



Probis Club of Sydney

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Newsletter

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JULY 2022

Issue 444

MEETING DATES

JULY 5

JAN SWINHOE

From Tokyo to Birmingham

AUGUST 2

THE HON ANTHONY WHEALY

Considerations for the Federal
ICAC

ACTIVITIES

18 July ARCHIBALD PRIZE

26 August GUIDE DOGS, RICHMOND

30 Sept COCKATOO ISLAND (2nd tour)

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen,

Sixty members & guests attended our last Meeting on Tuesday 7 June 2022. The guest speakers were Tim Rocks & Ryan Cormican from Evans & Partners, & Tim gave an excellent overview of Australia's current financial situation, including reasons for mild optimism in the immediate future.....which surprised a few, including this writer!

The May outings to the Police Museum & the Sydney Museum were a lot of fun, as was the lunch at Circular Quay. The Sydney Museum guide was effusive, fresh & energetic, being particularly keen to pass on his knowledge, partly because this was his first tour for 2 years due to Covid restrictions!

The UUSC has indicated that our meeting room will now be available from 9:30am on the days of our Probis meetings. Greater opportunities for social interaction will be available if members arrive up to half an hour before the official starting time of 10-00am. Although membership numbers are healthy, please consider nominating gentlemen whom you think would enjoy the ambience & stimulation of our wonderful Club.

Best wishes go to our president Neil Martin who currently is enjoying the delights of rural France.

John Carter

Vice-President

Note

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

JULY 5

Jan Swinhoe

President Athletics Australia

"From Tokyo to Birmingham - Athletics inspiring and transforming lives"



Jan grew up in country NSW. Her father was Deputy Principal at Tamworth High School where she completed her HSC.

Both of her parents had been elite tennis players, as well as being very competent in a range of other sports including rugby league, cricket, golf, bowls and athletics. With this background Jan keenly competed in tennis, squash, netball, volleyball, athletics and cross country in her school and university years. She was especially enthusiastic about cross country and distance running, along with

being close to nature.

A Science Degree (majoring in Pure Mathematics) and her Actuarial qualifications (through the Institute of Actuaries in London) followed.

Jan's executive career was in superannuation, investment and private banking where she held general management positions across a number of high-profile companies such as Citibank, Westpac and AMP. Since 2011, Jan has turned her career to Non-Executive Director roles. In addition to Athletics Australia, she is Chair of Mercer Superannuation Australia Limited and sits on the Boards of Swiss Re (Australia and NZ), IMB limited and Australian Philanthropic Services.

In the meantime, Jan has never stopped running. Over the years her distances increased to half marathons in her thirties and marathons from her mid-fifties. She has run five marathons since turning 55 (Melbourne, Gold Coast, Berlin, Tokyo and London). Her three children are also keen sportspeople with two competing at National standard, in distance, of course.

As the Olympic sports have increased in competition, they have also increased their focus on governance, risk management, financial management and culture.

It is this unique intersection of sport and mathematics that prompted Jan to express her interest in the Athletics Australia Board, which she joined in 2014. In 2021, she was unanimously appointed to be President, while concurrently being an active member of the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee, the People and Culture

Committee, the Board Nominations Committee and the RunWest Board (which is a joint venture between AA and ANSW).

She remains passionate about the benefits of athletics to people of all ages and abilities. Jan says “at the end of the day, you only need a t shirt, shorts and a pair of shoes. It is the great equalizer globally. And in many places, you don’t need all of those things.” Jan aspires to still be running when she is over 100, albeit slowly!

AUGUST 2

The Hon Anthony Whealy

Chair, Centre for Public Integrity

“Considerations on the Federal ICAC”



The possibility of a federal ICAC has been a controversial topic in recent years, at least for some federal politicians. Meanwhile many in the community have been vocal in urging for its establishment with teeth to dissuade corruption and rorts not in the interests of Australian community. The recent change of federal government has changed the prospects and timescale for formation of such a body, though the scope and ambit remain to be resolved, no doubt with much debate ahead.

In this context, it is especially pleasing that one of the most experienced advocates in this matter has agreed to comment on this issue to Sydney Probus.

Tony Whealy graduated in arts/law from Sydney University, including doing articles at Murphy & Moloney, before joining Freehills, then switching to the Bar. He was admitted in 1971, initially reading with Murray Gleeson as he took on cases over a broad range of commercial, equity and common law, with the licencing being a particular focus at progressively high levels. Along the way, he took silk in 1984. After times as a judge in the District Court and on the Legal Services Tribunal, he was appointed as a judge to the Supreme Court in 2000. Later he became part-time Commissioner of the NSW Law Reform Commission and a judge of the NSW Court of Appeal, along with numerous and varied other senior legal appointments, in which he served with great distinction.

Of particular relevance to his topic for us, he was appointed Assistant Commissioner of ICAC in 2013, and since retirement from the bench, along with mediation work, he is Chair of the Centre for Public Integrity.

Life before Probus

Rob Thomas



Rob gave us an entertaining talk describing his life before joining Probus. He spent 32 years in 'traditional' corporate, international and retail banking. After that he moved into a mix of investment banking and holding board positions. One of the companies he worked for crushed about half of the entire NSW Canola crop and traded in tallow fats distributing their products in Australia and Asia.

He told an amusing story of how, at the beginning of his career at the (then) State Bank of NSW, he was articulated to the bank's solicitor and, importantly, had to learn how to tap the beer kegs for the bank's parties! Through this he got to know the bank's senior executives which was obviously very useful to his career development. Not only that but he got to know the PABX operators who were able to keep him posted about what was going on before anything was announced.

He served in the Bank of China with fellow club member Geoff McIntyre. The Chinese were conscientious in complying with Australian regulations but they weren't prepared to discuss Tibet, Tiananmen or Taiwan....

His brush with fame came when he was involved with establishing the Bradman Museum. The great man came to speak at a dinner and, when Rob told him that there would be 600 people at the event, replied that there would actually be 601 people but only 600 would enjoy it!

Storyteller

Peter Stevens

Peter told us a story of how things have changed in his (and our!) lifetime in the retail industry. His father was in the industry when Peter was young and everything was very different to today. There were no supermarkets for a start. Tuesday mornings were the quietest part of the week in retail and suppliers such as the butcher or fruiterer would ring up to offer whatever they had that was good on the day.



Peter worked for the Coca Cola company (as did your editor for a short time in the 1960's!). It was Peter who introduced cans of Coke to Australia! He then gained some experience in what is now IGA. In those days Coles and Woolworths hadn't extended their business to rural NSW and it was companies like JB Youngs who were the largest businesses in the bush. Nowadays, with the pandemic, Coles and Woollies have gone full circle and brought back home deliveries for groceries! Peter thinks that this is a dangerous time for the big companies because the internet

allows smaller companies to cut out the big companies, for example by selling pre-prepared meals online for delivery to homes. These changes are coming at a fast rate. Peter has found that his grandchildren are very interested in his career and how things happened in 'the old days'. He recommends that we sit down with the young ones and talk about those times.

GUEST SPEAKER

TIM ROCKS & RYAN CORMICAN

Evans and Partners

"Perspectives on Australian & International Markets"



With a new government in Canberra and numerous issues impacting on the outlook for the Australian economy and investment climate, it was very pleasing and timely that two senior managers from Evans & Partners agreed to give us their perspectives.

Handouts of the very clear and instructive slides were provided for all, and the presentation will also be available on the website.

Tim Rocks covered the recent surge in inflation here and overseas (with USA and UK even higher than Australia) and the pressures this has exerted on supply lines as well as stock markets and the housing sector. It was felt that the RBA should have raised interest rates long ago, when it became evident the impact of covid on the Australian economy was less than earlier feared. This delay encouraged too much investment in real estate at very low interest rates, with consequent high prices and mortgages. Some highly leveraged people may face major problems from much higher interest rates and repayments in the months ahead.

The current situation was put into historical context, including in the important US market, where it was interesting to compare the current situation with past crises and associated bear markets.

The massive debt arising since the start of the covid era is daunting, with for instance government debt of Greece and Italy far in excess of GDP, while Sri Lanka is suffering a crisis with depleted foreign reserves and soaring inflation associated with civil unrest. Many other developing countries face similar pressures.

Meanwhile in western markets, valuation bubbles such as Zoom and Bitcoin have been wound back and Amazon's revenue growth has almost stalled.

The Australian economy has been cushioned by strong iron ore exports, with much higher 2022 earnings growth compared with many other economies. Even here, many "growth stocks" valuations have dropped (while "value stocks" have been much more stable).

However, there are some optimistic prospects on the horizon, especially given the massive boost to investments that will be necessary to achieve the net zero decarbonisation target by 2050. This will require much higher copper output to meet forecast demand, while solar panels, electric vehicles etc face likely huge demand growth. He also referred to the fascinating potential for precision fermentation as technology develops to revolutionise food consumption.

After deftly fielding many questions from members, our guests were thanked on our behalf by Sean Wareing for such perceptive insights into the global and domestic economic situation.

Ryan Cormican, who attended with Tim, has kindly offered to put any interested member on the circulation list for regular insights and perspectives Evans and Partners shares with its clients. If you would like to receive this, be invited to upcoming client updates or have a one-on-one discussion with Ryan about your own situation and how his services can assist, feel free to contact him on 02 8070 6603 or ryan.cormican@evansandpartners.com.au

Peter James

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Our May activity was a visit to the Police and Justice Museum in Phillip Street where there has been a Police station, holding cells and a Court of Petty sessions since the 1820's. We then visited the Sydney Museum which is on the site of Governor Phillip's official residence and was also the residence for the first 10 Governors of NSW. A very enjoyable day for the 15 participants.



The Justice & Police Museum, guilty as charged.

Future Activities:

Friday 24 June - **Elizabeth Farm** – (Cost \$16pp)

Monday 18 July – **Archibald Prize** – (Cost \$25pp)

Friday 26 August – **Guide Dogs Richmond**

Cockatoo Island 2nd Tour: This tour will be held on Friday 30 September. More details will be provided on the booking website in the near future. No cost.

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.

Friday 14 October – **Mt Annan Botanical Gardens** (Cost \$14pp)

November – Bus trip to Sydney West Airport and Camden (TBC)

December - Tuesday 13 December - Christmas Lunch at Dunbar House

David Brand

Activities Director

IMPORTANT COMPUTER INFORMATION FROM TONY ANDREW

Probus C & A – Computers & Answers

The second session was conducted on Zoom on an Apple Laptop and discussion included the Internet, email and Microsoft Word. The session was recorded and is available for a limited time by clicking - [here](#)

You will need to enter the Passcode -> **Passcode:** Ac!T*8M*

How to have full club information in your pocket!

An outstanding free App exclusive to Sydney Probus Members for a mobile or tablet.

Let's review the benefits!

The App contains the following handy information, fully password protected and confidential to members only.

- **Member Directory** – A picture, full contact details including one touch listings for mobile and email.
- **Events** - Meetings and Activities can be viewed and registrations made. Online payment is available through the App.
- **Your Registrations** – Immediately see all the events for which you have registered and whether any required payment has been made.
- **Database profile** – Confidential to yourself, your full club profile enables you to check for any errors, updates or changes required.

How to access the Sydney Probus App



Go to the App store on your device and search for 'Wild Apricot for members'. Select and follow the prompts to download and open the free App. The password for the device will be required as well as your personal club password hopefully on a one-off basis. Then you have all the Club information in your pocket!

If you have any difficulty locating or using the App, contact the System Administrator, Tony Andrew - [here](#)

What is a data backup and why do you need it?



If you've ever lost any data – or even felt that moment of panic at momentarily misplacing digital files – you'll appreciate why it makes sense to 'back up' everything you care about.

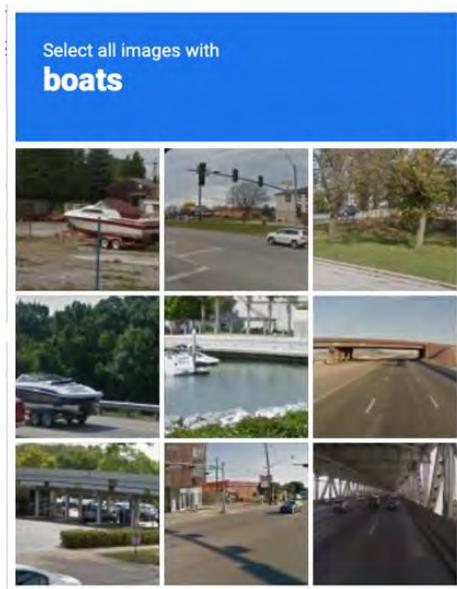
And if you haven't experienced the dreaded data loss, it's time to learn all about protecting that important information on your electronic devices so

that it can be easily restored should the unthinkable ever occur. What does data backup data mean? Click the link and find out!

<https://www.probussouthpacific.org/Of59b2ef/What is a data backup and why do you need it>

Why does our website need CAPTCHA?

Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart

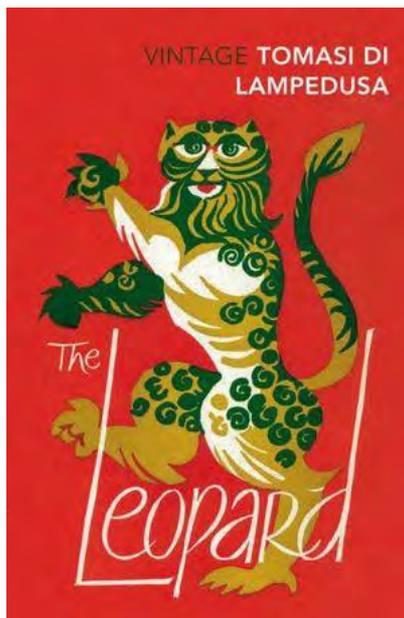


We use the often annoying picture test for the following very important reasons.

- To protect the integrity of our website by stopping hackers using robots.
- To help protect your site from spam and abuse.
- It offers protection from scrapers who want to copy the email addresses of members.
- Stops brute force attacks in which hackers repeatedly try to log-in using hundreds of different passwords.
- To make our website more secure in several other ways.
- To stop cyber criminals inserting links to other websites

BOOK REVIEW

The Leopard by Giuseppe di Lampedusa (223 pages) – 1958 – Fiction



This book is worth re-reading, for those (like me) who may have read it years ago.

“Love. Of course, love. Flames for a year, ashes for thirty”.

Unfortunately, not all his prose is quite so crisp. However, a fascinating slice of Sicily from 1860 until 1910, told by the last survivor of a landed dynasty.

The Prince himself is at the centre as he experiences Garibaldi, the unification of Italy, and declining family fortunes as the new world takes over from the old. At the start he is virtually the godfather of his part of Sicily and rules like a king over vast estates and people. At the end he is old and virtually irrelevant in the new world where money is far more important than landed aristocracy.

In between we meet his family, priest, dogs, servants and neighbours. Although written in 1958, there are the same ironies, comedy of manners and introspection as in a Jane Austen novel.

Sufficient action and excitement to justify what has been described as a “superb film by Visconti for 20th Century Fox starring Burt Lancaster and Claudia Cardinale”.

So worth reading for the descriptions of Sicily, Italian unification and ironic observations about social morality as the old gives way to the new. Deservedly a classic, although at times hard going for the modern reader.

David Castle

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR!

Glasgow boys, Archie and Jock, are sitting in the pub discussing Jock’s forthcoming wedding.

‘Aye, it’s all going like magic,’ says Jock. ‘I’ve got everything organised already: the flowers, the church, the cars, the reception, the rings, the minister, even ma stag night...’

Archie nods approvingly.

‘Hell, I’ve even bought a kilt to be married in!’ continues Jock.

‘A kilt?’ exclaims Archie, ‘That’s grand, you’ll look pure smart in that!’

And what’s the tartan?’

‘Ach,’ says Jock, ‘I imagine she’ll be in white.’

A Muslim was sitting next to Paddy on a plane. Paddy ordered a whisky.

The stewardess asked the Muslim if he'd like a drink. He replied in disgust "I'd rather be raped by a dozen whores than let liquor touch my lip."

Paddy handed his drink back and said "Me too, I didn't know we had a choice!"

Paddy calls Easyjet to book a flight.

The operator asks "How many people are flying with you?"

Paddy replies "I don't know! It's your bloody plane!"

Paddy and Murphy are working on a building site.

Paddy says to Murphy "I'm gonna have the day off. I'm gonna pretend I'm mad!"

He climbs up the rafters, hangs upside down and shouts "I'M A LIGHT BULB! .. I'M A LIGHT BULB!"

Murphy watches in amazement!

The Foreman shouts "Paddy you're mad, go home". So he leaves the site. Murphy starts packing his kit up to leave as well.

"Where the hell are you going?" asks the Foreman.

"I can't work in the friggin' dark!" says Murphy.

Paddy, the electrician, got sacked from the U.S. Prison service for not servicing the electric chair. He said in his professional opinion it was a death trap!

Paddy, the Irish boyfriend of the woman whose head was found on Dublin beach was asked to identify her.

A detective held up the head to which point Paddy said "I don't think that's her, she wasn't that tall!"

Paddy is said to be shocked at finding out all his cows have Bluetongue.

"Be Jaysus!" he said, "I didn't even know they had mobile phones!"

Mick and Paddy are reading head stones at a nearby cemetery.

Mick says "Crikey! There's a bloke here who was 152!"

Paddy says "What's his name?"

Mick replies "Miles, from London!"

Paddy, had long heard the stories of an amazing family tradition.

It appeared that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 18th birthday. On that special day, they'd each walked across the lake to the pub on the far side for their first legal drink.

So when Paddy's, 18th birthday came around, he and his pal Mick took a boat out to the middle of the lake, Paddy, stepped out of the boat . . . And nearly drowned! Mick just barely managed to pull him to safety.

Furious and confused, Paddy, went to see his grandmother. "Grandma," he asked, "It's my 18th birthday, so why can't I walk 'cross the lake like my father, his father, and his father before him?"

Granny looked deeply into Paddy's, troubled brown eyes and said, "Because your father, your grandfather and your great grandfather were all born in December when the lake is frozen, and you were born in August, ya ejit!"

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.