



# Probus Club of Sydney

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## Newsletter

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NOVEMBER 2021

Issue 437

### MEETING DATES

November 9

PETER DOHERTY AC

Interview with the Nobel Laureate

7 December

KIM OATES AO

'Errors in health care:

Why they occur and your role

In making your own healthcare  
Safer'

### ACTIVITIES

14 December: Christmas lunch  
Dunbar House

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Who is this person?

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Gentlemen,*

I trust that you are all enjoying new-found freedom ex lockdowns and catching up with family and friends for the first time in months. I certainly am.

Our November meeting, with Nobel Laureate Peter Docherty joining us from Melbourne as speaker, will again be via Zoom. We have been asked to send questions for Peter to address in his talk to John Carter ([jcarter@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jcarter@bigpond.net.au)) so please get them to him.

We do hope to be able to have our first face-to-face meeting in 6 months back at the UUSC in December. Please also reserve the date of the Xmas lunch at Dunbar House, 14th December, which we are very hopeful will proceed. This is a highlight of our calendar and of course a good opportunity to bring along partners.

*John Rawson*

President

### Note

**The November meeting will be held on Zoom. To join the meeting click the following link:**

<https://bit.ly/3Cm6gt3>

## FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS

NOVEMBER 9 [NB 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday]

### PETER DOHERTY AC, NOBEL LAUREATE

**NOTE:** *The format of this meeting will be different from the norm. It will involve Peter Doherty being interviewed on Zoom from his Melbourne lab office by John Carter, who will assemble questions submitted in advance by members. Please send questions or areas you would like addressed to [jcarter@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jcarter@bigpond.net.au) before 6th November.*



Peter Doherty is an Australian immunologist and pathologist who, with Rolf Zinkernagel of Switzerland, received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1996 for their discovery of how the body's immune system distinguishes virus-infected cells from normal cells. He was the first veterinarian to win a Nobel prize.

After graduating in Veterinary Science from the University of Queensland, he moved to Scotland, where was awarded a PhD by the University of Edinburgh Medical School. After leading a research group at the Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, and teaching at the University of Pennsylvania (1975–82), Peter headed the department of experimental pathology at the John Curtin School of Medical Research in Canberra (1982–88) and served as chairman (1988–2001) of the department of immunology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. In 2002, he joined the faculty of medicine at the University of Melbourne, and from 2014, has been at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, a joint venture between the university and the Royal Melbourne Hospital,

In addition to the Nobel Prize, Peter also shared the Paul Ehrlich Prize (Germany), the Gairdner International Award (Canada), and the Lasker Award for Basic Science (USA) with Rolf Zinkernagel. He is a Fellow, or Foreign Associate, of the Australian, UK, US, and Russian Academies of Science, and the French, US, UK and Australian Academies of Medicine. He is also a Fellow of numerous professional societies, has been awarded more than 20 Honorary Doctorates and has published some 500 research papers and reviews. His h-index is 81 (*Editor: look it up!*).

He was Australian of the Year and received a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1997, is listed as a living National Treasure, had his face on a postage stamp, and has research fellowships, a street and two buildings (in Edinburgh and Melbourne) named after him.

He is the author of many books, including *The Beginner's Guide to Winning the Nobel Prize: A Life in Science* (2005), *Sentinel Chickens: What Birds Tell Us About Our Health*

and the World (2012) *The Knowledge Wars* (2015), *The Incidental Tourist* (2018) and most recently *An Insider's Plague Year* 2021)

## DECEMBER 7

### PROFESSOR KIM OATES AO

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



Kim Oates AO MD DSc MHP FRACP FRCP FAFPHM FRACMA spent 12 years with the University of Sydney as the Foundation Douglas Burrows Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, a position he held simultaneously with Chair, Division of Medicine at the Hospital, then became the hospital CEO in 1997.

A general paediatrician, he has long-standing clinical and research interests in child development, child behaviour, and child protection. Throughout 1993 he was Director of the Kempe National Centre for

the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect in the USA.

He has received numerous national and international awards and named lectureships, including the Sydney University Alumni Award for community service and The Howard Williams Medal for "Outstanding contributions to Paediatrics and Child Health in Australasia", as well as the Brandt Steele and Kempe awards from the USA, the first time these have ever been awarded to a non-US citizen. He received an honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Western Sydney. He has written 15 books and over 300 published articles.

When Chief Executive of the Children's Hospital at Westmead he developed a passion for patient safety and now teaches on this subject nationally and internationally. Until 2019 he led Undergraduate Quality and Safety at the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission, teaching in five medical schools about how doctors can work more safely to reduce patient harm. He established the Australian Academy for Emerging Leaders in Patient Safety, is an expert advisor to International Society for Quality in Health Care and one of 30 elected Founding Fellows of that Society. The Vietnamese government awarded him The Peoples Health Medal for his contributions to health in Vietnam.

He has been married to Robyn for over 50 years. They have 3 children and 9 grandchildren. In spare moments Kim acts in community theatre (but he says thankfully he doesn't sing!) and kayaks on Sydney harbour.

*Any suggestions from members of possible speakers would be much appreciated. Please pass to Peter James at [speakersprogram@sydneyprobus.org](mailto:speakersprogram@sydneyprobus.org)*

### Life Before Probus

#### ANOOP SUD



Anoop started his career with a Masters degree in mathematics but after training with IBM in India he became a Computer Software Developer. He lived and worked on five continents – missing out only on Antarctica and North and South America. He migrated to Australia in 2010 because his sons were already Australian citizens.

Prior to that he had worked for the United Nations Development Program which involved him working in 11 countries including Togo in Western Africa. He has developed and implemented a myriad of different IT software solutions to numerous requirements including a Piggery-Farm, Open-Cast Mining (the world's biggest mine in Zambia), Infra-Red-Cameras, Airlines Aircraft Maintenance (SAS) and Banking (SWIFT). His last consulting assignment was in 2010-2011 for St George Bank, Sydney where he managed the assignment for the entire movement of the St George Bank ATMs and EFTPOS from their Server to that of the Westpac bank.

Coming to Australia was a major culture shock for Anoop! Whilst we in Australia tend to downsize as we get older, in India they upsize and he now lives in a multi-generational family setting with his two sons and their families!

Since retirement he has been involved with the Council on the Ageing (COTA) NSW, Voices for Power, North-West Caucus and the Sydney Alliance.

His main hobbies and interests are walking, keeping abreast with technology and earning Money-from-Money.

## STORY TIME

### Chris Wokes



Chris Wokes told us a story of his experience in cattle and the meat industry. Fittingly he was speaking to us from his property on the Patterson River.

There are four types of cattle farming – commercial herds (which is most what most cattle farmers do), high end breeding studs (an Angus bull recently sold for \$280,000), steer fattening and dairy farming.

Chris has a 220 hectare property which is pretty small for the industry and he runs 220-250 cattle, including 7 bulls. He only buys in new stock whereas most farmers breed their own. He started with Herefords but as they are difficult he has switched to Angus. The breeding season runs from October to December with the calves arriving the next July.

He has two types of grass on his property – mainly kikuyu for summer and rye for winter. He makes hay to keep the stock during winter.

There are around 26 million head of cattle in Australia and 10 million are slaughtered every year. Of these a third are fed on grain but Chris recommends grass fed beef, although it depends on individual taste.

### John Jeremy



John Jeremy gave an update on the situation with our new submarine fleet. He had learned about submarine construction when he worked in England in the 1960's although he noted that he didn't have access to nuclear technology.

The question he asked was 'why did we cancel the contract for the French diesel electric submarines?'. The answer is simply that we need something better for our defence.

Going with the nuclear propulsion option gives us a totally different perspective and, in his opinion, nuclear is certainly the way to go. He then addressed the question of whether we should go with the British or the American technology. The US builds its own Virginia Class submarines at about 10,000 tonnes whereas the British build Astute Class machines which are a more reasonable size and with the capabilities that Australia needs. However, both are entering the end of their design life so both countries are now designing their next generation. John predicts that we will go with the British model. It will be a massive job and will cost a lot of money but he believes we have made the right decision.

**NB:** *John will be the guest speaker at our February meeting. In his presentation he will summarise the often-controversial history of the RAN submarine service and outline the development of the modern nuclear submarine and its role. The momentous decision to go*

*nuclear for our new submarines presents many challenges and John may well feel inclined to speculate about the way ahead*

## GUEST SPEAKERS

### NEIL MARTIN, Olympian & MATT LEVY OAM, Paralympian

Matt Levy has represented Australia in swimming at 5 Paralympics, from 2004 to 2020(2021). Neil Martin swam at the 1972 Munich Olympics and attended Sydney and Beijing (whilst also being President of Swimming Australia). Together they treated us to an athlete's perspective on these global games spanning 50 years.



Neil compared the low security at Munich to the increasingly heightened level ever since. Initially Munich was very low key, with German officials keen to provide a happy friendly atmosphere in contrast to Berlin in 1936. Neil even had a friendly chat with the Chancellor Willie Brandt as he wandered around the venue. Several coaches and others gained entry to the athletes' village with forged passes. Indeed, this was the means by which the terrorists entered the Israelis' building (adjacent to the Australians'), causing murder and mayhem in the final week. A further example, extraordinary even then, but utterly impossible now, was that Neil was able to fly to Paris (on the

same morning as the terrorist attack with troops swarming the compound), then onto London to compete in other swim events, then return to Munich in time for the closing ceremony a week later, just using his Olympic pass instead of his passport.

At Sydney 2000, Neil had the thrill of being a volunteer, being name placard carrier for Morocco at the opening and closing ceremonies, plus NOC assistant to the Great Britain team.

At Beijing 2008, the organisation was remarkable, including with regional factories closed to enable clear skies, extreme security, and some venues only just completed in time. Neil was an official, enabling him to see all 8 gold medals won by Michael Phelps.

Neil reflected on Australia's medal haul over the period he was involved. An important associated factor was the growth in government funding, from negligible prior to 1992, to a huge commitment for Sydney 2000, and then ongoing strong funding especially for core sports thereafter (\$130 million in 20/21, and commitment at this level for the next 3 years until the next Olympics). Funding is designated by government to sport organisations, not from AOC as commonly thought. There is a close correlation between funding and medals, with relative lack of success in the 80s being stark. Australia's best medal performance was in Sydney (where a lot of funding was also given to relatively minor sports) and Athens. Swimming got 21

medals in Tokyo, other sports in total got 19. This ratio has been common for the Australian team.



Neil then welcomed Matt Levy, who gave us background on his personal challenges, arising from his cerebral palsy, 15 weeks premature birth, vision impairment, etc, which have required almost 50 operations (including replacement about every 5 years of a shunt which drains excess fluid from his brain).

He took up swimming as therapy when he was about 9, initially at the Allambie Heights pool of the Cerebral Palsy Alliance (then called the Spastic Centre), where he was taught new strokes and breathing techniques, both very difficult for his condition.

He recounted the initial challenges of travelling with limited eyesight by public transport to his school, St Andrews Cathedral School in central Sydney. The school was very supportive of him throughout. Increasingly he became hooked on swimming, revelling in achieving personal bests.

His achievements led to his selection at age 17 to the Athens Paralympics, where machine gun toting guards were a scary introduction for him to the event. His vision impairment led to getting lost for over 2 hours in the village, just one of many challenges he has had to encounter in his career.

9 medals over his 5 Paralympics are a testament to his skill, dedication, and commitment.

Tokyo provided an extra dimension with the covid precautions and protocols, including being in Nth Queensland away from family and friends for 9 weeks before flying to Tokyo. He described the daily covid tests, village life isolated among only the Australian team and support staff, limited food choice, no crowds, precautions on buses to/from venues, etc, then 2 weeks quarantine on return.

He noted the Paralympics (so called to reflect the “parallel games”) have raised awareness of the challenges and the skills of these athletes and their journeys in reaching these levels of achievement . In Matt’s case this can be seen not only in his successes in the pool, but also academically including being awarded an MBA earlier this year, being an executive with Westpac, and writing a remarkable book of his application, resiliency, dedication, attitudes, philosophy etc that have led to his extraordinary achievements.

His book “Keeping your head above water : Inspirational insights from a champion” was released in 2020, and is available through his website <https://mattlevyoam.com.au/shop/>

There is much more which can be heard on the recording, which is on the Probus website.

After Q&A, Bill Butterell thanked the speakers for sharing their personal experiences and insights in the Olympics and Paralympics. He amusingly speculated about TV ratings if athletes these days performed nude, like their ancient Olympian forebears.

*Peter James*

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

### FUTURE EVENTS

Despite the end of lockdown the Covid 19 restrictions have been continuing to impact the Probus Activities program for 2021.

The cancellations have included:

- 21 June- Defence of North Fort second tour
- 19 July- Archibald Prize tour
- 30 August- Sydney Institute of Marine Science
- 27 September- Justice and Police Museum
- 26 - 28 October - Tour of Cowra and Orange

If possible, the cancelled activities from 2021 will be rescheduled in 2022. Members who had booked and paid for these activities have been given a credit for use against future bookings.

The only scheduled 2021 activity remaining is the Christmas Lunch at Dunbar House on 14 December. As per the recent email, this event is confirmed although the permissible numbers remain to be finalised.

*David Brand*

## WEBSITE UPDATE – CHANGE TO LOGGING IN & OUT

Recent changes in the WordPress system of our website have required the adoption of a slightly different LOGIN process. The LOGIN button has been replaced by a LOGIN/OUT button.

**To Log in**, hover over this button to show the LOGIN button. Clicking the LOGIN button will enable logging in exactly as previously.

**To Log out**, hover over the LOGIN/OUT button and the LOGOUT button will appear to enable logging out.

For any problems with the Website please contact [tonyandrew@gpa.net.au](mailto:tonyandrew@gpa.net.au) or [bjlcheshire@westnet.com.au](mailto:bjlcheshire@westnet.com.au)

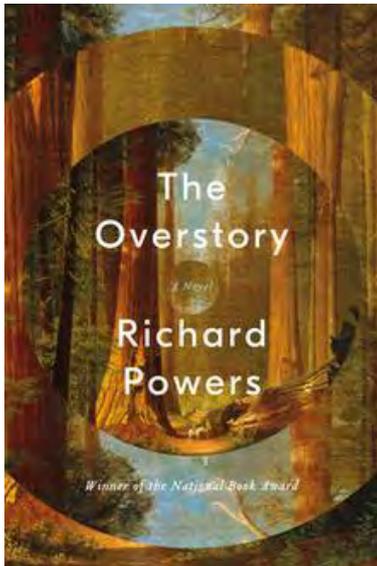
## OUTSTANDING PLANNING GUIDE TO SUPPORT FOR AGEING

Choosing the best path to understand the available Support Services to assist with Ageing is as difficult as it is complex. The following LINK to a brochure may be of assistance as it sets out the wide range of choices, with considerable clarity. Note that Sydney Probus never endorses commercial products, and whilst we neither support nor endorse this particular service, the committee thought it was worth drawing this brochure to your attention:

<https://www.slc.org.au/st-lukes-care-thinking-ahead-ageing-well/>

## BOOK REVIEWS

### The Overstory by Richard Powers (2018) – 625 pages – Fiction



Recommended for those who love trees and oppose logging of native forests. This book is very “green” and very long. So not for everyone. However it did win the Pulitzer Prize in 2018, has mostly been well reviewed and the latest book by this author has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

“We’re cashing in on a billion years of planetary savings bonds and blowing it on assorted bling. What Douglas Pavlicek wants to know is why this is so easy to see when you’re by yourself in a cabin on a hillside, and almost impossible to believe once you step out of the house and join several billion folks doubling down on the status quo” (at page 482)

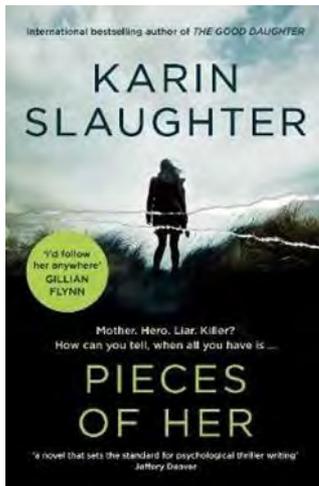
Much of the writing is like this and the author always prefers the complex and convoluted to the simple. However the rewards are there for those who find trees fascinating, sympathise with environmental activists and are prepared to persevere. Nine unrelated activists are thrown together in various ways – mostly linked by trees. Trees are the heroes and man is the villain. They are united by the love of trees. We follow the transition of some from tree lovers to radicalisation, criminality and in some cases death and imprisonment.

To me the characters are real and compelling, so that it is not just a treatise on trees or a series of case studies. However, some in my book club did not agree.

I loved the book and it has changed the way I look at trees – but it is certainly not for everyone. It should appeal to everyone who enjoyed the recent ABC series “Back to Nature”.

**David Castle**

## Pieces of Her by Karin Slaughter (2018) – 466 pages



In this second year of the plague, we all deserve something lighter – particularly if we do not mind a little blood. For added spice, this book has been converted into a Netflix series, starring Tony Collette. However, it is a crime story, albeit with good twists and characterisation.

After a bloody start, the central character (mother) is not what she seems. For the rest of the book her daughter discovers the real person and her back story. It is not pretty and cults and violence play a substantial part.

The daughter's journey of discovery takes her through large parts of America and back into the past. All members of the cult are well described and the aptly named author

prides herself on character and serious issues – so a cut above just story.

A good read for those who like crime stories and something better than an airport thriller. It should look good on television, despite changes that will inevitably be made.

Just remember, you saw (or read) it first.

**David Castle**

## A TOUCH OF HUMOUR!

### Philosophy and the wisdom of Socrates

Keep this in mind the next time you are about to repeat a rumour or spread gossip around.

In ancient Greece, Socrates was widely lauded for his wisdom. One day an acquaintance ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about Diogenes?"

"Wait a moment," Socrates replied, "Before you tell me I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test."

'Triple filter?' asked the acquaintance. "That's right," Socrates continued, "Before you talk to me about Diogenes let's take a moment to filter what you're going to say. The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?". No," the man said, "Actually I just heard about it." "All right," said Socrates, "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about Diogenes something good?"

"No, on the contrary...". "So," Socrates continued, "You want to tell me something about Diogenes that may be bad, even though you're not certain it's true?"

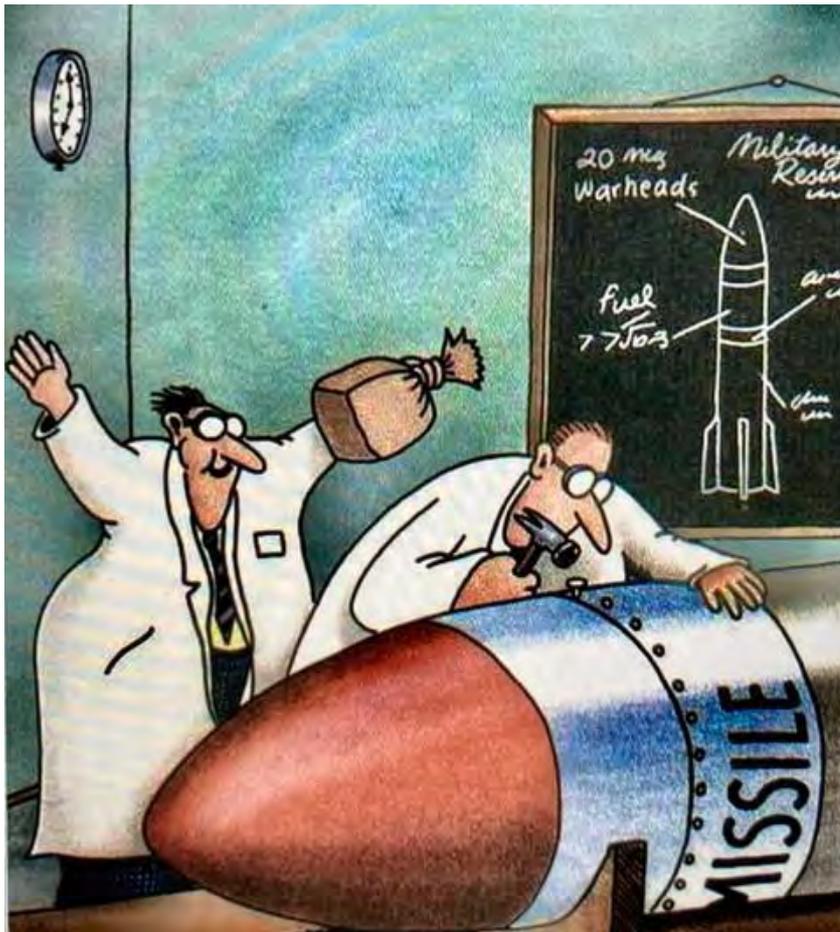
The man shrugged, a little embarrassed. Socrates continued, "You may still pass the test though, because there is a third filter, the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about Diogenes going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really." "Well," concluded Socrates, "If what you want to tell me is neither True nor Good nor even useful, why tell it to me or anyone at all?"

The man was bewildered and ashamed. This is an example of why Socrates was a great philosopher and held in such high esteem.

It also explains why Socrates never found out that Diogenes was shagging his wife.

### **Serious science!**



### **And one from Frank Barr-David:**

Conjoined twins walk into a bar in Canada and park themselves on a couple of bar stools.

One of them says to the bartender, "Don't mind us; we're joined at the hip. I'm John, he's Jim. Two Molson beers, draft please."

The bartender, feeling slightly awkward, tries to make polite conversation while pouring the beers. "It's been a tough year, and I'm glad that travel restrictions are loosening up. Been on vacation yet, fellas?"

"Off to England next month," says John. "We go to England every year, rent a car, and drive for days and days in the countryside, don't we, Jim?"

Jim nods.

"Ah, England!" says the bartender. "Wonderful country...the history, the culture, and especially the beer."

"Nah, we don't like that British crap," says John. "Hamburgers and Molson's beer, that's for us, eh Jim? And we can't stand the English people, they're so arrogant and rude."

"So why keep going to England?" asks the bartender.

John replies: "Gives Jim a chance to drive".

## **The Italian Wedding Test!**

I was a very happy man.

My wonderful Italian girlfriend and I had been dating for over a year, and so we decided to get married. There was only one little thing bothering me. It was her beautiful younger sister.

My prospective sister-in-law was twenty-two, wore very tight mini-skirts, and generally was bra-less. She would regularly bend down when she was near me, and I always got more than a nice view. It had to be deliberate. Because she never did it when she was near anyone else.

One day the 'little' sister called and asked me to come over to check the wedding invitations. She was alone when I arrived, and she whispered to me that she had feelings and desires for me that she couldn't overcome. She told me that she wanted me just once before I got married and committed my life to her sister.

Well, I was in total shock, and couldn't say a word. She said, 'I'm going upstairs to my bedroom, and if you want one last wild fling, just come up and get me.'

I was stunned and frozen in shock as I watched her go up the stairs. I stood there for a moment, then turned and made a beeline straight to the front door. I opened the door and headed straight towards my car.

Lo and behold, my entire future family was standing outside, all clapping!

With tears in his eyes, my father-in-law put down his shotgun and hugged me and said, 'We are very happy that you have passed our little test. We couldn't ask for a better man for our daughter. Welcome to the family.'

And the moral of this story is:

*Always keep your condoms in your car*

## **MYSTERY MEMBERS COMPETITION**

Listed below are abstracts of three member's brief bios. If you can name the members, send your answers to Tony Andrew – [tony.andrew@gpa.net.au](mailto:tony.andrew@gpa.net.au)

This is an 'Open book' competition, you can review your selection by checking the Members Directory in the MEMBERS AREA at the website here. Login is required to access this confidential information.

The names of the Mystery Members and successful respondents will be revealed in next month's newsletter., Then, after logging in to the website, you can review their full bios in the Member Directory. Good luck!

### **NOVEMBER MEMBERS**

#### **Mystery Member 1**

Life Member

Long career with IBM

90th birthday last month

#### **Mystery Member 2**

Post graduate scholarship with Vickers Limited UK

Managing Director of Cockatoo Dockyard

Regularly sails Tingari on Sydney Harbour

#### **Mystery member 3**

MSc Sydney and Advanced Management Program Harvard

Worked for S Hoffnung part of which later became Bunnings

Chose to avoid a flight in UK that later fatally crashed

### **RESULTS - OCTOBER MEMBERS**

Nobody identified the three members below from October!

#### **Mystery Member 1**

Fought in the Korean War

Chief of Supply, Department of Defence

Attended Australia's first America's Cup Challenge

Completed three Sydney Hobart races

**IAN CRAWFORD**

#### **Mystery Member 2**

Father and he both born in Fiji

Longest serving member of Price Waterhouse/PwC

Travelled to boarding school on the SS Orcades

Has undertaken assignments in more than 20 countries

**JIM WARREN**

#### **Mystery Member 3**

President South Asia of his employer for 5 years

Attempted a climb of Mount Kilimanjaro

Completed the Kokoda Track

Centrefold of the first edition of New Zealand Surfer Magazine

**WAYNE JONES**

## WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

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



*Last month the mystery person was Marise Payne believe it or not!. Nobody got it right!*

*You may recall from last month's newsletter that one member thought that George Clooney was Marise Payne so that's why she featured this time.*

*I promise that this month's is much easier but for a change, this time it's a couple.*

*Can you identify these young people?*

Send your answer to  
[newsletter@sydneyprobus.org](mailto:newsletter@sydneyprobus.org)

## 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.**