



Probuss Club of Sydney

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Newsletter

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DECEMBER 2022

Issue 449

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DECEMBER 6

THE HON ROGER DIVE

Crime prevention through
rehabilitation.

FEBRUARY 7

ANN DUNN

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen,

It was great to hear such a fascinating talk at our last meeting about reusing plastics in a circular economy. It always makes me feel our club is such a great club, as exhibited by the high quality of our guest speakers. For this we have to thank in particular Peter James who is coming to the end of a three year term as the Speakers Representative on our Club Committee. We have had a wonderful array of speakers under Peter's leadership of the Speakers function. More news shortly on Peter's replacement early next year. Thanks again Peter on behalf of all the members of the club.

Just a reminder to please remember and consider the Fiji trip up next year. There have been a number of communications on this already, but bookings close shortly. Please call Tony Andrew if you have any questions on the Fiji trip.

A reminder also to all members to continue to register online through the club website for the meetings. It is extremely helpful for both the Committee and the USSC club for members to register.

Finally, I am very much looking forward to our annual Christmas party. For me, it is really one of the major highlights of the year for the club. Please register quickly if you haven't already done so, as places are filling fast and there is a limit of 100 people.

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

Neil Martin

President

Note

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

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."

FEBRUARY 7

Anne Dunn

Executive Director and Co-CEO Sydney Theatre Company

The Excitement and Challenges at the STC



Anne Dunn joined STC early this year at an exciting and challenging time for the arts in general, and STC in particular as it emerges from the COVID lockdown period. This forced cancellation of many productions, restricted seating at others, with huge impact on finances, coinciding with the major wonderful but costly refurbishment of its Wharf headquarters and theatres.

Her co-CEO, Kip Williams (who is STC's Artistic Director) hails Anne by saying "her intelligence, capacity for innovation, and passionate advocacy for the performing arts set her apart as one of the best arts leaders in our city and,

indeed, Australia. I am particularly excited to work with Anne on STC's next chapter as we expand our touring horizons and look to optimise the creative and business possibilities of our recently renovated home at The Wharf."

Anne brings extensive experience in arts leadership, a passion for all things theatre. She was a Trustee of the Sydney Opera House Trust. Her STC role follows directly from high acclaim as Executive Director of Sydney Dance Company (SDC) for 12 years, during which SDC enhanced its reputation as one of Australia's leading dance companies, doubled turnover, underwent major capital development of its Wharf Studio, expanded education, national and international touring, etc.

Prior to the SDC, she was GM of the Darwin Festival, the Program Manager and Artistic Administrator of the Perth International Arts Festival, an Assistant Producer at the Sydney Opera House, and the Live Sites Event Coordinator for the Sydney Olympics Coordination Authority.

The STC is at the vanguard of international theatre-making, a natural home of a vibrant range of diverse Australian voices, which resonate with artists and audiences alike. Many productions in 2022 have thrilled audiences, while the 2023 season of 16 plays provides an exciting collection of legendary plays and actors as well as thrilling new plays and emerging talent, which will surely keep the audiences enthralled and enthusiastically applauding.

We look forward to hearing her views on the business and artistic challenges as the company builds on its legacy and repute into the future.

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

There were three guests at the meeting – Bill Thomas introduced by Sean Wareing, Bill McCarthy introduced by John Doherty and Ian James introduced by Peter (re relation!) James.

There were committee reports from Peter James (on Speakers) and David Brand (on events). President Neil talked about the recently revived position of Welfare Officer which will be held by the Vice President, currently John Carter. The role is to contact members who are unwell or incapacitated and who therefore can't attend meetings. He asked members to let the Vice President know if they are aware of any members in this position.

Tony Andrew advised members that the deadline for booking the Fiji trip next August has been extended to 30 November. He also advised that it is not necessary to log in to the club website when registering for meetings.

Life before Probus

Alan Locke OAM



Alan's working life of 60 years was spent in four organisations, comprising two major industrial conglomerates, CSR (26 years) and Metal Manufactures Group, and subsequently in two executive search firms, Amrop and Exigent.

His career started at age 16 as a cadet engineer with CSR (formerly Colonial Sugar Refining). Alan obtained an honours degree in Mechanical Engineering at Sydney University. In later studies he was awarded an MBA by the University of Pittsburgh.

Initially, Alan worked at the factory level on programming for the building materials division of CSR Gyprock. He subsequently became GM of the CSR Asbestos Cement Group after a hostile takeover of Wunderlich Ltd, and then of CSR Pineboard following a joint venture between CSR and APM. This was at a time of a seriously oversupplied fibre board industry.

Alan was heavily involved in the solution of the asbestos problem. It was long known to be a problem, but not just how serious it was. Asbestos is a very versatile and strong material because of the strength of its fibres, alkaline and heat resistance, and was very challenging to replace. Eventually a wood fibre succeeded. Alan felt that, if the high standards of the 1970s and '80s had been applied in the 1940s, '50s and '60s,

the outcome would have been rather different with the use of asbestos being retained.

At CSR, Alan was GM of strategic planning under the CEO, Sir Gordon Jackson at a time when CSR was a large, diversified group in sugar, building materials, minerals, oil and gas – and No.2 on the ASX. The acquisitions involved were so large. They could go bad if exchange rates were adverse. Off-balance sheet debt was great, and further large acquisitions were required

Alan mentioned that connections are important in furthering one's work. As a young man in the school holidays, he went on the daily rounds with his father, a carrier. He came to the attention of the company's factory manager who said, "we must get your son into the company." Later this led him to undertake an MBA, but he does have mixed feelings about the worth of an MBA

Following his time in major conglomerates, Alan spent the next 30 years in executive recruitment. He felt that would-be employees should look more to the organisation's values and culture, rather than salary and perks. He became a partner in Amrop International (Executive Search).

In finalising, Alan returned to the matter of connections, and how they help in discreet ways. In thanking Alan, President Neil mentioned that they had a common career path in Metal Manufacturers and in executive search and the great respect in which Alan was held.

Life before Probus

Richard Broinowski AO



Richard hails from Adelaide where he completed his early studies at public and private schools, obtained a law degree at Adelaide University, and was admitted to the Supreme Court Bar ... and then took a very different turn by joining the Department of External Affairs in Canberra. He was an Australian Diplomat for 34 years. He held junior postings in Tokyo, Rangoon and Tehran.

Japan was becoming Australia's biggest trading partner, and with expanding trade, was playing companies and States, one off

another. This necessitated a more co-ordinated national approach to avoid being gazumped.

Rangoon, after a military coup by General Ne Win, had become a nasty regime. Nothing much has changed. It is now even nastier and there is no democracy.

In Iran, the Shah had introduced a semblance of democracy, but deposing Mosaddegh had been a great mistake. Iranians were changing. The Shah was autocratic, the people hated him, and country people wanted a return to the old ways. The diplomatic community in Tehran largely misjudged the changes. The US

has made great mistakes and would be wise to follow the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Just after Richard and his diplomat wife Alison were married, the new Whitlam government permitted husband and wife diplomats at the same post. Richard was deputy head of mission in Manila during the Ferdinand Marcos period. He knew Bong Bong but does not expect much!

In Richard's period as Ambassador to Vietnam there were many challenges: tracking down the Australian missing in action; handing back the Saigon Embassy; the royal commission into "agent orange"; and furthering relations with Cambodia, but Hun Sen has become a dictator.

Subsequently, Richard was Ambassador to the Republic of Korea (with a substantial trade role), and Mexico, including accreditation to Central American Republics and Cuba.

Richard felt that it was a mistake for him to move to the ABC as General Manager of Radio Australia. This was at a time when the leadership was abolishing short wave when the popularity of its service could be measured by the weight of mailbags received. We have not been good at promoting the best of Australia in the region.

Since retiring, Richard has been adjunct Professor in Media Studies at the Universities of Canberra and of Sydney. He found it a pleasure to train 150 journalists who will work with newspapers throughout Asia and the Middle East.

Richard has had a number of books published. His next one, by the end of the year, will cover the degradation of factory-based manufacturing in Australia.

GUEST SPEAKER

NOVEMBER 8

Prof Veena Sahajwalla FAA, FTSE, HonFIEAust, CPEng, Scientist, Engineer, Inventor

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

Professor Veena enthralled us with her ability and enthusiasm in describing the important inventions the UNSW Sustainable Materials Research and Technology (SMaRT) is developing through its microrecycling science.

I would strongly recommend that you share her important work with your families by watching the ABC's "Australian Story" about her life and research successes. This can be seen by clicking the underlined link on the SMaRT website www.smart.unsw.edu.au/

Many items on that website are worth viewing, including a 10 minute video summary that reinforces the messages she presented to us. See

<https://www.smart.unsw.edu.au/news-events/news/video-10-minute-genius>

The central theme of her presentation was that waste needs to be rethought as a resource and an opportunity, harnessed by careful collection, segregation and innovative processing and new technologies to produce useful economic materials, while reducing the massive volumes going to landfill.

She described some of the remarkable advances that have been achieved through research by her and her team at UNSW in designing products fit for purpose for real world outcomes derived from waste, including new technologies using

- old tyres as a replacement for coke and coal to make Green Steel™
- discarded plastics to produce filaments for 3D printing
- old fabrics, mattresses and plastics mixed to produce Green Ceramics
- old batteries to recover valuable metals to make alloys, electrodes etc
- e-waste from old computers, printers, phones etc to produce new feedstocks or products to help make components needed for future electrification needs.

The liberation of key elements from waste by clever chemistry is critical, thereby extending the old 3 Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) by adding a 4th R, “Reform”.

A key feature in this work has been the team’s development of various MICROfactorie™ Technology modules, which enable high temperature transformation at a scale that is suitable in regional centres, not just in big cities, noting waste is widespread, and hence reducing transport (and fossil fuel usage).

She described the close collaboration her team has enjoyed with partners in the community in developing practical solutions, eg with steel maker Molycop at Newcastle, Shoalhaven City Council, a mattress recycler at Cootamundra etc, plus end users who have incorporated the products into their buildings (Hornsby Council, Mirvac).

A further benefit of this recycling (and steps to the circular economy) is that these new products reduce the need for the extraction of raw materials from the earth, preserving resources for longer.

After a dynamic Q&A, John Thom thanked Veena for providing us with such an inspirational address, which challenged us to rethink what we can each do to help this global environmental challenge.

Peter James

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

On Monday 7 November, 33 members and partners enjoyed a visit to Western Sydney International Nancy-Bird Walton Airport, also known as Western Sydney Airport or Badgerys Creek Airport. It is a new international airport currently under

construction within the suburb of Badgerys Creek and is on track to open for 24 hours/day international air-traffic in 2026. The main runway is 3.7km long & is predominantly made from rock excavated from the WestConnex tunnels. Construction of the Terminals has commenced, as has the infrastructure for the light rail. The visit was preceded by a half hour talk and slide show at the Visitors Centre.



After lunch, we were given a tour of Camden hosted by a member of the local Historical Society, followed by a fascinating visit to the Camden Museum. The name Macarthur was prominent.....

All up, an excellent day out.

December - Tuesday 13 December - **Christmas Lunch** at Dunbar House. There are still a few places left, so book quickly if you want to come.

David Brand

Activities Director

FUNERAL OF REAR ADMIRAL IAN RICHARDS AO RAN

Ian Crawford advises that he has been asked by the family of former Sydney Probus member Rear Admiral Ian Richards AO RAN Retd. to inform members of his death. They have requested that members might be informed of the funeral arrangements. . His funeral service will take place at 10.00 on Friday 9 December in HMAS Kuttabul Chapel Garden Island. For security reasons entry to Garden Island will be restricted to those registered as invited by the family. Those wishing to register their attendance should contact his daughter Mrs Hope Pitman, at jandhpitman@gmail.com or mobile 0407945561.

Buses will be provided to the Chapel and back from 09.15 from the Garden Island Cowper Wharf Road Security entry. Because of difficult parking in the vicinity of Garden Island taking a taxi should be considered. Early arrival and boarding is

recommended. Due to restricted space near the Garden Island Chapel parking, there will be limited to family members. Those who have mobility problems, however, which means they cannot board buses, may be driven to the GI Chapel. They will need to register their car's registration number in response to the family invitation in order to allow it to be driven in the dockyard.

All guests will be invited to a reception held after the funeral service.

SYDNEY PROBUS TRIP TO FIJI WINTER 2023

Closing date has been extended to November 30!

Sydney Probus Tour to Fiji - 6 August – 13 August 2023

An Invitation to participate in this enjoyable function

Location: Shangri-La Yanuca Island Resort, Fiji

[Click here for the resort website](#)



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 for seven days, 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.

Sydney Probus Members and friends, Sydney Probus members and their wives, partners, and friends are welcome to accept this invitation.

This invitation only applies to the 7 day stay at the Shangri-La. Anyone can independently extend their time in Fiji.

[To secure your booking, click here](#)

ADDING A GUEST TO AN EXISTING REGISTRATION

Due to the construction of the website, it is not possible for members to add a guest to an existing registration.

If a guest needs to be added, please contact the System Administrator for whom it takes a few seconds to add the guest. If a payment is required for an activity, an invoice will be sent.

Tony Andrew 0411 424 826

APP FOR WEBSITE IS VERY CONVENIENT!



Wild Apricot for mem...

Business

★★★★★ 905

GET

Have all the website data & functions in your pocket!


The App is available on phones and tablets free of cost. Easier to use than the website itself!

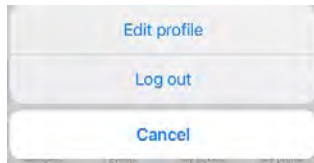
What does it enable you to do?

- Review upcoming Guest Speakers
- Register for Monthly General Meetings
- Review, Register and pay for Activities
- Check if you have paid for Activities
- Check if you have registered for an Event
- Review another member's details
- One touch phone or email another member
- And much more

How to locate and install the App

- Go to App store on your device
- Select 'Search'
- Insert 'Wild Apricot for members'
- Select 'GET'
- Insert your password
- (Apple users can add the password to their Keychain)

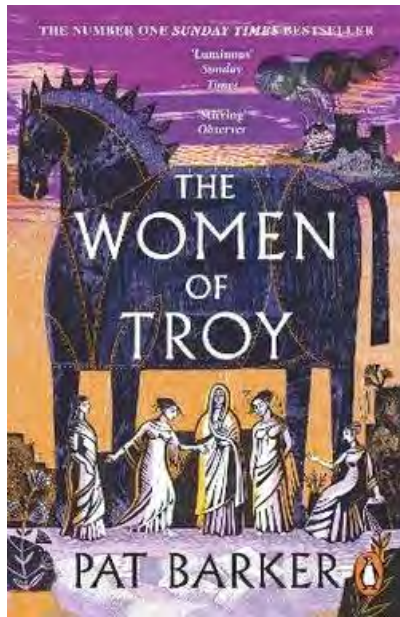
When you are finished, select the three dots  and the following will appear, so you can 'logout'.



If you have any issues call Tony Andrew 0411 424 826

BOOK REVIEWS

The Women of Troy by Pat Barker (2021) – 307pages – fiction



Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to have been locked up in the belly of the wooden horse outside Troy for hours, if not days? If so, this is the book for you.

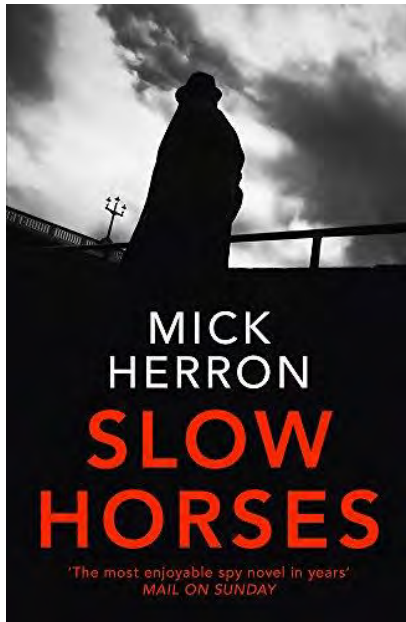
As a sequel to the highly successful “The Silence of the Girls”, this book continues the saga of what happens at and after Troy is taken by the Greeks, led by their heroes Achilles and Odysseus. However, like its predecessor, it focuses on the women in the camp and uses colloquial, and sometimes coarse, language.

So, you will enjoy this book if you would like to revisit Homer and the Iliad, although much of the action takes place after the successful siege of Troy.

I did not find it as enjoyable as “Silence” probably because there are far fewer events and Achilles is now dead. However it is interesting to revisit the myths and legends of our past – albeit modernised and from the point of view of the women. For those of your children and grandchildren who are not familiar with these myths, the two books will serve as a useful introduction. For others, they may serve as a reminder and a new take on an old theme.

David Castle

Slow Horses by Mick Herron- 2010- fiction



British spy thrillers are generally very different to their American counterparts. They explore themes of morality, human frailty and even the weaknesses of western democracy, often in a complex and nuanced way. Many indeed are written by people who were themselves intelligence officers in the British secret service (John le Carre and Stella Rimington immediately come to mind) and thus have special insights into the profession of their subjects. This gives a unique flavour to their writing. [Ian Fleming is a different matter altogether. James Bond was, by one account, 'an international gangster' and subtlety was most definitely not his strong point.]

Mick Herron, although not a professional spy by background, follows this genre in his series of spy thrillers called *Slough House* which features MI5 agents who, for various reasons (usually major operational blunders), have been expelled from 'central office' but who can't be completely expelled from the secret service in case they sue. They take their nickname (Slow Horses) from their office, Slough House, which is a squalid office building in central London presided over by the dreadful Jackson Lamb, as unlovable a character as you will ever meet in a novel, with appalling personal habits and an insulting tone to all his dealings with his underlings. It appears that Le Carre was a major influence on Herron in creating the themes and characters in the novels.

Slow Horses was the first in the series. It did not take off when first published and I can understand why – it is not an easy book to get into. It starts confusingly and it takes several chapters to understand what the story is all about. However it is, like a Le Carre novel, full of intrigue and confusing twists and turns before finally resolving the mystery. It is funny in places, clever and always interesting. If you like Le Carre, you'll love this book (and the rest of the series if you do!). Highly recommended.

Adrian Pilton

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR!

Lexophilia

Although not in the dictionary, it is reported that "Lexophile" describes a person who loves sentences such as, "You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish," and, "To write with a broken pencil is pointless."

An annual competition is held by the 'New York Times' to see who can create the best original lexophile.

This year's submissions:

- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
- This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.
- I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.
- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.
- He had a photographic memory but it was never fully developed.
- When she saw her first strands of gray hair she thought she'd dye.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- Did you hear about the crossed-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down

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.