



Probus Club of Sydney

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Newsletter

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AUGUST 2022

Issue 445

MEETING DATES

AUGUST 2

THE HON ANTHONY WHEALY

Considerations for the Federal
ICAC

SEPTEMBER 6

PROF MEGAN DAVIS

Uluru Statement from the Heart
and the Constitution

ACTIVITIES

26 August GUIDE DOGS, GLOSSODIA

30 Sept COCKATOO ISLAND (2nd tour)

CONTENTS

Future Guest Speakers

July Meeting Report

Guest Speaker Report

Social Activities Program

Some Computer Questions

Book Review

A touch of Humour

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen,

Despite foul weather, rail problems and covid, 38 attended the July meeting. Aside from the joy of camaraderie, they were rewarded with outstanding talks from:

1. Jan Swinhoe, our guest speaker, on key issues in Australian athletics and on the importance of exercise for all
2. Steven Schwartz, on some extraordinary interactions during his roles as Vice-Chancellor of 3 universities
3. Chris Luget on his dreadful experience with a phone scammer, and the important lessons for us all to heed

On 2nd August, we look forward to hearing our guest speaker Tony Whealy talk on ICAC, a timely topic.

Among many great activities coming up, you are encouraged to book early for a superb visit to the Sydney West Airport site and Camden.

A central part of Probus is the welfare of its members, so a revised policy has been approved. Members are asked to inform our Vice-president John Carter of a fellow member's serious illness or other issue so that support can be provided if appropriate.

In this context, members should feel comfortable to wear masks at meetings, and are encouraged to do so during this current surge even though fully vaccinated.

Peter James

For the President & Vice-President, both of whom have been away

Note

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

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.

SEPTEMBER 6

Prof Megan Davis

Pro Vice Chancellor Indigenous and Professor of Constitutional Law, UNSW,

“Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Constitution”



Professor Davis is Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous and holds the Balnaves Chair of Constitutional Law at UNSW. Formerly she was Professor of Law and Director, indigenous Law Centre.

She is also Chair, United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which is based in Geneva.

She was a key figure in the collaboration that agreed on the “Uluru Statement from the Heart”, and as a member of the Referendum Council, read out the statement for the first time in history at the First Nations Constitutional Convention in 2017.

Megan is a Cobble Cobble woman of the Barrungam nation in SW Queensland. After graduating in law at the University of Queensland, she built a career in diplomacy and law. In 1999 she was an international lawyer at the UN, including working on the Declaration of Indigenous Rights. In 2010, she became the first aboriginal woman to be elected to a UN body, and last year was appointed Chair, as above.

She has been a Commissioner on the Australian Rugby League Commission since 2017. In 2018, she was named overall winner of the AFR 100 Women of Influence Award. She has been appointed a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, as well as the Australian Academy of Law. Together with Pat Anderson and Noel Pearson, she was awarded the Sydney Peace Prize in 2018 on behalf of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. She was awarded expert recognition by NZ’s Maori Centre of Research Excellence.

Megan has written many academic papers and several books, including “Everything you need to know about the Uluru Statement”.

We are honoured to welcome her to give us some insights into the Uluru Statement, the First Nations Voice to Parliament, to constitutional recognition and the way forward.

Induction

Keith Hartman



Keith Hartman was introduced by Rod Binstead.

Keith was acknowledged as one of Sydney's leading obstetricians for many years. He was a medical student in the late '60s where he met Rod. He is married to Kerrie Anne. Keith served the community through Royal North Shore Hospital, St

Margaret's Hospital and The Mater for over fifty-two years, in that time delivering what is thought to be around fifteen thousand babies. As Chair of the Mater Foundation, he has been responsible for raising over \$70 million for the foundation. He has also been a major supporter of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in NSW and Queensland.

Acting President Peter James welcomed Keith to Probus and hoped he will stay an active member.

Life before Probus

Stephen Schwartz



Stephen began his informative, and often humorous, Life before Probus address by admitting that was rather nervous about giving it. He recalled giving a similar talk to a professional body and a lady saying that it was so interesting that he should publish it. **Stephen** replied that he was so busy that he might do it posthumously to which she replied "Oh good, I can hardly wait"!

Stephen has an accent that he acquired after being raised in America and came to Australia in 1978. His life interest has always been education. He entered university at age sixteen and has "never left". He has held academic appointments in U.S.A., UK and Australia and was Vice-Chancellor and President of three of these, two in Australia and one in the UK. He has been Chairman of the Fulbright Commission, Chairman of the Council of Humanities and Arts and Chairman of ACARA, the organisation for NAPLAN testing and Curricula.

He highlighted that universities are also businesses and that they are among the biggest businesses in Australia. They employ, consume, sell and are always cost

constrained. An example he gave was that Sydney University spent \$7 million every day of the year in 2021 and still ended up with a surplus of \$1 billion.

Universities are also major property developers. Stephen was heavily involved in the building of the Macquarie University Hospital and Clinic, built with an unsecured bond - the first for any university in Australia. Macquarie University also built the Cochlear building on campus which is Cochlear's global headquarters as well as their production site. They partner with Macquarie University in both research and work experience. This is extremely beneficial for both organisations.

Part of his work was to take possible prankster calls. One call that he received was from a "Bill Gates". It turned out that it really was Gates who liked to watch videos as he worked out on a treadmill. One set of videos was produced at Macquarie Uni on "Big History". Gates was so impressed that the professor producing them (David Christian) was invited to a tech conference in the US and then to the Davos meeting. His videos from Macquarie have influenced school curriculums here in Australia and around the world and also university curriculums.

Stephen's take from this is "When Bill Gates calls, answer the phone!".

In closing Stephen recalled a member of the UK parliament moved an early day motion condemning him for what he had been doing in evaluating education in the UK. Stephen's wife thought he might receive transportation back to Australia as punishment. However, after complaining to said politician he received an invitation to a long lunch away from parliament and a friendship grew out of that lunch. The Politician – Boris Johnson!

Stephen had more to talk about, but time was called, and he received a generous round of applause.

JAN SWINHOE

President Athletics Australia

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



Jan Swinhoe gave us a very eloquent outstanding comprehensive overview of the key issues for athletics in Australia.

Her scope included the elite level, which was very timely in the week before the World Championships in Eugene, Oregon and then about 3 days later the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham UK. For her to make time in a hectic schedule finalising administrative preparations as well as personal organisation just before she embarks on these two major events, was greatly appreciated.

Her address also covered the universality and relatability of athletics, with participation of exercise at all ages being so important for an individual's well-being, both physical and mental. Unlike many other sports, the barriers to participation are low. Shorts and joggers are all that is needed, and competitions are available covering all levels and age groups. We can all "do it for life". Athletics Australia fosters such events as the Sydney Running Festival, which may involve about 40,000 runners when it is to be held next September

The universality can be seen at the Olympics, where 200 of the 206 countries had an athletics team at Tokyo (compared with only 23 countries fielded a swimming team, and only 13 had a team of more than 20 swimmers), whilst cost of equipment and/or facilities limit participation in many sports.

Australia is doing well in athletics now, having won many medals at Tokyo, and public interest is high. Indeed, the highest TV ratings for the two most watched live events involving Australians were both athletics, despite neither yielding a medal (though both far exceeding expectations – Rohan Browning in 100 metres semi, and Peter Bol in 800 metres final).

In her appointment to the Athletics Australia Board, Jan applied her actuarial expertise and governance, audit and risk management experience to adapt Athletics Australia to the modern accountability expectations and demands of athletes, government, sponsors and the public. Budgeting and financial control systems were introduced that fitted the high level of government funding. When she joined, governments provided 95% of funding. These days federal funding is entirely directed at the elite level. As President, Jan has set a goal to reduce the dependency on government funding to 50% and has already reached 64%, thanks to strong commitments from sponsors such as Chemist Warehouse (who are attracted to the healthy images and to the lack of anti-social behaviour of the athletes).

Transgender has been a hot topic recently for other sports. The issue arose in athletics a few years ago when the South African 800 metre female runner with XXY chromosomes was winning all events by several seconds. World Athletics settled on a policy with qualification based on testosterone level, rather than personal gender identification or appearance.

Little Athletics is still separate from Athletics Australia despite agreement at federal level that a merger would provide a smoother pathway to the senior level, as some L-A state votes did not pass the required 75% endorsement. Nevertheless, there is good cooperation, and there are many who successfully transition, most notably Sally Pearson.

Amateur/professional distinction is not an issue in the sport, noting funding to specific athletes is relatively low compared to many other sports where players are paid substantial salaries. The few athletes that do have substantial annual income receive most of their funds from sponsorships. It is notable that many of the senior athletes are tertiary educated heading towards careers outside the sport.

On behalf of us all, John O'Connor thanked Jan for making the time just prior to her trip to give us such an excellent talk, which was so informative and inspirational, though it is probably doubtful that many of our members will be ready to register for the next marathon!

Peter James

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Unfortunately, our proposed June visit to Elizabeth Farm had to be cancelled due to covid. Hopefully it can be re-arranged for next year.

On 18 July we visited the Archibald prize at the NSW Art Gallery. There were 19 participants. Our group very much enjoyed the exhibition. There were many very impressive paintings, in the Archibald, together with the Wynne and the Sulman prizes.

On 26 August we will visit the NSW Guide Dogs training facility at Glossodia. So far my wife and I are the only registrations. We need a minimum of 10 participants.

Future Activities:

Friday 26 August – **Guide Dogs, Glossodia** – (Cost \$16pp as a donation)

Friday 30 September - **Cockatoo Island 2nd Tour**: More details will be provided on the 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)

Monday 7 November – Bus trip to **Sydney West Airport** (Badgery's Creek) and **Camden** (Cost \$78pp)

December - Tuesday 13 December - Christmas Lunch at Dunbar House

David Brand

Activities Director

THE DANGERS OF COMPUTER FRAUD

Simple Steps to Reduce Risk of Computer Fraud!

Computer Hacking is on the Rise

If we needed any additional evidence, Chris Luget's horrendous fraud experience outlined to our July meeting is it. In the recent Australian Information Security Association's survey of members, 62% of respondents had experienced an attack and 76% knew someone who had been impacted by cybercrime. When the 2016 strategy was launched, 1 in 4 Australians was impacted by cybercrime. The situation has deteriorated to the point where 1 in 3 Australians is now impacted by cybercrime, indicating that as a country we are losing the battle to protect businesses, services and the community. In a recent radio interview, a spokesperson from the ACCC said that in 2021 more than \$2 billion had been scammed from Australian citizens and in 2022 the figures show that scams have increased by more than 13%!

A lot of identity theft happens through credential harvesting when you log in to address a problem in your account, only to unknowingly give your details away to a bad actor. Or maybe you've clicked a bad link that's installed spyware or something that will use your identity as a Trojan Horse to get your family members to give money to a scammer. That increase in threats, attempts and scams has been ramping up since the beginning of the pandemic. Here's what you can do about it:

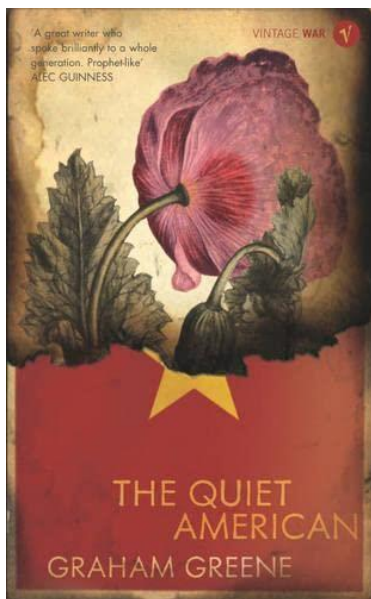
1. Use a password manager like iCloud Keychain (free on Apple devices), or LastPass. They can suggest hard-to-guess passwords, fill them in for you on websites, and notify you when one of your accounts has been compromised.
2. Never, ever, use unsecured wi-fi, like a hotel or shopping centre free wi-fi – at least not without a good VPN – and especially never use it to do anything sensitive like log into your bank account. It is way too easy to intercept information and access devices on unsecured wi-fi.
3. Turn on two-factor authentication for everything, especially any social media accounts.
4. Never download an attachment that you weren't expecting, even if it looks legitimate, without verifying it in some way first. At least review the sender's email address.
5. Never click links in text messages unless you're 100% sure it's legit.
6. Always keep your software up to date, including both apps and operating systems.

7. Don't overshare on social media. The only reason why people want to know the name of your first pet, the street you grew up on, your middle name, and your mother's maiden name is for identity theft purposes. Even if you share this information years apart, the internet never forgets, and people are trawling to scrape the information.
8. Be careful about the kinds of devices you allow onto your home network. Lower quality and less scrupulous smart home devices have been used to compromise home networks before, and if someone has access to your cameras, they know the best time to rob your house.

'Source Article by Alice Clarke - Gaming & Tech Writer, The Australian

BOOK REVIEW

The Quiet American by Graham Greene (1955) – 180 Pages – Fiction



Greene does not disappoint, unlike my first venture back to Hemingway. Greene, as a war correspondent, was also a brilliant novelist.

Set in the first Vietnamese war against the French, the three main protagonists bring the war alive but are entirely believable. The cynical English journalist, the naïve American and the beautiful young Vietnamese woman – with whom both are in love. The fiercely aloof journalist only once loses his objectivity, with fatal consequences. The quiet American is blinded by good intentions and doctrinal theory, also with fatal consequences.

To condense so much drama so satisfactorily is an object lesson for the modern writer – seemingly obsessed with writing at least 400 pages.

Nightly we see on television intrepid war correspondents risking their own lives to bring us the three-minute grab. Greene captures these people, as well as those who simply prop up the bar.

Worth reading for the descriptions of warfare, the compelling plot and the masterful use of language. Highly recommended.

David Castle

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR!

A couple made a deal that whoever died first would come back and inform the other if there is sex after death.

Their biggest fear was that there was no after life at all.

After a long life together, Frank was the first to die. True to his word, he made the first contact: "Kris, Kris, can you hear me?"

"Is that you, Frank?"

"Yes, I've come back like we agreed."

"That's wonderful! What's it like?"

"Well, I get up in the morning, I have sex. I have breakfast and then it's off to the golf course. I have sex again, bathe in the warm sun and then have sex a couple of more times. Then I have lunch (and Kris, you'd be proud -- lots of greens). Another romp around the golf course, then pretty much have sex the rest of the afternoon. After supper, it's back to the golf course again.

"Then it's more sex until late at night. I catch some much-needed sleep and then the next day it starts all over again."

"Oh, Frank! Are you in Heaven?"

"No -- I'm a rabbit somewhere in Scotland!"

[From Frank Barr-David]



Everyone's heard of
Karl Marx
the famous philosopher.

But, not many know of
his sister Onya who invented
the starting pistol.

Economists predicting recession



[From Anoop Sud]

Little Melissa comes home from first grade and tells her father that they learned about the history of Valentine's Day.

"Since Valentine's Day is for a Christian saint and we're Jewish," she asks, "will God get mad at me for giving someone a Valentine?"

Melissa's father thinks a bit, saying, "No, I don't think God would get mad. Who do you want to give a Valentine to?"

"Vladimir Putin," she says.

"Why Vladimir Putin?" her father asks in shock.

"Well," she says, "I thought that if a little Jewish girl could have enough love to give him a Valentine, he might start to think that maybe we're not all bad and maybe start loving people a little bit.

And if other kids saw what I did and sent Valentines to President Putin, he'd love everyone a lot. And then he'd start going all over the place to tell everyone how much he loved them and how he didn't hate anyone anymore."

Her father's heart swells, and he looks at his daughter with newfound pride. "Melissa, that's the most wonderful thing I've ever heard."

"I know," Melissa says, "and once that gets him out in the open, we could shoot the bastard!

KNOW A MEMBER WHO IS UNWELL?

As it is important for the club to stay in touch with members who are unwell or have sickness or disability in the family, the Committee has decided to revitalise the Welfare Role in the club.

Please let a committee member know of any members with health or other difficulty and Vice President, John Carter will follow up to stay in touch. You must login on the club website to use the link to contact a committee member.

HOW TO CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER

To contact any committee member, use the following link:

<https://www.sydneyprobus.org/member-documents/>

To view the 'member-documents' page, members must login to the website

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