term measures like Job-keeper, he compared the people's preparedness to change in the face of the pandemic, with Australian Government's unwillingness to change in many respects. He bemoaned the lack of strategic thinking by Government, with short term focus on the issues of today/tomorrow, but with reluctance to address long term issues like climate change, aged care, tax reform, etc. The Government and Opposition both look to score short term points. He indicated there is a lot of scare, but not enough substance.

China is a key challenge now, with lack of communication at inter-government level, so it can be difficult for each side to understand the thinking of the other. The need to communicate is fundamental for good stable relations, and short term announcements made to a domestic audience can lead to serious misunderstandings. Many critical issues were referred to in relation to China (US relations, Uyghurs/human rights, Wuhan, Huawei, Vic belt/road, Taiwan).

Dr Hewson also answered many questions covering immigration, universities, parliamentary term, China etc. We gained an appreciation of his clear thinking and frankness in covering such a comprehensive overview of the policy challenges facing Australia, and the need for long term vision in policy settings and communication in international relationships.

Prof Michael Gracey AO Aged 81



Michael had a remarkable career in medicine after graduating from Sydney in 1962. He worked as a paediatrician and in research into child health in many parts of the world including New Guinea, the UK and several countries in Asia. He took a particular interest in the International Paediatric Association where he eventually rose to President in 1998, being the only Australian to achieve that position. He was always very interested in indigenous health issues and lived and working in remote aboriginal communities in WA. He became the first inaugural professor of aboriginal Health in Australia in 1997, an appointment at Curtin University. He was based in Perth for many years, only returning to Sydney after an absence of 50 years. He was awarded an AO in 2001. He joined the Probus Club in 2014. Vale Michael.

Warwick Mayne-Wilson Aged 84



Warwick Mayne-Wilson's passed away on 25 April 2021 from cancer. He had two distinct careers – firstly as diplomat with the Department of Foreign Affairs for 27 years where he had 6 overseas postings, the last being as High Commissioner to Sri Lanka. In 1985 he resigned from the Department to study landscape architecture and subsequently commenced a new career as a heritage landscape architect.

Warwick has produced numerous heritage studies and conservation plans on historic landscapes, streetscapes, parks and gardens, and defence establishments in NSW. He has also recorded and assessed many dry stone walls, ocean rock baths, and geological formations around Sydney. Most recently he has specialised in heritage impact assessments. Four of his projects have won awards. He is the author of many articles and lectures on these and related topics (including curtilages), as well as his recent book *Town Parks of New South Wales – Past Present and Future*.

He also was an enthusiastic member of the University of the Third Age (U3A) and latterly served as president of the eastern region. He was steady and reliable, a good communicator and a significant contributor to U3A's program of talks.

He was always gracious and if things ever got him down, he admitted it, had a glass of red wine and told himself 'Tomorrow is a new day'.

VISIT TO HARS

On Friday 30 April, 29 members and guests visited the HARS Aviation Museum at Albion Park.

The day was enjoyed by all as we were able to view up close various famous military and civilian aircraft. A highlight included walking through the QANTAS Jumbo which has the record of the longest non-stop flight – London to Sydney- 20 hours in 1989 and the shortest flight- 11 minutes – Sydney to Albion Park in 2015. This is the closest we have been to an overseas jet for a long time and who knows when we will be flying overseas again.



Another highlight was walking through the 1955 Super Constellation which was the most advanced passenger plane in its day- even if it took 55 hours to go from Sydney to London with 7 stops.

Other very interesting exhibits included an F 111, Neptune maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine aircraft, Mirage jet and a Catalina Flying boat.

The volunteers at HARS, many of whom are ex Qantas or RAAF pilots, are still able to fly some of the aircraft. On ANZAC this year 6 of the aircraft, including the Super Constellation, a Neptune, DC3s and a Caribou conducted flyovers of ANZAC Day ceremonies in the Illawarra District.

At the conclusion of the tour, we had an enjoyable lunch in the Connie Café.

David Brand

IMPORTANT WEBSITE INFORMATION

Guest Bookings for Activities

Checking 'My event registrations' in your profile, does not show guests. To check guest registrations, hover your pointer over the registration (in the example red box area below) and click 'View registration details'.

North Head Defences Tour 1 21 Jun 2021 10:30 AM	Hover here until text appears then click for details	Member \$10.00
From Alumni to Associates	View registration details	

Sydney Probus details available on your Mobile Phone

'Wild Apricot - for members'

Download this useful free App from the App Store on your Android or Apple phone to view the following information, make or confirm Registrations for Events and more!



- Meeting dates and Guest Speaker event details
- Activity events with full details
- Meetings and Activities register, make payments and view participants
- Member's details in the Member Directory one touch
- mobile number and email address
- You will need your Sydney Probus password

[Paying online using the PayPal Gateway without joining PayPal](#)

There is no need to join PayPal when paying online at Sydney Probus!

Simple step by step guidelines are now listed on the Notice Board in the Members Area of the website. A Visa, a Mastercard or similar is all you need. PayPal will ask if you would like to join, but there is no requirement to, just follow the guidelines to have an automatic receipt sent promptly by email. [Click here to view the guidelines.](#)

SICK BAY

Ray Hyslop

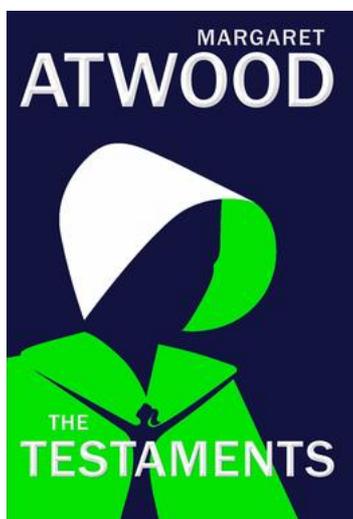
Ray's daughter Serena advises that he is settling in well with Wallarah Point Care Community, getting involved in activities and finding the best places to sit to enjoy the morning sun. She says that 'we went out for lunch at Murray's Beach and meandered around Lake Macquarie.



Current Covid restrictions mean that he can only have two visitors per day and masks need to be worn. Also note that you must have had the current flu vaccination and provide proof before you can enter the community. If you plan to visit in the next couple of weeks please let Serena know so that she can keep a calendar of visitors so no one has to be turned away.

BOOK REVIEW

The Testaments by Margaret Atwood – 2019 (415 pages)



Co- winner of the Booker prize in 2019, it should be of particular interest to those who enjoyed the Handmaid's Tale and the various TV series. It answers many of the questions left hanging including: origins and end of Gilead and what happened to some of the characters.

In my opinion, Atwood is up there with some of the best writers in the English language, including Hilary Mantel. It is hard to believe that Handmaid was first published in 1985, as it seems to have been on the TV

forever. Apparently, Testaments arose from the questions and comments posed by readers in the intervening years.

While Gilead is a dystopia to rival 1984, some of its misogyny, extremism and religious fanaticism unfortunately ring true today. Think the Taliban, radical Muslimism and what apparently is happening to the Uyghurs.

Despite the somewhat clunky format of written testaments by three different authors, it moves at a relatively fast pace and is never less than entertaining.

Highly commended for those who like Atwood, Handmaid, dystopias or just good imaginative writing.

David Castle

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR!

Some culture for a change (with thanks to Frank Barr-David)!



Click on the link below to run the video:

<https://youtu.be/6OnZNCNPc0>

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

Some words of Wisdom shared by David Greatorex

- Why did kamikaze pilots wear helmets? – Al McGuire
- The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits. – Albert Einstein
- War is God's way of teaching Americans geography. – Ambrose Bierce

- It would be nice to spend billions on schools and roads, but right now that money is desperately needed for political ads. – Andy Borowitz
- At every party there are two kinds of people – those who want to go home and those who don't. The trouble is, they are usually married to each other. – Ann Landers
- The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us. – Bill Watterson
- Never under any circumstances take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night. – Dave Barry
- If you live to be one hundred, you've got it made. Very few people die past that age. – George Burns

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



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

*Last month nobody identified Scott Morrison!
Hopefully this month will be easier!*