



Probus Club of Sydney

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Newsletter

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OCTOBER 2022

Issue 447

MEETING DATES

OCTOBER 4

CHRISTINE STEWART

Challenges and surprises in restoring the 1823 Collits' Inn

NOVEMBER 1

PROF VEENA SAHAJWALLA

Making sustainable material out of waste

ACTIVITIES

Oct 14: Mt Annan Botanical Gdns

Nov 7: Coach trip to Badgery's Creek new airport and Camden

CONTENTS

Future Guest Speakers

September Meeting Report

Guest Speaker Report

Social Activities Program

How to propose a new member

Book Review

A touch of Humour

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen,

It was great to see a strong turnout at our September meeting and to hear a great presentation on the "Indigenous Voice to Parliament" topic. It also seemed that a record number, or an almost record number, of members stayed for lunch.

It was good that we also had six guests attend the meeting, a number of whom have already applied to become members. To sum it up, in my view, we have great speakers and great collegiality which makes for a great club and one that more people want to get into.

I would draw members' attention again to our upcoming excursions and activities which can all be found on the website. Please regularly check the website. I think we should all be very proud of our website which I might add is drawing positive comment from other Probus clubs around town and around NSW.

I look forward to seeing you all at our October meeting.

Neil Martin

President

Note

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

OCTOBER 4

Christine Stewart

Challenges and surprises in restoring the 1823 Collits' Inn



Christine Stewart took on the challenge of restoring the almost derelict Collits' Inn, situated at Hartley Vale at the bottom of Cox's Pass, the precipitous and dangerous first road down the western side of the Blue Mountains.

The Inn was built in 1823 by ex-convict, Pierce Collits and his wife Mary, to welcome early travellers crossing the Blue Mountains on their way to Bathurst and the western Plains.

Christine researched the history, wrote the Conservation Management Plan and ran the project with a heritage architect and builder, whilst her husband Russell focused on his career in order to fund it!

After completion, a French chef set up a top restaurant there, winning many fine dining accolades, whilst Christine and Russell were at the same time winning awards for the restoration. These included recognition by Lithgow Council and a National Trust award for the Best Heritage Restoration in NSW.

Christine will describe how and why they took on this daunting project after buying the dilapidated Inn in 1998, what she learnt from it, the challenges and rewards - and surprises - and how highly significant the Inn is to our early history. Her presentation will include graphic photos to show the many hurdles along the way.

After the thrill of seeing its renaissance, they sold the Inn in 2007. Thirteen years later, she wrote a book about its history and her experience with its restoration, "Collits' Inn: Uncovering the Past".

Christine grew up on a wheat property on the Darling Downs west of Toowoomba, where she enjoyed a stimulating cultural life. Her education was initially at correspondence school, then a year at local school, before 6 years as a boarder at NEGS in Armidale. She then did a BA at UQld, whilst also studying art, which was a primary interest.

After travelling and working overseas she married Russell Stewart, and moved to Sydney where they had three children. Further studies in pottery then art and design have led to an ongoing successful career from her studio in Rozelle. She has held several one-woman art exhibitions. Russell is a member of Sydney Probus.

NOVEMBER 1

Prof Veena Sahajwalla

A smart vision for a circular future: SMaRT technologies and MICROfactories™ creating sustainable materials and products from waste resource”



Australian Research Council Laureate Professor Veena Sahajwalla is an internationally recognised materials scientist, engineer and inventor revolutionising recycling science. She is renowned for pioneering the high temperature transformation of waste in the production of a new generation of ‘green materials.’

In 2018 she launched the world's first e-waste microfactory and in 2019 she launched her plastics microfactory, a recycling technology breakthrough.

She is the NSW Australian of the Year 2022, and in September was awarded the Eureka

Prize for Promoting Understanding of Science. These followed many eminent awards, including election as Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, Centenary Hero (by Engineers Australia), etc. Her achievements and enthusiastic promotion of science, including for young women, have led to numerous presentations and engagements to worldwide scientific conferences as well as on media, such as Q&A, a judge on “The New Inventors” etc. Government appointments have included councillor of the Australian Climate Commission, and on the board of the Australian Research Council.

Born in Mumbai, her tertiary education was at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, the University of Michigan and the University of British Columbia.

She has been working as a professor at the University of New South Wales since 2008, when she founded the Sustainable Materials Research and Technology Centre (SMaRT) at UNSW with prime focus on recycling science and waste management. Prof Veena also heads the Aust Research Council’s Industrial Transformation Research Hub for ‘green manufacturing’, a leading national research centre that works in collaboration with industry to ensure new recycling science is translated into real world environmental and economic benefits.

Her internationally commercialised EAF ‘green’ steelmaking process is revolutionary, potentially utilising millions of waste tyres otherwise destined for landfill as a partial replacement for coke. The conceptual and scientific breakthroughs that underpin ‘green steel’ have paved the way for an unparalleled portfolio of new ‘waste to value’ science, built over years of research at the SMaRT Centre, with valuable contributions from industry partners. This approach is enabling her to transform many of the

world's most challenging waste streams (incl e-waste, automotive waste, batteries) into value-added materials that can be redirected back into manufacturing.

She is facilitating the roll out of safe, cost-effective 'waste to value' solutions via her unique microfactory model, which brings the solution to key waste problems for the first time. In future, these small-scale microfactories will enable local communities to produce many of the products, materials and resources they need locally, using resources largely derived from waste. This new approach promises to disrupt today's highly centralised, vertically integrated industrial model and its mass global markets, as agile, scale technologies drive the decentralisation of manufacturing, with positive economic and social impacts.

SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT

There were seven guests at the meeting: Peter Frawley (introduced by Max Moore-Wilton), Richard Kaan (introduced by Adrian Pilton), Ted Brogan (introduced by Rod Binsted), Alan Locke (introduced by Peter James) and Peter Corlette, Malcolm Macgregor and Will Rogers (all introduced by Ted Anderson).

President Neil asked members to stand for a period of silence in memory of Ray Hyslop, a long term member who passed away recently.

There were committee reports from Peter James (Speakers), Hugh Hopkins (Membership), Tony Andrew (standing in for David Brand on Events) and Ian Lansdown (Treasurer).

Induction

Richard Broinowski AO



President Neil, Richard Broinowski and Peter James

Peter James introduced Peter Broinowski to the members. Richard was admitted to the Supreme Court Bar in Adelaide in 1963 but spent 34 years as an Australian diplomat. He had junior postings in Tokyo, Rangoon and Tehran before becoming Deputy Head of Mission in Manila and Ambassador to Vietnam, The Republic of Korea and Mexico (where he had joint accreditation to the Central American Republics and Cuba). In 1992 he became the General Manager of Radio Australia for two years.

Since retiring Richard has been an Adjunct Professor in Media Studies at the universities of Canberra and Sydney. He has been the President of the NSW branch of the Australian Institute of International Affairs and has written seven books. He is an accomplished violinist.

He has an extraordinary family history. His great grandfather migrated from Poland as a refugee in the 1880's, his grandfather was the Clerk of the Senate, his father was in business in South Australia and his mother was an Interior Designer. His sister is Helen Caldicot the nuclear activist. He is married to Alison (also a retired diplomat) but, when both were appointed ambassadors, they were not allowed to serve together so had a period where they had to have separate postings. They have a daughter and a son.

Remembering Ray Hyslop

John Doherty

This is the text of John's memorial to Ray.



I thank you for the chance to record a few words of Tribute in remembrance of our Member of over 20 years standing, Dr Ray Hyslop OAM, Colonel in the Army Medical Corps, friends of many, known to all, who died on 22nd August, aged 88, following a 2-year debilitating period consequent upon a stroke.

Last Friday, 2nd September, Ray was farewelled at Macquarie Park by a large congregation comprising his family, 2 sons and 2 daughters, his cousin, John Hyslop (a Member), three medical associates, University

Sports Union, Lake Macquarie RSL and Sailing Club representatives, with about 10 Sydney Probuss Members in the congregation.

Many of us thought we knew Ray well, but the extent of the nine individual eulogies at the funeral service was illuminating with more detail of his participation and positive contribution to the wider community, than most of us were aware.

Ray entered the Sydney University Medical Faculty about 1951 and paralleled his study program with sporting participation where he gained a Blue in Soccer, assisting in Sports Union administration as well. He managed to handle his medical program,

despite the proximity of the RPAH nurses who then resided at the Queen Elizabeth residence on the other side of Missenden Road, (he was a good-looking young gentleman), along with concentrated sport, National Service conscription, and joining the Sydney University Regiment in which he continued active Reserve service for many years, eventually attaining the substantive rank of Colonel.

Ray graduated in medicine in 1957, moved through frontline training at RPAH to Registrar, thence to General Practice, eventually ending up in the Liverpool area, where he turned his hands to the specialisation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. I never quite reconciled Ray's Obstetrics and Gynaecology specialty with the needs of his continuing part-time medical services to an all-male military, but Ray could handle anything, including delivering over 4,000 babies at the Liverpool Hospital, as well as being a part time lecturer in the UNSW's Liverpool teaching hospital.

You all know Ray's personality, alert, interested, thorough, widely read, and marvellous with the one liner. He will forever be remembered as giving more Votes of Thanks and bottles of red wine to Speakers at Sydney Probus than any other person. He believed in red wine, knew where quality lay, and considered it important for holding the blood's red corpuscles in constant attack mode.

Last Friday his coffin was covered by the Australian Flag to which were added many Flanders Poppies by the RSL and military persons present. We should have thought of placing a good red there as well, in case Ray became thirsty as he entered the Pearly Gates!

What a great bloke. The last few years saw Ray enjoying St James Rail Journeys in Sri Lanka and elsewhere, and the Probus rail trip to Broken Hill, adding in a Probus visit to Norfolk Island. We were planning another rail journey when the first stroke intervened.

I conclude with two paragraphs:

In 2019 Ray, Philip Wood, I and our ladies, were invited by a Brigadier friend of mine, and his wife, to enjoy Sunday lunch in the Cellar of their apartment at Victoria Barracks. You may recall, when driving towards Bondi on Oxford Street, that the Barracks fortification runs for some distance and at the eastern end there is a small green gate in the sandstone wall. We agreed to meet there at 11:00 AM, and then phone the Brigadier to let us in. Philip and I arrived with our ladies. There on a Council Park bench near the gate was Ray was patiently waiting, allegedly having arrived 5 minutes earlier. Being Sunday morning, the grass around the bench was partially cluttered with empty beer cans and an occasional wine bottle. Out came our cameras. Ray thereafter was known to the 7 of us, including himself, as the "Victoria Barrack's Vagrant" - a great photo suggestive of one who had had a hard night on the grog. Our oral record, fortunately, supports the truth - he had not had a drink all day up to 11:00 AM, but we made a hole in the Brigadier's cellar later.

Ray's funeral service had an underlying Robbie Burns theme. A bookmark, provided to all who attended, carried Burn's "Epitaph On a Friend". You may have heard it:

*'An honest man lies here at rest
The friend of man, the friend of truth,*

*The friend of age, and guide of youth;
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd,
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.'*

GUEST SPEAKER

Prof Megan Davis

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

Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Constitution



Megan Davis has been deeply involved in the development towards constitutional recognition for the past 12 years, since her appointment by PM Gillard to the Expert Panel, then by PM Turnbull to the Referendum Council, through the consultation process with indigenous communities, to the First Nations Constitutional Convention in 2017, when agreement was reached on the “Uluru Statement from the Heart”. She became the first to read this final agreed statement in public.

Since then, she has remained deeply involved in the process through consultations with successive governments and the indigenous communities towards their wish to establish a Voice to Parliament and constitutional recognition.

We were indeed fortunate that she made time in her extraordinarily busy life (which also includes major responsibilities at UNSW, the Indigenous Law Centre, United Nations in Geneva, ARL, etc) to inform us about the process to date and point to the way forward.

In her address, she briefly reflected on the earlier history, which dates back to the 1820s, when elders are on record as calling for some participation in the democratic life in the community. From absence in the Australian Constitution at Federation, steps included the 1967 referendum, the 1999 referendum (when PM Howard included words of recognition into the preamble), the 2007 pre-election undertaking of Howard to hold a referendum in the next term of parliament, prior to the steps in which she became involved from 2011 onwards.

She also referred to some of the various models for First Nations recognition around the world, including treaties, designated parliamentary seats, autonomous territories/regions, or symbolic acknowledgement.

The Expert Panel found that indigenous communities rejected an earlier common thought that the recognition be just symbolic. They found this aligned with the same widely held view among non-aboriginals. Instead, there was a common wish that if there is to be a referendum, a successful outcome should be a real improvement in the lives within the aboriginal and Torres Strait communities.

A focus of her talk was the thorough consultation process with communities throughout the nation to fulfil the Abbot and then Turnbull governments' request and provide funding to find out what the aboriginal people wanted.

There had recently been considerable upheaval in aboriginal policy (incl centralisation of funding of all programmes, leaving many well-established health/law/cultural/etc programmes without money to continue, requiring each to reapply for funding, with consequent delays and disruption, plus a large portion of the new funding being directed through non-aboriginal managed programmes). This caused resentment and suspicion, adding to the complexity of discussing such an unfamiliar topic as the constitution, including in remote communities.

With lots of pre-planning and consultation, a trial was conducted among local leaders from around the country to develop a process. Notably facilitators were left out in order to encourage community opinion to emerge, rather than have external views imposed. Further tests were conducted with peak councils, health bodies etc.

Separate dialogues were conducted, spanning a wide network of communities on country, with the cooperation of the various local federations, land councils etc. There were approx. 100 in each dialogue group (1,500 approx in total). Each community group was structured to comprise 60% elders, 20% local organisations reps, and 10% interested individuals.

Then about 10 representatives of each of these gathered at Uluru on 23-26 May 2017. These were grass roots locals, avoiding politicians, activists, lawyers (apart from Megan), lobbyists, health and other significant leaders, thus putting emphasis on a safe space for the emergence of community opinion, including the opinions of local women delegates. Lots of attention had to be given to translation of relevant information.

The communities represented were so diverse, there was prior realisation that there would be differences in needs and opinions. Notably there was renewed consensus that they did not want just a symbolic recognition in the constitution.

Each of the dialogues read out the summaries/conclusions of the meetings within their communities. These showed remarkable agreement that there was a wish to have consultation on key matters in upcoming proposed legislation that affects indigenous communities, ie a Voice. There was not a request for a treaty. The Voice does not involve a Veto; comments made will not bind parliament, whose parliamentary sovereignty remains unchanged, with no 3rd chamber (as some politicians falsely stated). There were 7 delegates who walked out of the room

(getting lots of media attention). However, the remarkable news and the real achievement were that approx. 250 stayed and reached consensus on what emerged was the notion of a Voice, as enunciated in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

A commission for truth telling about history gets publicity in some quarters, with Greens pushing for this to be addressed in detail before there should be any movement forward. It is noted that the telling of colonial history has often been one sided, without regard to the impacts of massacres and forced displacements on local aboriginal communities (eg on installation of the telegraph line through central Australia). But in fact here in Australia a lot of dialogue healing has been going at the local level throughout the country without fanfare. The stolen generation and forced resettlement to reservations etc are now well understood throughout the country. Thus, in the Uluru delegates' view, the situation is very different to South Africa where this process was used, or Latin America where there has been conflict. Hence it is felt unnecessary to have a long truth telling commission, which would simply repeat well known situations and delay the process to reform.

Hence the delegates felt that this is an opportunity to have a pragmatic practical correction to the way legislation is developed in future, providing a participative mechanism involving consultation on upcoming matters that impact directly on indigenous lives. This would be a major difference to not long ago, when the Dept of Aboriginal Affairs did not have a single aboriginal bureaucrat, and decisions were made without consultation nor real knowledge of feelings or potential impact on communities.

She ended by reading the Uluru Statement, which can be heard on the following link <https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/>

After a Q&A that clarified various queries, John Thom thanked Prof Davis for such a thorough review of the process that led to the emergence of the Uluru Statement and for educating us on these important issues.

Peter James

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

On 26 August 14 members and guests of our Probus Club visited the training facility of **NSW Guide Dogs at Glossodia**. It was a fascinating day where we received a very informative talk by the Senior Dog Trainer about the facility, including the breeding programme and the extensive training that the dogs undertake.

There are approximately 50 dogs trained each year. About a third of the dogs qualify as guide dogs for vision impaired persons, another third become comfort dogs in aged care facilities, courts and schools etc. The remainder become family pets. The standards for fully qualified guide dogs are very high. The cost of training a guide dog is about \$50000 and the operating costs come almost exclusively from public donations.



All activities for the balance of the year, except the Christmas lunch, are now open for booking on the Club website.

On Friday 14 October we will visit **Mt Annan Botanical Gardens** (Cost \$14pp).

Our activity on 7 November is a coach trip to view the site of the **new Sydney West Airport at Badgerys Creek and then a visit to historic Camden**. The day includes morning tea, lunch, and a guided tour by coach. The cost is \$78pp. We currently have 31 registrants, there is a limit of 40 on the bus, so if you don't wish to miss out on this tour, please don't leave your registration until the last minute. If you have difficulty logging in to the website, please contact Tony Andrew on 0411 424 826 Please have a look at the activities on our website and book to come along and have a very enjoyable experience.

December - Tuesday 13 December - **Christmas Lunch** at Dunbar House

David Brand

Activities Director

DIFFICULTY LOGGING INTO WEBSITE

Unfortunately, an issue has developed with logging into the website. This has arisen due to a software update. The issue is being addressed, but currently remains unresolved. It seems to effect tablets and phones more than laptops. If you have any difficulty, please contact Tony Andrew on 0411424826

HOW TO PROPOSE A NEW MEMBER

Securing the website by removing email addresses and aliases from public view has made the following changes to the procedure necessary.

The Membership Application form will now only be visible after logging in to the website. The public view now includes a new page 'How to Propose a New Member' in the MEMBERS AREA where the Membership Application was located.

The Introduction at the head of the Application has been slightly modified to accommodate the modified process.

Further information or any questions – Tony Andrew 0411 424 826

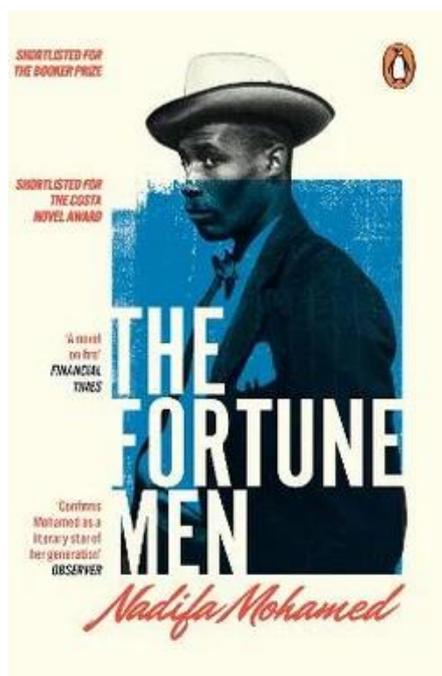
Tony Andrew

System Administrator

0411 424 826

BOOK REVIEW

The Fortune Men by Nadifa Mohamed (2021) – 372 pages – fiction



Shortlisted for the 2021 Booker prize, there is much to admire about the story and writing. Based on a true story – but written and billed as fiction.

It is probably better not to know the true story, as the suspense is one of the best things about the book. A brutal murder is the central theme, but who is to blame?

The “hero” is a Somali, as is the author. He is an Arthur Daly rogue but is he a murderer? The colour and movement of Cardiff’s Tiger Bay in the 1950’s are brilliantly captured and we learn a lot about the struggle to survive there and in Africa.

Like many modern books, it is probably too long but well worth reading for the writing, suspense, descriptions and background. A most unusual book which brilliantly captures the spirit of that era. Although told by a black author about a black central protagonist there is no self-indulgent preaching.

David Castle

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR!

SOME PUNS (courtesy of Peter James)

- Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.
- A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.
- Shotgun wedding - A case of wife or death.
- A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.
- A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
- Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.
- Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion.
- Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
- In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes
- She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.
- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.
- With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
- The man who fell into an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.
- You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
- Local Area Network in Australia - the LAN down under.
- Every calendar's days are numbered.
- A lot of money is tainted - taint yours and taint mine.
- A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- He had a photographic memory that was never developed.
- Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.
- Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done



**My wife took up gardening...
I wonder what she's going to plant**



CYCLISTS!



*PARIS NOUVEAU. — NOS JOLIES COCHÈRES
Bien agrippées à leur poste à sentir les regards de trop près un ramasse-merde. — ND P&G.*

**PISSING OFF OTHER ROAD
USERS SINCE 1900**

Someone asked an old man: "Even after 70 years, you still call your wife – darling, honey, luv. What's the secret?"

Old man: "I forgot her name and I'm scared to ask her."

A man was granted two wishes by God.

He asked for the best drink & the best woman ever.

Next moment he got mineral water & Mother Teresa.

When a married man says, I WILL THINK ABOUT IT - what he really means is that he doesn't know his wife's opinion yet.



First professional soccer player vaccinated



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.