



# Probus Club of Sydney

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## Newsletter

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NOVEMBER 2022

Issue 448

### MEETING DATES

NOVEMBER 8

PROF VEENA SAHAJWALLA

Making sustainable material out of waste

DECEMBER 6

THE HON ROGER DIVE

Crime prevention through rehabilitation.

### ACTIVITIES

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

Dec 13 Christmas Lunch

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Gentlemen,*

I had the very pleasant duty to induct five new members at our October meeting – possibly a record, at least in my experience. I look forward to their contributions to the club over the coming years. And what an interesting presentation we had in the main meeting by Christine Stewart! She told us a fascinating story of a part of NSW history and also of the grit and determination required to return such a derelict building to its earlier state.

It was wonderful to see so many members staying on for lunch after the meeting and enjoying some camaraderie.

A quick reminder that our November meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of the month ie on 8 November due to the Melbourne Cup being held on 1st November. I would also remind members to check our website for upcoming excursions including the new Western Sydney Airport tour in November.

There will be more news shortly about an exciting trip to Fiji next August. I look forward to seeing many members at our November meeting.

**Neil Martin**

President

### Note

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

### 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.

## DECEMBER 6

### The Hon Roger Dive

Former Senior Judge of the NSW Drug Court

#### Crime Prevention through Rehabilitation



*Why spend public funds on rehabilitating criminals who just use drugs and then break into our houses and steal our cars?*

Three good reasons: It is a more effective way to reduce crime; it costs a lot less than just sending them to jail; it can restore whole families to lawful life in our community.

Roger Dive sat on the benches of our courts for over 30 years, firstly as a Magistrate, and then as a Judge. As a Magistrate he sat in both city and country circuits.... where he learnt a great deal more than just law .... before heading the Children's Court and then the Drug Court as a District Court Judge.

Until his retirement last year after being the Senior Judge of the Drug Court for 17 years, Roger oversaw the expansion of the Drug Court from a pilot program at Parramatta to now include programs in central Sydney, Parramatta, the Hunter region, and Dubbo. The four locations manage approximately 250 adult drug offenders who would otherwise be in jail.

He will tell us about the Drug Court program – how it works and why it is expanding. There will be stories to refute that courts are dry and humourless work places.

Roger Dive was the NSW nominee as 2022 Senior Australian of the Year. He was awarded the 2011 Prime Minister's Award outstanding contribution to Drug and Alcohol endeavours.

Attorney-General Mark Speakman said Judge Dive's "compassion for, understanding of, and dedication to the people who appeared before him is well known in the legal sphere. His work has changed an extraordinary number of lives across NSW."

## OCTOBER MEETING REPORT

There were seven guests at the meeting, several of whom were inducted on the day. Others included Keith Giles and Michael Baume both introduced by Peter James. David Brand gave a short report on Social Activities noting especially that the annual Christmas lunch will be held again at Watsons Bay with increased numbers now that the pandemic has subsided. Peter James outlined his future speakers programme.

Tony Andrew advised that the operation of the club website had to be changed because of a browser update. If anyone has problems logging in, please contact Tony. Tony also foreshadowed a potential club trip to Fiji in the second week of August 2023, staying at the Shangri La 'Fijian' with substantial discounts for a group booking.

### Induction

It was a mammoth day for inductions, with five new members being inducted by President Neil.



President Neil, Rob Masterman, Peter Towson, Rod Binsted, Ted Brogan, Richard Kaan, Adrian Pilton, Geoffrey Hudspeth, Geoff McWilliam. Alan Locke and Peter James

## **Peter Towson**

Peter was introduced by Rob Masterman as a 'man of many parts' who he had known for 60 years since they were both members of a wine, food and conversation society at Sydney University. He was at that time involved in civil engineering and building science with a doctorate in building science from the study of skewed joints in domestic roof structures.

## **Richard Kaan**

Adrian Pilton introduced Richard Kaan who he has known for more than 10 years as members of the Australian Club singing group which Richard directs. Richard was born in Austria but grew up in England. He studied at Kings College London and Harvard (later becoming President of the Harvard Club of Australia). He spent most of his career in marketing for major companies in Australia and as CEO of Unisearch at UNSW. He and his wife Jenny have three children and eight grandchildren.

## **Alan Locke**

Alan was introduced by Peter James. Alan joined CSR in 1959 and the company put him through university. After working in various roles for the company he was sent to the USA to complete an MBA, returning to general management roles in several factories owned by CSR. He eventually became GM of planning for the group which was when Peter met him. He later moved into executive recruitment before recently retiring. He subsequently bought a farm near Oberon. He is married with two children and four grandchildren.

## **Geoffrey Hudspeth**

Geoff McWilliam introduced Geoffrey Hudspeth who he has known for more than 20 years. They both reside in McMahons Point where they regularly have a coffee together and they are both members of Killara Golf Club. Geoffrey was in the tourist industry and launched a company on the stock exchange called Key Travel. He is married and had two children and two grandchildren.

## **Ted Brogan**

Rod Binsted introduced his very good friend Ted Brogan. Ted graduated as a solicitor from Sydney University in 1968, prior to which he had attended around ten different schools in the UK, Singapore and various states of Australia due to the profession of his father, a military officer, who became the Chief of General Staff. Ted joined the Commonwealth Export Finance Corporation following which he was a Vice President of Barclays Bank, first in New York and then Australia. He finished his career at the Industrial Development Corporation. He is married to Judy and they have sons and two granddaughters.

## Life before Probus

### Evan Rees



Following his education at Scots College Evan became a metallurgical cadet with Bradford Kendall. He stayed with the company for the next 40 years as it morphed with various corporate takeovers. The only break was a three year management training course in the UK. On his return he became the technical adviser to the General Manager before being sent to New Zealand to fix a management problem with a new company which took three years to return to profitability. He satyed in Dunedin for eight years and then returned to Australia to become the General Manager of Sales and Foundry Operations. The company was taken over by ANI and he was appointed second in charge of the company, eventually becoming the CEO of Bradford Kendall Group. The company bought ComSteel and Cockatoo Island for their tax losses. It took 4 years and \$100 million before the business turned around to make \$40 million profit pa. Evan was appointed a director of ANI.

At this time some of the other ANI directors got themselves into hot water over the Spedley Affair. During this distraction Kerry Packer made a bid for ANI and as usual started to throw his weight around, bringing in Al Dunlap who recommended Evan to become the Managing Director of ANI which had numerous subsidiaries in Australia, UK, Germany and the USA. To overcome the financial mess caused by the Spedley Affair some of these companies had to be sold. Finally ANI became one of the top 35 companies on the ASX. Evan recommended that a German company be sold: he says never to believe that Germans are good workers! However, the Chairman refused to take his advice and so he handed in his notice.

Three years later the Smorgon family bought ANI and proceeded to sell some of the companies and made a profit. At this time Evan was a non-executive director of James Hardie but he had to resign again because he disagreed with the chairman about the company's asbestos policy.

In 1996 he was approached by the Treasurer, Michael Egan, to be the Executive Chairman of Macquarie Generation which owned the Bayswater and Liddell power stations. Some years later the company bought three coal mines so that they could control the price they paid for coal but got other people to run the mines.

He has held many other board positions. He had some tough moments in his career, particularly the Spedley Affair but he met many interesting people such as Kerry Packer, Al Dunlap, Bob Hawke (who sent him on two trips to China and one to France with Sir Peter Abeles to represent Australian business). On his retirement tour he was given a special luncheon by Tony Blair and John Prescott in the members' dining room at Westminster.

## GUEST SPEAKER

### OCTOBER 4 Christine Stewart

#### Challenges and surprises in restoring the 1823 Collits' Inn



Christine Stewart gave us a fascinating account of the historical background of Pierce Collits and the Inn he constructed in 1823 at Hartley Vale, at the base of the precipitous and dangerous Cox's Pass, the first road built in 1815 down the western side of the Blue Mountains.

Her extensive research concluded that Pierce Collits was a Huguenot from France although he had said he was born in Ireland. He came to London, married Mary Hardwick, but was convicted of theft and transported in 1801 to NSW. He was permitted to work as his wife's servant on the 70 acres granted to her on the Nepean River. He became a responsible citizen:

Chief of Nepean, Inspector of Cattle and served on juries. In 1821 he took cattle west of the mountains, then wrote to Governor Macquarie saying he had found a site for an inn and was granted 200 acres to build it at Hartley Vale.

As Cox's Pass was so dangerous, Lawson's Long Alley was built in 1824 to the Inn providing an easier route down Mt York for horses and bullock drays. Lockyer's Pass was begun but never completed. Collits' Inn was very successful in the early years, enabling Pierce to set up all his children in inns or farms of their own. It was used as a post office from 1830 to 1833. However, in 1832, Victoria Pass opened providing the relatively easier route (still in use by the highway today) taking all the traffic to Bathurst, bypassing the Inn, which lost its core trade of serving the travellers. Pierce was granted 320 acres as compensation, including a 3 acre inn site below Mt. Victoria and the rest where the town of Canowindra is now built. After that, Collits Inn closed trading and became Mt. York Farm.

The farm was sold out of the Collits family in 1875. Various owners then took it over, but spurred by publicity from the popular operetta of the same name, Collits Inn had

a renaissance as a popular guest house for family holidays. Michael Baume attended the meeting, telling us that he had family holidays there in the early 1940s.

The operetta "Collits Inn" was based on a story of the Collits youngest daughter falling in love with a bushranger, who was shot by the Captain of the Guard, who also loved her. The operetta premiered to great acclaim in 1933 in Melbourne with Gladys Moncrieff in the leading role, moving to Sydney in 1934 where it ran for three months.

In 1975, Russell Stewart's mother bought a property on land behind the Inn, as a retreat for her work as an artist. The Stewarts spent many holidays there, hearing stories about the old inn. They had no interest in buying it as it was very derelict. The reason they did buy it 23 years later was a concern that their entry road informally crossed the Inn's land. Their intention was to split off some land to secure the road access, make basic improvements to the inn and resell it on the smaller land holding. However, unbeknownst to them, a heritage order had been placed on the Inn, so nothing could be done to the buildings without heritage architect involvement and Heritage Office approval. A simple repaint was no longer possible.

Christine then realised the Inn was an important historical building that should be preserved and restored. A heritage architect was engaged, who encouraged her to write the Conservation Management Plan herself. She described the immense challenges and rewards in undertaking the project, and some of the fascinating and unusual surprises they found during the restoration, as described by some spectacular photos. Surprises included finding the foundations of a cottage of Pierce's son William on the property, as well as details of the murder on Victoria Pass of William's wife (the subject of a Henry Lawson poem)

After opening on Australia Day 2002, a French chef set up a gourmet restaurant there, winning many fine dining accolades, whilst Christine and Russell were at the same time winning awards for the restoration.

After the thrill of seeing its renaissance, they sold the Inn in 2007. Recently at the urging of a publisher friend, she wrote and published a book about its history and her experience with its restoration, "Collits' Inn: Uncovering the Past". This superbly presented book covers numerous aspects which time did not permit inclusion in the presentation. Almost 200 illustrations and 40 chapters combine to document the remarkable history of the Inn and the local area. Please visit the website [www.collitsinnbook.com](http://www.collitsinnbook.com) to find local stockists or buy direct from Christine through the website

On behalf of members, Geoff McWilliam thanked Christine for such a fascinating presentation, and praised her achievement in restoring this special part of the early colony's architectural heritage.

**Peter James**

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

We are fast approaching the end of the year.

Last Friday 30 September, we had a very interesting and informative second trip to Cockatoo Island. 16 members and guests attended. Once again John Jeremy provided us with a very enthusiastic look behind the scenes of the history of Cockatoo Island, this time concentrating on the historical buildings on the upper part of the island. Notwithstanding the weather we had a great time.

On Friday 14 October a party of 10 visited the Mount Annan Botanical Gardens following our successful tour of Mt Tomah Gardens in February. We enjoyed a guided tour of the Plant Bank where seeds and tissue cultures are prepared and stored for posterity as well as being shared with the Millennium Seed Bank at Kew in London. We then had a tour of the National Herbarium which stores samples of native plants some from as long ago as 1770!



Our activity on Monday 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 37 registrants, there is a limit of 40 on the bus, so if you want to go there is still a small chance! 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. Bookings will be open at the end of October.

**David Brand**

Activities Director

## SYDNEY PROBUS TRIP TO FIJI WINTER 2023



### Shangri-La Resort, Coral Coast, Fiji 6-13 August 2023

Enjoy a break from the cold and rain next August. Yes, a merry band of members, partners and friends are off to Fiji for a week to swim in crystal clear warm water and enjoy the balmy warm tropical evenings at the historic Shangri-La Resort on the Coral Coast. Shorts, T shirts and sandals is the uniform, jolly company is guaranteed!

This is an especially favourable time in Fiji with no school holidays and dry warm days tempered by the gentle south-east trade winds. And only a four-hour flight away.

All this and a generous group discount on the accommodation down to an indicative cost of A\$ 2100 per room including breakfast. Airfares, drinks and other meals are not included.

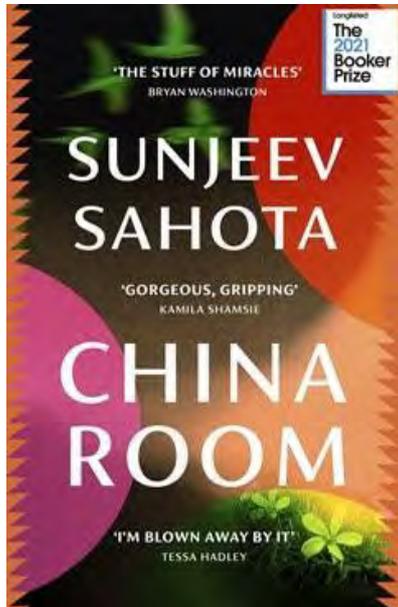
Should you wish to add additional experiences such as an island holiday or the world-famous Blue Lagoon Cruise, this tour is an ideal starting point.

Click [here](#) for the resort website

To secure your booking now or obtain additional information, click [here](#)  
An invoice will be sent for A\$350, payment is required by October 31.

## BOOK REVIEW

### China Room by Sunjeev Sahota (243 pages) – 2021 – fiction



The Booker Prize obviously favours writers from left field – or the wrong (and less cheerful) side of the tracks. This seems to apply even with a different panel of judges each year. However, this sweeping, general observation of mine is based on the last three books I have read, all of which were short or long listed in 2021. All have been worth reading: *The Promise*, channelled tough times in apartheid South Africa; *The Fortune Men*, dealt with even tougher times in 1950 Wales and now *China Room*, describing unbelievable sexual discrimination in 1929 India. There is also *Shuggie Bain*, winner of the 2020 prize. Misery porn seems to be alive and well in contenders for this prestigious prize.

But do not let this put you off. This story is movingly and sympathetically told. It unravels beautifully – like the best modern novels – leaving much unsaid and the reader to fill in the gaps. The main action takes place in 1929 Punjab when an arranged marriage goes horribly wrong. This action is juxtaposed with the 2019 drug rehabilitation in the same house of the great-grandson of the central protagonist.

Racism in India and England is beautifully described. The central stories unweave with great subtlety and restraint. We learn much about social and sexual discrimination in 1929 India and more recently in England.

Worth reading for descriptions of India and the insights into eras that may not be completely behind us. Ultimately uplifting, rather than depressing. However, you would have been unlucky to have been born a woman in a poor family in 1929 Punjab.

**David Castle**

## A TOUCH OF HUMOUR!

### More thoughts on marriage.....

My wife isn't talking to me. She said I ruined her birthday. I'm not sure how ... I didn't even know it was her birthday!

\*I was so happy and content as I watched the wife drift off last night. Her dinghy's got a puncture and she's a poor swimmer.

\*A man tells his Rabbi. "I have a strong desire to live until eternity. What should I do?"

"Get married." Said the Rabbi.

"Is it that simple? Would that allow me to live forever?" The man asked.

The Rabbi replied. "No, but the desire will soon disappear."

\*Last night after a few beers, my mate asked if he could stay on my sofa. I had to explain to him that I'm married now, so that's where I sleep.

\*My wife said she's leaving me because I invade her privacy too often. At least that's what it says in her diary.

\*As me and the wife headed off on a romantic holiday, we talked about what kinky things we'd like to do to each other. She said, "I've always wanted to be handcuffed." So, I planted a kilo of coke in her suitcase.

\*Wife to husband: "Let's go out and have some fun tonight!"

Husband: "Ok, but if you get home before I do, leave the hall light on."

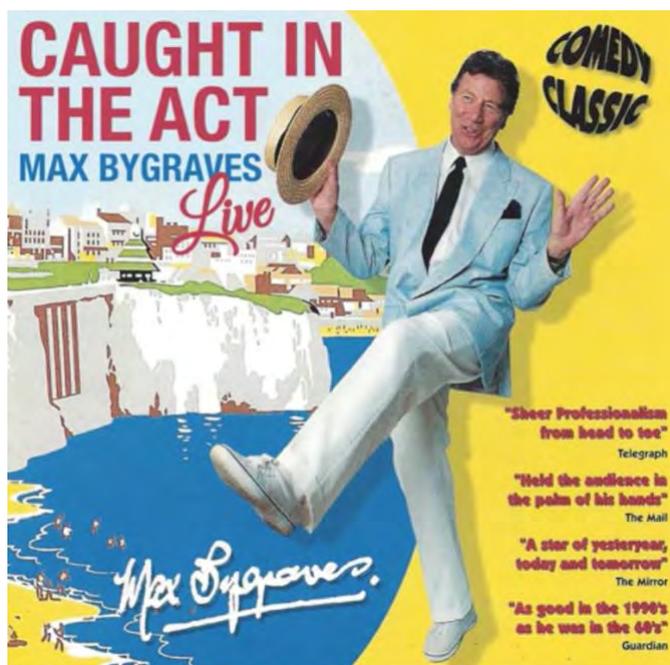
\*Son: "Dad I've got a part in the school play. I play a man who's been married 25 years."

Dad: "Maybe next time, you'll get a speaking part."

### Some Oldies but Goldies

for those of you who remember the great Max Bygraves here are some old, but very funny, very funny jokes. Click the link but you'll have to watch a commercial first (use the 'Skip Ads' in the bottom right hand corner)!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHI-WIRhpcA>



### **And for those interested in modern education:**

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'.

The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?' The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'.

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.'

The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.' Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute.'

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds.

After explaining the commandment to 'honour' thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?'

From the back, one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head.

She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, 'Why are some of your hairs white, Mum?'

Her mother replied, 'Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.'

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, 'Mummy, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?'

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture.

'Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, He's a doctor.'

A small voice at the back of the room rang out, 'And there's the teacher, she's dead.'

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said,

'Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face.' 'Yes,' the class said. 'Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?'

A little fellow shouted, 'Cause your feet ain't empty.'

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch.

At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: 'Take only ONE . God is watching.'

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples...'

## 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.**