



Probuss Club of Sydney

www.sydneyprobuss.org

Newsletter

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

APRIL 2022

Issue 441

MEETING DATES

APRIL 5

PROF SHERYL VAN NUNEN

Tick induced allergies

MAY 3

PROF STEPHEN GARTON AM

Counting the cost of war

ACTIVITIES

27 May

POLICE & JUSTICE MUSEUM

MUSEUM OF SYDNEY

18 July

ARCHIBALD PRIZE

CONTENTS

Future Guest Speakers

March Meeting Report

Guest Speaker Report

40th Anniversary Lunch

Social Activities Program

Norfolk Island Trip

Probuss C&A

Know your website

Book Review

A touch of Humour

Who is this young person?

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen,

I was delighted that so many of our members participated in our 40th anniversary lunch on the 1st March. The company was great and it was wonderful to celebrate the history of the club, so ably highlighted by the various speeches on the day. I believe it is a real achievement for a voluntary organisation to last and thrive for 40 years in our rapidly changing world. I look forward to seeing you all at the 50th in 10 years!

Separately I would like to again thank John Rawson for his term as President. Looks like we have come through Covid virtually unscathed, and this is at least partially due to John's steady hand on the tiller through turbulent times and closures, zoom calls etc. Also thanks to Robert Warburton for his excellent job in liaising with the USSC to achieve such an outstanding function.

Now we return to a great schedule of speakers and hopefully (fingers crossed) the ability to return to a great schedule of events for our members. Welcome to our new Probuss Sydney year.

Neil Martin

President

Note To Register to attend the April meeting – [click here](#)

APRIL 5

PROF SHERYL VAN NUNEN

Clinical/Allergy immunologist and medical educator

Tick-induced Allergies: Mammalian Meat Allergy and Tick Anaphylaxis: A tale of newly emergent allergies, with an extraordinary evolution and surprising public health consequences"



Prof Sheryl van Nunen OAM, MBBS MM (Sleep Medicine), FRACP, is a Clinical Professor, Faculty of Medicine Health and Human Sciences, Macquarie University and Clinical Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney.

Aside from being an award-winning medical educator at the University of Sydney, in 2007 she was the first to describe the association between mammalian meat anaphylaxis and prior tick bites. She has over 175 publications to her credit (68% as first author, with 34 of these published in 2018-2021).

In 2013, she convened the TiARA (Tick-induced Allergies Research and Awareness) Committee, the peak resource for tick-induced allergies. She is the Director of the Centre for Tick-induced Allergies in Sydney. The Committee's achievements include:

- submission of evidence to the 2019-2020 Parliamentary inquiry into allergies and anaphylaxis;
- working with the Australian Dept of Health to develop world-leading advice in tick bite prevention and management;
- working with major pharmaceutical companies to develop a tick-specific ether spray (both in Australia and internationally);
- funding and fostering research underpinning tick bite prevention and management advice.

In addition to her university roles, she is a consultant physician in allergic diseases in Chatswood, as well as a Visiting Medical Officer at Northern Beaches and North Shore Private Hospitals. Earlier she was Head of the Department of Allergy at Royal North Shore Hospital for over 26 years (1985-2011) and a Senior Staff Specialist at Royal North Shore Hospital from 1988-2020. She was the Principal Investigator in clinical trials of over 75% of all new therapies introduced to Australia for allergic diseases between 1985-2012.

Also, for over a decade, she has filled several roles in the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy since its inception and has contributed her time in a number of capacities to the National Asthma Council of Australasia.

Her prime research interest comprises mammalian meat allergy/anaphylaxis following previous tick bite and its myriad implications, including the increased risk of atheroma and more severe atheroma with its attendant risks, tick-induced anaphylaxis. Her work includes ongoing research studies spanning over a decade with her esteemed colleagues in Vietnam, into pharmacogenetic risk factors in severe cutaneous drug reactions in the Vietnamese people, saving numerous lives.

In 2021, she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to Medicine, particularly to Clinical Immunology and Allergy.

MAY 3

PROF STEPHEN GARTON AM

Principal Advisor to Vice Chancellor and Professor of History,
University of Sydney.

Counting the Cost of War



Stephen Garton AM is a Professor of History and has had a long career at the University of Sydney, including being Dean of Arts (2001-9), Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (2009-2019) and Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (2019-21). He was interim Vice-Chancellor for seven months in 2021. He is now Principal Advisor to the new Vice-Chancellor Mark Scott and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, the Academy of Humanities, the Royal Australian Historical Society and the Royal Society of NSW.

His scholarly interests range widely over aspects of Australian social and cultural history. He has written extensively on the impact of war on Australian society, including his recently republished ‘The Cost of War’ (Sydney University Press). He was appointed as a NSW Government Ambassador for the centenary of Anzac (2014-2019), and a member of the editorial team that produced the volume “NSW and the Great War” that was given to every public school in the State.

Stephen will focus on the impacts of the 20th century wars on Australian society and culture, as addressed in his latest book.

In addition, he has generously agreed to give us his personal perspectives on the challenges being faced by the University sector, updating us since Vice Chancellor Michael Spence was our Guest Speaker in December 2020

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

MARCH MEETING REPORT/AGM



President John Rawson opened the General Meeting by thanking the Management Committee for their service during the year, especially the Hon Secretary John Doherty, who received an ovation from the members. He then opened the AGM and presented his annual report (available on the website) which was accepted by the members present. Similarly, the annual accounts, which had been audited by Derrick Dockerty and Sean Wareing, were presented by the Hon Treasurer Ian Lansdown and accepted by the members. The auditors were then reappointed for another year.

President John then handed over the chain of office to the incoming President, Neil Martin.



JOHN JEREMY AM Naval Architect & Maritime Historian

Submarines for the RAN – Going Nuclear



We were indeed fortunate to have a member with an abundance of experience, knowledge, eloquence, enthusiasm, and dedication to give us such an outstanding presentation on this complex topic.

He gave us a detailed history of submarine developments within the British, USA, German and Australian navies. This began with the first delivery from the Vickers yards to the Royal Navy in 1901. The concept was quickly adopted, and by the start of WWI, approx. 400 subs were in service in 16 navies, including the RAN, which took delivery of two British E-class

subs into Australian waters in 1914. Both were lost within the first year of the war.

Local construction was considered, but no replacements were possible until after WWI. During the war, designers here and in UK addressed the needs for speed both on surface and submerged, long distance flexibility, size, fuel etc characteristics which would be especially important in Australian deployment.

John described how Britain and USA made big advances both in the number of subs and the technology during the 1930s as tensions rose in Europe and into WWII, enabling high speeds on the surface, but only limited improvement with underwater speed. The snorkel (commonly called “snort”) was developed during WWII, not only facilitating ventilation, but enabling battery recharge underwater. Other technical developments were described including some initially made by the Germans during WWII.

Australia bought 6 Oberon class subs from Britain in 1960, and modernised these in a world-leading program in the 1970s, enabling the submarines to deploy modern homing torpedos and submarine launched guided missiles. The O-class subs were replaced by the Australian built Collins class subs. These diesel electric powered vessels are relatively low cost and effective, but are limited by their fuel, hence range and endurance.

To overcome the fuel limitations, the US Navy developed a nuclear submarine propulsion system, which led to the launching of the USS Nautilus in 1955. Cooperation with UK followed, enabling the sharing of nuclear propulsion technology. With the development of the Polaris submarines, a further agreement with Britain followed, enabling Britain to build Polaris submarines

for her nuclear deterrent. Quieter operation has been another major improvement.

The role of a modern submarine was given, incorporating covert operations as well as attack capability. Nuclear powered subs are expensive, but provide great advantage to Australia, given the long distances to go to work, stealth requirements etc. But the barriers to the US/UK nuclear technology have been tightly protected, indeed impenetrable.

This is where the AUKUS deal has enabled such a vast change for the RAN. Much has to be done/decided, including deciding whether our fleet will be based on the UK Astute class design or the larger US Virginia design, plus locations for construction, and bases (including maintenance), incorporating new technologies, manpower training, etc, in addition to detailed design. Work is now underway, with a target of being in service by 2038, “a considerable national challenge”.

After a thought-provoking Q&A, Bill Windeyer expressed our great thanks to John for making this complex matter so clear.

The text of John’s address is posted on the Sydney Probus website for member’s further study. John also showed a large number of photos and charts to clearly augment his talk. To limit MBs, only key photos have been incorporated into the archived address.

Members will also recall the excellent presentation on “The Future of Nuclear Energy in Australia” given by Prof Martin Thomas at our meeting in December 2019. This can be looked up on the Sydney Probus website under “Meetings>2019 Guest Speakers”

Peter James

40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

President Neil commenced the anniversary lunch by recognising long serving members of the club and presenting them with special pins.



There is not enough space to name all of these long serving members, but they’ve all been members for more than 10 years!

Frank Barr-David then talked about the club’s history and his involvement with the club, looked at through the prism of technology. In 2012, he was barely into his role as Webmaster when he had to completely reconstruct the club’s website

because it had been hacked and used to send out 70,000 messages and our account was suspended! He recalled that the club had investigated alternative venues but the Union, Universities and Schools Club was by far the best.



Brian Morgan, David Barnett, John Jeremy and Derrick Docherty

He noted that Bill Rutherford started the Newsletter, firstly with one printed page which evolved as our use of emails developed and we could include colour photographs and the like. He went on to say what wonderful speakers the club has attracted. One that he particularly recalled was a world expert in macular degeneration (whose name the editor can't recall because he can't read his notes from the day!!). Likewise, Frank enjoyed the many interesting visits to places such as ANSTO and the Aviation Museum.

He concluded by noting that our Presidents have always done a great job despite the problem of Covid which forced us into online meetings using Zoom. Finally, he thanked all members of the Management Committee for their efforts over the years.



President Neil then introduced David Kellaway who was the then President of the Rotary Club of Sydney which was responsible for setting up of the Probus Club. David recalled the first meeting 40 years ago and joined past president John Rawson in proposing a toast to the club.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

A visit to Cockatoo Island

On Monday 14 March we visited Cockatoo Island. John Jeremy, a member of Sydney Probus Club and previously the Chief Executive of the Cockatoo Dockland, guided our tour.



John's extraordinary knowledge of the history of the island, gained from his 30 years of working on the island from trainee draughtsman right through to the rank of CEO, ensured that our tour was very memorable.

Our tour concentrated on the island's early history as a convict jail and then the very important role Cockatoo island played as the largest dry dock for naval ships in the South Pacific.

John has advised that there is more to see and learn about Cockatoo Island and has offered to host another tour which will concentrate on the upper parts of the island especially the historic houses on the island.

This tour will be held on Friday 30 September. More details will be provided on the booking website in the near future. The tour will be suitable for those members who attended the tour on 14 March, as well as other members, as the tour will also touch upon the more important parts covered in the earlier tour.

Future Activities

27 May Visit to the Police & Justice Museum and the Museum of Sydney.
Details will follow later.

David Brand

NORFOLK ISLAND – A COVID SAFE OVERSEAS HOLIDAY

In 1790, my g-g-g-grandfather Andrew Fishburn arrived at Norfolk Island on the Sirius, when it capsized on the reef, 100 metres short of the penal settlement's small wharf. Two years earlier, he had arrived with the first fleet as a 28 yo carpenter, having done some repairs and built pens on the Sirius as it sailed from Cape of Good Hope with sheep and cattle taken on there. He stayed on Norfolk for just over a year, much longer than planned, and in a food shortage due to a drought and the extra mouths to feed from the sunken Sirius.

232 years later, our incoming flight was delayed for 2 days by an approaching category 3 tropical cyclone. Was this an omen? Gladly the cyclone bypassed the island (without significant damage to buildings or infrastructure) and we safely touched down for our getaway in this sub-tropical oasis, far from the worries of covid (though all closely observed protocols in shops, museums, buses etc).

Thankfully Andrew's history was not repeated on us. The house we rented (from a descendent of Fletcher Christian) was modern and ideal, we stayed for the one week as planned, the food was very good (albeit many shortages as there had been no incoming cargo planes for several days due to bad weather, and fresh fruit and vegetables was limited due to the cyclone's impact – we did not see a fresh tomato or lettuce for several days), we saw no workers with 16 pound balls attached to their leg irons, we heard no lashings by cat-o-nine-tails. There was an outstanding restaurant and several other good cafés, delis, fishermen, butchers, bakers and minimarkets that more than offset our healthy walks.



However, history was in abundance, as we expected, with excellent guided tours if desired. Many of the stone buildings from the second penal settlement of 1825-1855 have been beautifully restored at Kingston, without any modern building within sight. Among these are 4 excellent museums (one including Melanesian

artefacts dating 1000-400 years ago noting they had left long before Capt Cook's arrival, one with Sirius artefacts salvaged from the wreck, one set up as the home of the foreman from 1840s, one describing the early days of the current settlement, which began in 1856 when all Bounty descendants were transported from Pitcairn Island). The Royal Engineer's home now houses researchers with records from early settlers, including a folder of my ancestor's documents I was able to look up for a fee. Also, near the geographical and commercial centre is the splendid old style Bounty

Museum, housing a huge collection of knickknacks from the past 165 years from Norfolk and some from Pitcairn. Other magnificent buildings from that period include the 1833 Government House, Barracks, Commissariat Store, the golf clubhouse (presumably the oldest clubhouse in Australia, built in 1845 as the Magistrate's home, plus the glorious gothic St Barnabas church.

What was surprising to me was the natural beauty. I had always categorised Lord Howe as superb nature (true), Norfolk as fascinating history (true). But I totally underestimated its natural beauty. Norfolk's spectacular cliff top walks, tracks through National Park pine and palm forests, seascapes, mountainous terrain, free range cows and chooks, views of Phillip Island and Nepean Island, etc etc are superbly photogenic. The bbq/picnic facilities are modern and clean, and the lovely beach within the coral reef had decent snorkelling. All these are readily accessible by short drives on sealed but potholed roads with our small hire car. We joined a fun delicious progressive dinner at 3 homesteads of branches of the Christian family, who informed us about fascinating different aspects of the island. I strongly recommend Norfolk for people interested in the above. Approach me for more details, incl advice to keep flexible a couple of days after your booked return in case strong winds delay your flight.

By the way, Probus member D'Arcy Wentworth's namesake and ancestor was the doctor on the island from later in 1790, so may have treated my ancestor.

Peter James

PROBUS C&A - COMPUTERS AND ANSWERS.

Probus Computers & Answers

On Monday 11 April the Club will commence a series of Zoom sessions to answer member's questions about computers, tablets and phones.

No issue is too basic. Enjoy new freedom on your computer!

Click the link below to join just prior to 10.00am on Monday 11 April

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7144344193?pwd=VS9CK1JTVUtNT2poMjJaMWgwRkgzdz09>

Meeting ID: 714 434 4193

Passcode: 243054

If you have any questions about joining a zoom meeting, please ring or email Tony Andrew

0411 424 826 or sysadmin@sydneyprobus.org

KNOW YOUR WEBSITE

LIKE TO INTRODUCE A NEW MEMBER?

Need to complete a Membership Application, but where is it to be found?

Go to the main page of the website sydneyprobus.org. No need to log in

Hover your pointer over the **MEMBERS AREA** (on the website, not this page!)

Click on **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Information to guide you is on top of the form

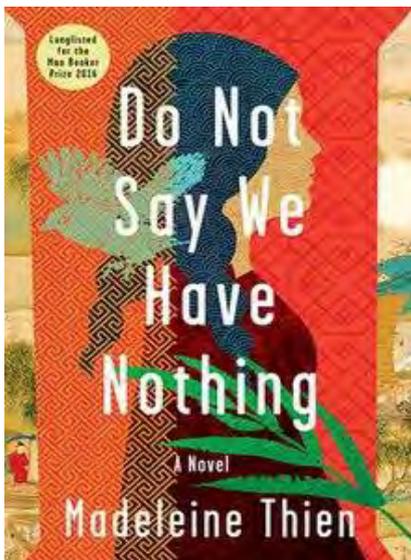
Any problems? Contact is below -

Tony Andrew - System Administrator

sysadmin@sydneyprobus.org

BOOK REVIEW

Do Not Say We Have Nothing by Madeleine Thien (2016) – 463 pages – novel



A brilliant exposé of 20th century China from the cultural revolution in 1966 to Tiananmen Square in 1990. It is told through the eyes of various members of a musical family, all of whose lives were destroyed by circumstances beyond their control. The different ways in which each character deals with an almost continuous series of disasters makes for compelling reading – in the hands of an expert writer. The book was shortlisted for the Booker prize in 2016 and has deservedly won various other prizes.

Although written by a Chinese Canadian, it rings true and authentic. Each character suffers under the vicissitudes of the Communist Party and its various campaigns and disasters. Each character is real, memorable and has a compelling story to tell. None of the major protagonists survive – and we really care for the way each of them suffers under a regime designed to suppress all dissent, originality and genius. In the words of a minor character: –

“Was it so much to ask,” he said, “to be allowed to live one’s own life, honouring one’s parents and raising one’s children to the best of one’s ability? Why is so simple a life the most difficult to obtain?”

How lucky are we to live in Australia in the 21st century!

Two major themes run through the book. The first is music. Most of the main characters are musicians but knowledge of music is not required. Everyone can appreciate the descriptions of the recordings of Bach’s Goldberg Variations by Glenn Gould.

The second theme is the historical document called “The Book of Records” in which are recorded the history of Chinese people for generations, as added to by the characters in this book.

Unreservedly recommended for those interested in recent Chinese history. Unbelievably, it is set as one of the reference books for HSC English Extension. While extremely important for their knowledge of history, I would have thought it was well above their heads. But a piece of cake for those of a certain age.

Highly recommended.

David Castle

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR!

Aussie Workmates Nicknames: (with thanks to Frank Barr-David)

Did you know any of these people in your years of toil? (Warning: a bit rude in places
!)

We all know a few of them...

Wicket keeper	<i>puts on gloves and stands back</i>
Harvey Norman	<i>3 years no interest</i>
Grenade	<i>waiting for him to pull the pin</i>
Sensor light	<i>only works when someone walks past</i>
Blister	<i>appears when the hard work is done</i>
Show bag	<i>full of crap</i>
Seaweed	<i>floats around all day and stinks</i>
Lantern	<i>not very bright, and has to be carried</i>
Penguin	<i>always on the ice</i>
Deck chair	<i>always folds under pressure</i>
G-spot	<i>you can never find him</i>
2-stroke	<i>hard to get started, and always smokes</i>
Morphine	<i>slow moving dope</i>
Bushranger	<i>holds everyone up</i>
Pothole	<i>Always in the road, needs to be filled in</i>
Jungle	<i>Thick and Dense</i>
Wheelbarrow	<i>Only works when he's pushed</i>
Goldfish	<i>Can't remember a fH@king thing</i>
Fractions	<i>Does 2/5ths of fH@k all</i>
Cyclone	<i>Slow moving depression</i>

Treacle	<i>Slow moving and thick</i>
Scarecrow	<i>Just stands around all day and watches</i>
Minerals	<i>Silver in his hair, gold in his teeth and lead in his arse</i>
Limo	<i>Carries about 8 blokes</i>
Chainsaw	<i>Hard to start and stops for no reason</i>
Noodles	<i>Thinks all jobs take two minutes</i>
Cordless	<i>Charges all night but only works for two hours</i>
Drill bit	<i>A small boring tool</i>
Broken arrow	<i>(Bosses son) Doesn't work and can't be fired</i>
Perth	<i>Two hours behind everyone else</i>
007	<i>0 motivation, 0 skills and 7 toilet breaks</i>
Foreskin	<i>disappears when it gets hard</i>

WHO IS THIS YOUNG PERSON?

Members with correct answers will receive recognition in the next Newsletter



I was wrong again by thinking that I had chosen an easy subject for the 'who is this' section. I even gave a clue but it wasn't helpful enough. Last month's young was John Lennon! A couple of good efforts though: Ron Ferguson thought it was Paul McCartney (very close Ron!) and Tony Saunders thought it was Peter Garrett.

I think this month's young person is very difficult but it should be easy! Can you identify this young person?

Send your answer to: 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.