



# Probus Club of Sydney

www.sydneyprobus.org

## Newsletter

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MAY 2022

Issue 442

### MEETING DATES

MAY 3

PROF STEPHEN GARTON AM  
Counting the cost of war

JUNE 7

TIM ROCKS & RYAN CORMICAN  
Perspectives on Australian &  
International markets

### ACTIVITIES

21 April SYDNEY HERITAGE FLEET

27 May POLICE MUSEUM/ MUSEUM  
OF SYDNEY

24 June ELIZABETH FARM

18 July ARCHIBALD PRIZE

### COMPUTER C&A

Monday 9 May @10am

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A touch of Humour

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Gentlemen,*

It was great to see so many members attend our first meeting in April of the Probus New Year. We had a very interesting guest speaker presentation from Professor Sheryl van Nunen on the relationship between ticks and meat allergies, amongst other very interesting pieces of information about ticks in South East Australia.

We also heard from our Immediate Past President John Rawson about his very interesting market research assignment for an innovative new product for Telstra during his consulting career.

Now that things are starting to return to normal from a Covid point of view, it was good to see our activities calendar starting to fill up again. A great time of year for activities now we are finished with the flooding rains (I hope I am not talking too soon). Thanks for all of those members who have so promptly paid their annual dues over recent weeks. We have a great schedule of guest speakers coming up and I hope to see as many of our members as possible at our upcoming May meeting.

*Neil Martin*

President

### Note

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

All attendees must be double vaccinated and will need to show proof at the **club** check in (ie not the Union Club reception).

### 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.

### JUNE 7

#### **TIM ROCKS & RYAN CORMICAN**

Evans and Partners

*“Perspectives on Australian & International Markets”*

With an election behind us, June seems timely to reflect on the outlook for the Australian economy and investment climate, as well prospects globally for investments, amidst the political, social, pandemic, technological, climate, etc issues that pervade.

It is a very challenging task, and hence it is very pleasing that two senior managers from Evans & Partners have agreed to give us their perspectives, Tim Rocks and Ryan Cormican. Evans and Partners was formed in 2007 to service investors who felt disenfranchised by larger institutions and craved a more personal, highly attentive service.

It currently employs about 30 investment advisers based in Sydney and Melbourne and 25 dedicated research analysts. They manage and advise on in excess of \$15 billion in assets, advising clients on asset allocation and investment selection within domestic and global markets with outstanding performance results.



Tim Rocks is Chief Investment Officer, in which role he is also close to the research team, and gives advice to private and institutional clients. He joined Evans & Partners in 2017 after over 20 years experience, initially in the Reserve Bank as an economist, then Macquarie Bank working as a strategist in the Australian equity market before being posted by Macquarie to Hong Kong where he built and ran their Asian macro research group. Prior to his current role, Tim was Head of Market Research and Strategy for BT Financial Group and ran asset allocation for Westpac's \$30 billion Superannuation Fund. He has a Bachelor of Economics (First Class Honours) from the University of Sydney and a Masters in Finance from

the London Business School.



Ryan Cormican is Director, Senior Investment Advisor, Private Wealth Management. In this role he provides financial advice to clients such as wealthy families, not-for-profits, associations, etc. His financial markets experience spans advisory and equity research roles, previously with UBS AG and Colonial First State before joining E&P. He holds a Bachelor of Economics from Macquarie University, a Master of Applied Finance from Kaplan and is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP). Ryan completed the FASEA Financial Adviser Exam in 2020.

## APRIL MEETING REPORT

President Neil opened the meeting by thanking Past President John Rawson for his service during difficult times. He also thanked Robert Warburton for organising the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary lunch so efficiently. He then introduced the new Secretary Chris Luget and the new Membership officer Hugh Hopkins as new management committee members.

David Brand reported on Activities. Following the success of the visit to Cockatoo Island there will be a follow up tour in September during which John Jeremy will cover the convict history of the island.

Hugh Hopkins advised that there are four members with long membership of the club who hadn't been recognised at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch – John Thom (21 years), Bill Butterell (15 years), John O'Connor (18 years) and Terry Young (17 years).

President Neil then spoke for Peter James, who could not attend the meeting, regarding future speakers, details of which are listed elsewhere.

### Story Teller

#### John Rawson

John told a story about a project that he was involved with during his time as a management consultant in industrial markets. The most interesting part of this work was carrying out feasibility studies of potential new areas of business for companies to get into or, conversely, current business to get out of!

Telstra was an interesting case. Before telecommunication markets opened up Telstra had a Universal Service Obligation which they retain in some remote areas of the country. They were looking at how data could be transmitted from remote areas (not as simple as it first looks!). John was asked to look at the feasibility of using a system called Meteor Scatter Technology. Since meteors are 'always there' the idea is that they can be used to reflect signals back to earth from remote areas. For example, they are used to record data regarding snow depth which can be utilised to predict run off etc. Given that the meteors are 'hit and miss', the signal is sent repeatedly until it eventually hits a meteor shower and is reflected back to earth where it is received at the base master station.

John looked at the feasibility for Telstra to use this technology to collect data on things like weather, locust plagues, unmanned airports (in case of smuggling) and so on. It was difficult to assess the potential markets for this data but it was concluded that there were not enough potential sites to justify the investment.

## Inductions

President Neil inducted 2 new members.

### Professor Kim Oates AO

Kim was introduced by Ian Lansdown. He had been an outstanding speaker at the club recently. His background was as an MD with a particular interest in child development. He started as a resident at Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children at Camperdown in 1969. He spent 12 years as Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Sydney. He was the CEO of Westmead Hospital for 8 years. He is married to Robyn and they have 3 children and 9 grandchildren. He is interested in community theatre, kayaking and attempting to learn tap dancing!



Ian Lansdown, Kim Oates, Daniel Bedon and Peter Nochar following the inductions

### Daniel Bedon

Daniel was introduced by Peter Nochar. He is our first member from Peru! He spent his working life as a management consultant for Coopers and Lybrand and as a Senior Adviser to the Director General of Taxation and as Head of the banking team by the Peruvian Superintendent of Banks for the re-structuring of financial institutions.

In Australia he represented Peru as President of the Australia Peru Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He has been a senior auditor for Westpac Bank and a director of several companies.

He and his wife Fabiola have 3 children and a granddaughter.

## 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 was introduced by John Doherty. She gave an extremely interesting talk on tick induced allergies.

Whilst there are 70 species of ticks in Australia there are 16 which will infest humans but over 97% of bites come from a single species - *Ixodes holocyclus* (the Australian paralysis tick) which can be found all the way down the east coast of the country. Since ticks thrive in humid conditions, they are seen east of the Great Dividing Range where there is the greatest rainfall. The epicentre of ticks in fact is the Northern Beaches area of Sydney which is surrounded by water! [Note: beware of ticks next spring following the extreme rains we have been suffering!]

Some of the conditions caused by the bites include large local allergic reactions, mammalian meat induced anaphylaxis and tick induced anaphylaxis (and indeed all of the above together!). It normally takes 3-6 hours for these reactions to take effect but with tick induced anaphylaxis it can happen almost instantaneously. Notably tick induced anaphylaxis is very rare in countries other than Australia but it is not uncommon here and it can be fatal.

In 2007 Prof. van Nunen was the first person to describe the association between mammalian meat anaphylaxis and prior tick bites, the condition then only seen in Australia. By 2022, it presented on six continents. The reason that these issues have only been found recently may be that we started to use fox baits in 2003 and with the reduced number of foxes the ticks needed to find another host. Humans!

The allergic reaction is caused by a sugar molecule called alpha-gal which can be transmitted into a person's body by a tick bite. In some people this triggers an immune system reaction which then produces the allergies to red meat (beef, lamb, pork, rabbit etc as well as their derivatives such as dairy products, gelatin and fats etc).

People with antibodies related to alpha-gal syndrome can have allergic reactions to the cancer drug Cetuximab so the Royal North Shore hospital now routinely tests for alpha-gal before treating any patients with the drug.

It is important therefore to protect yourself against tick bites if you live in an infested area. Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants when working or walking in tick areas. Tuck your pants into your socks. Wear a wide brimmed hat and use insect repellents (particularly those containing DEET. These safeguards will provide 99% protection but if you are bitten it is very important to take care how you remove the tick. For small ticks permethrin cream from the chemist works well but for adult ticks the best thing is to freeze them off with an ether based spray such as Tick-Off. Never try to pull a tick off eg with tweezers. Kill it where it is.

Finally, if someone is affected by MMA, the symptoms will subside within 2 years and they can eat red meat again in about 4 years.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

### Future Activities

It is still difficult to arrange visits because of covid-19. However, there are several activities to put in your diaries:

Thursday 21 April	Sydney Heritage Fleet cruise – Cost \$35
Friday 27 May	Police Museum and Sydney Museum – Cost \$32
Friday 24 June	Elizabeth Farm – Cost \$16pp
Monday 18 July	Archibald Prize 10 – Cost \$25

### *David Brand*

Activities Director

## KNOW YOUR WEBSITE

Following a minor email hack, the Management Committee has decided to remove contact details from the Committee page on the website in the **MEMBERS AREA** and change our email aliases. Should you wish to contact a Committee Member, follow the links at the head of the page. You will need to login to the website to access the **MEMBER DOCUMENTS** page that lists the contact details.

## PROBUS C&A - COMPUTERS AND ANSWERS

### Probus Computers & Answers

The first session on Monday 11 April got under way a little late due to a SNAFU with zoom, but we are learning! 20 members persisted and joined in the discussion which centred around the website, risks of email scams and some simple computer actions.

As several members missed the first session a re-run is planned.

A re-run of Session 1 is scheduled for Friday 22 April.

Session 2 will be held on zoom on Monday 9 May at 10.00am. Email, Word and the Club Wild Apricot App will be explored. The zoom link will be circulated by broadcast email. We look forward to you joining in.

Any questions? Contact Tony Andrew - 0411 424 826

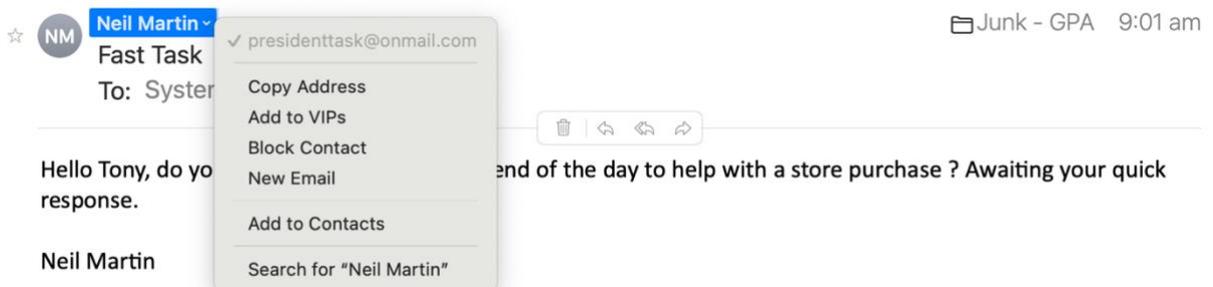
## HOW NOT TO GET CAUGHT BY AN EMAIL SCAM

Email scam fraud is growing in sophistication and frequency. There are ways of minimising the risk of being caught and compromised or even robbed.

There is a more comprehensive article posted on the Notice Board of the website outlining additional effective steps you can take. Check it out [here](#):

### 1 Check the actual email address

When a laptop is being used, hover the pointer over the address and a small down arrow at the right end of the address will appear. Click this arrow and the actual address will show in grey. If fraudulent, it will have no relevance to the purported address. See the screen shot below (this method will vary depending on what email application you use. For example, this function is not available in Mozilla Thunderbird). In this case the IP service provider automatically placed this email in the junk folder.



If a tablet is being used, simply tap the email address to show the detail above.

### 2 Check the grammar and spelling

Many fraudulent emails come from overseas so the English language can be a challenge for the fraudster. In the example above, 'Fast task' and 'awaiting your quick response' is not the sort of language a Probus Member is likely to use. Often the content is also a warning. 'To help with a store purchase' is a most unlikely message.

### **3 Logos are often clumsily copied**

They may be of poor quality and detail and the colouring is often incorrect.

### **4 Financial institutions will never request your details by email**

Emails purporting to come from one of your trusted contacts such as the bank, your internet service provider, credit card provider or PayPal, for example, will say that your "details" need to be updated, and a link will be provided. Never click on the link. They are scams to get important personal details which bona fide contacts never ask for by email.

### **5 Report scams whenever possible**

Logging on to Scamwatch to report scam emails is strongly encouraged.

### **6 Requests for payment of outstanding debts**

It is a common scam to advise you have an outstanding debt or a subscription is overdue. Never reply to emails asking for money or that suggest that you have outstanding debts.

#### **In summary:**

Don't ever reply to unsolicited emails, never click on links that are provided to "help" you unless you are sure of the sender, and never provide anybody with personal data by email. Whenever you are doubtful about an email, contact the true source either in person or by phone to verify the validity of the email.

Want to read more? Click [here](#)

## **PROBUS TRAVEL INSURANCE**

### **Travel Insurance**

Probus Travel Insurance with one of Australia's leading travel insurance providers, Allianz Global Assistance, is now available.

Together, Probus and Allianz Global Assistance have made a range of travel insurance products available to Probus Club members across Australia.

Probus Travel Insurance provides a range of options for both domestic and international travel from Australia. Depending upon your age, where you are travelling to and the length of your trip, Probus Club members may be offered one, two or three different plans. Of course terms, conditions, limits and exclusions

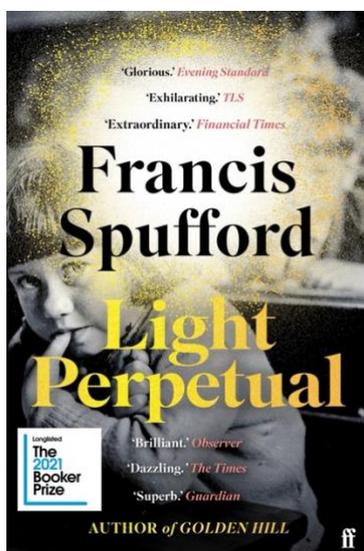
apply, and members should refer to the Product Disclosure Statement to compare the plans in more detail.

For those members who prefer the personal approach or are unable to access the internet, the Allianz Global Assistance Team can take travel insurance applications over the phone. For more information about Probus Travel Insurance or to apply for travel insurance, please visit Probus South Pacific website at [https://probussouthpacific.org/pages/travel\\_insurance\\_landing\\_au](https://probussouthpacific.org/pages/travel_insurance_landing_au)

or call 1800 125 234.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Light Perpetual by Francis Spufford (2021) – (323 pages) – fiction



With this horrific war in Ukraine, do you ever wonder what the future might have held for the children who have been killed? This book deals with the imagined lives of 5 of the children killed by a German V2 rocket in November 1944. 168 people were killed when that rocket struck the South London branch of Woolworths. Of those, 15 people were aged 11 or under. There the facts end. The rest is fiction.

These imagined lives are explored, creatively, at 15-year intervals from 1944 to 2009. Like most of us, each has its ups and downs. The concept gives the author free reign to write about so many facets of 20th-century life including: the London printers' strike during the Thatcher era, property development, skinheads and neo-Nazis, anorexia, schizophrenia, and born-again Christianity. While each vignette is brilliant in itself, there is no central theme or inter-relationship between most of the characters.

The writer teaches writing. This novel shows off his skills and demonstrates the versatility of the modern novel. It is also a hymn to modern London and its long-suffering population.

Certainly worth reading for those interested in good writing.

**David Castle**

## A TOUCH OF HUMOUR!

### CONFUCIAN TRUTHS



Man who wants pretty nurse must be patient

Passionate kiss, like spider web, leads to undoing of fly

Lady who goes camping with man must beware of evil intent

Squirrel who runs up woman's leg will find no nuts

Man who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion

Man who runs in front of car gets tired, but man who runs behind car gets exhausted

Man who buys many prunes get good run for money

War does not determine who is right; it determines who is left

Man who fights with wife all day gets no piece at night

It takes many nails to build a crib but only one screw to fill it

Man who drives like hell is bound to get there

Wise man does not keep sledge hammer and slow computer in same room

Man who lives in glass house should change in the basement



Turns out it was a marble in the ashtray.....



I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

## VALE: WHO WAS THIS YOUNG PERSON?

**All good things must come to an end!**

Last month's person was Antony Albanese! I thought it would be a bit difficult but Kim Oates, Ron Natoli, Wayne Jones, Tony Andrew and Peter Nochar all got it right.

Someone suggested Volodymyr Zelenskyy and another, Malcolm Turnbull. All politicians must look alike, I guess!

We have recently been having security issues with the club's internet system and one of the problems is related to the email addresses that have been listed. Therefore, we have sadly decided that it is no longer possible to run the Mystery Person section. Thanks to all of you who bothered to respond. It's been fun.

## 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](http://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  
0411 424 826

## HOW TO CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER

To contact any committee member, use the following link:  
<https://www.sydneyprobus.org/member-documents/>

**Please use email where possible or telephone if you require urgent contact. You can find the relevant telephone numbers on the club's website.**