



Probuss Club of Sydney

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Newsletter

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Issue 450

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at the STC

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to wish all members a very happy new year. Hopefully everyone had a very enjoyable Christmas season and a peaceful and restful time with family and friends.

I reflected on 2022 for our club and thank the Committee and members for such enjoyable fellowship and informative speakers and activities. Our Speakers' representative Peter James provided us with a great coverage on speaker topics, with the highlights for me being the talk on "the Voice to Parliament" and our last talk of the year on the Drug Court.

I am delighted that our membership numbers continued to grow in 2022, at least partially I believe due to the high quality of our Speakers' Programme.

Our activities were also diverse, including the overview of the new Sydney Airport all the way through to the highly enjoyable Christmas party a few weeks ago.

I look forward to seeing members at our February meeting in just a few weeks' time.

Neil Martin

President

Note

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

FEbruary 7

Anne Dunn

Executive Director and Co-CEO Sydney Theatre Company

The Excitement and Challenges at the STC



Anne Dunn joined STC in early 2022 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.

MARCH 7

ROBERT WHITELAW

The Australian (1838) and Union (1857) clubs: The great survivors of 185 years of Sydney clubland



Robert is a Sydney University History graduate and a former ANU Research Scholar, who spent most of his professional career as a policy development and intelligence analyst with the Commonwealth Public Service.

He has been a Director of both the Union, University and Schools Club (UUSC) and the Australasian Pioneers Club (APC). For the past 15 years, Robert has also been the Honorary Historian of the UUSC. He has published numerous research notes on the UUSC's history and its art collections, as well as

assisted with access to the Club's archives for members researching family histories and for university scholars. He was editor of the History of the APC, Volume 2 for 30 years.

His presentation will draw on the London origins of that very British phenomenon, the City Club, servicing the needs of the emerging political and professional classes of the 1820s-1830s. The first such club in Australia was the Union Club Hobart (1834), which crashed in the great Depression of the 1840s (only to be revived in 1861 as the Tasmanian Club, which continues today).

The Australian Club (1838) in Sydney just survived the 1840s crash. It was well-placed to benefit from the inevitable agricultural recovery, the new wealth of the Gold Rush and the lively arrival of party politics when self-government was granted to NSW in the late 1850s. In the late 1850s there were short-lived clubs - the Sydney and the Victorian - which attempted to rival the Australian. In 1857, the Union Club Sydney was created with the (optimistic) intention of being a City Club standing aside from politics.

Over the 165 years that have followed, in Sydney the Australian and Union clubs have survived the economic challenges of two world wars and a world depression. They have each experienced successful mergers with other City clubs - in the former case, the NSW club and in the latter the University & Schools Club (as well as the old Millions/Sydney Club). Each has relocated their clubhouses as well as competed with emerging horseracing, yacht and golf clubs.

During the same period, the once-important Reform, Athenaeum and Warrigal clubs disappeared and Sydney women set up their own versions of the City club (the Women's, the Queen's, the Macquarie and the Lyceum clubs).

The talk will be illustrated with historic photos of various clubhouses from the 1830s on, some original membership rolls and will highlight some of the treasures of the UUSC's current Bent Street clubhouse.

It is proposed that a page describing some of the extraordinary artworks and memorabilia will be made available to members interested to do a self-guided tour after the meeting/lunch, subject to room availability and management requirements.

DECEMBER MEETING REPORT

There were committee reports from Peter James (on Speakers) and David Brand (on events). The Welfare Officer (Vice President John Carter) advised that our fellow member Gundo Frenda had recently passed away. He also noted that Alan Van Es is not too well. He asked that members let him know of any other members who are unwell.

Treasurer Ian Lansdown advised that the club is financially sound with about \$9,000 in cash deposits and around \$8,000 in a term deposit. He noted that the club's policy with regard to refunds for activities is, in general, to refund the cost if a member can't attend unless it is not possible to get a refund on monies paid to a 3rd party. However nowadays we need to make refunds by bank transfer so if a member wants to cancel an event attendance, they will need to send their bank account details to the Treasurer.

The President explained that it is necessary for several reasons for members to register in advance for meetings but if some find it difficult to do this online then they should contact Tony Andrew who will assist.

Induction

Phillip McCarthy



John Doherty introduced new member Philip (Phil) McCarthy who is a great friend of several club members. His career was principally spent in the coal industry where he is an expert in both underground and surface mining.

Early in his career he was appointed general manager and CEO of what was then a NSW state government entity, and later became Powercoal. He has since become a private businessman but continues to work although he is now semi-retired. He lives in Double Bay with his wife Elizabeth.

Life before Probus

Keith Hartman AM



I grew up in the Northern Beaches suburbs of Harbord/Freshwater and Seaforth. I only ever wanted to be a doctor. My second choice would have been architecture but in the 60's, I assumed that architects needed significant artistic skills which I did not possess. So (rather brashly) I applied for one faculty at the one university-Medicine at Sydney Uni. Luckily, I got in!!

Nobody in my family was a University graduate. My father had started Economics before joining the RAAF at the outbreak of World War II. He was sent to Canada to train as a Navigator and saw action with Coastal Command in Europe. Unfortunately, after the war his family and business responsibilities prevented him completing his degree.

My parents however greatly valued education and made significant sacrifices to send me and my brother to Riverview. By the age of 10 I had decided that I wanted to be a doctor, inspired by our family GP whom I admired greatly as a wonderfully kind and empathetic man- a true exemplar. He was very flattered when I told him that he had inspired me and several years later when I was in specialist practice, he returned the compliment by referring patients to me -including his own wife!

I had a fantastic time at Uni. I found pre-clinical Medicine less absorbing than expected and found a very attractive young Arts-Law student much more interesting. We married in 1970 when I was in final year, and so we have now been married for 52 years.

The Clinical years at Medical School were what I really enjoyed, and it was there that I met Rod Binsted. We lived in at the hospital a lot of the time, so we all got to know our peers very well!! There were many wild parties (it was the swinging 60's) and there was broad agreement that "what happened in the students' quarters-stayed in the students' quarters!" Luckily today Rod is cycling in New Zealand as I feared that with the passage of time his commitment to that pact might have waived. Goodness only knows what he might have revealed about our youthful indiscretions- perhaps enough to threaten my acceptance as a member of this illustrious Probus club.

After graduation and residency, I trained in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Sydney and for 3 years at the John Radcliff Hospital in Oxford. This was an enriching and wonderful time professionally and a huge adventure for my wife Kerry-Anne and by then our 2 children. We travelled a lot in Britain, often amazing our English friends by

the distances we would drive in a weekend. When we left Oxford, we did the customary 3-month long campervan trip around Europe, and I did a 3 month Consultant Locum in Kilkenny Ireland. It was great fun but after my time in Oxford, working in Kilkenny was like going from the sublime to the ridiculous.

We returned to Sydney in 1979. I entered specialist private and public practice at St Margaret's, Royal North Shore and the Mater. For the next 38 years I was extremely busy and delivered around 10,000 babies. I loved every minute of it. Looking back, I wonder how I did it and how my dear wife put up with my crazy life-style whilst looking after our own 6 children.

I had always planned that I would retire from private practice when 70 and hopefully still competent. This I did 5 years ago. I did however feel a yearning to use my skills and experience to give back to some under-resourced communities. For the next two years (until the pandemic) we travelled to USA and Europe and in between, I did several locums in remote areas in Western Australia and NSW. The career highlights however were the many two week stints I spent as the Flying Obstetrician in outback Queensland. Based in Roma, I was flown each day by the Royal Flying Doctor Service to a different remote town where I did clinics and, in some places, did some surgery. The experience was an eye opener for a city-slicker, as I saw first-hand the huge gap in the availability of specialist medical services between the city and rural and remote areas. The towns we serviced I would never have otherwise visited. Most of my patients were struggling financially because of the prolonged drought at the time. Unemployment was the norm, and I couldn't believe the prevalence of extreme obesity and the lack of dental treatment. The distances people had to travel were extraordinary. However, most patients were cheerful, non-complaining and very grateful for the service we provided. For me it was a very rewarding and humbling experience, and a great "bookend" to many years I had practiced in affluent well-resourced areas.

I have been Chairman of the Friends of the Mater for 22 years and in that time, we have raised \$70+ million for the hospital. This labour of love takes up quite a lot of my time. Currently we are the majority funders of a new Palliative Care facility being built at the Mater. This is a \$33 million project, with which I am deeply involved.

Over the past 20 years, years Friends of the Mater has funded several other major facilities and the purchase of expensive equipment, to complement the outstanding nursing care the care provided at our private not for profit hospital I currently teach at the Uni of Notre Dame and find great pleasure in the infectious enthusiasm, the optimism and the refreshing altruism of my students.

I am on the Board of Western Sydney Local Health District. We are responsible for the governance and strategic planning for Westmead, Blacktown Auburn and Mt Druitt Hospitals. It is very interesting and challenging to be so deeply involved with the delivery of high-quality health care to such a young, ethnically diverse and rapidly expanding population in Western Sydney.

My wife of 52 years, Kerry-Anne and I had 6 children and have been blessed with 18 grandchildren. Several live overseas and we have made quite regular trips to visit them. Our family is the centre of our lives. We also enjoy theatre, the ballet and walking together.

A few years ago, I bought a yacht which I named "Push Harder", and the dinghy "A Little Push"- a wink to my occupation. Despite being married for several decades, I made the fundamental mistake of buying her without prior discussion with my wife. When I took delivery of the boat, Kerry-Anne reminded me in no uncertain terms that she gets seasick on the Manly Ferry. She never actually went out on my new toy, but my four sons and I thoroughly enjoyed sailing her for the next 4 years!

Unusually for a doctor, I play neither Bridge nor Golf. My interests are indigenous art, architecture, industrial design, photography and cooking. I have a strong sense that Probus will be shortly added to this list.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly to the Club. Although I have only attended a few meetings to date, I have found them all very interesting and enjoyable. The company at lunch of such an eclectic group of high achievers is the icing on the cake.

Keith Hartman AM

GUEST SPEAKER

The Hon Roger Dive, Former Senior Judge of the NSW Drug Court



Roger Dive gave us an outstanding presentation in describing the Drug Court, of which until recent retirement, he was Senior Judge for 17 years.

Sometimes serious, sometimes hilarious, sometimes sad, sometimes poignant, etc, he was always thought-provoking in describing the Court's important work, which can be so life changing for those who work hard to achieve the very difficult task of turning away from drugs. Over lunch, members' conversations were abuzz with compliments for his dedication and compassion in steering this wonderful programme, and with glowing admiration for the team who support the Court's endeavours.

His presentation has been uploaded to the Members' web archives (Meetings>Recent Presentations). It is highly recommended to recall the details of his talk, and also to read some extra points and cases, which had to be pruned to fit the available time.

Some of the key points included:

The Drug Court of NSW seeks to break the traditional cycle of locking offenders up, and then seeing them come out and just return to their dysfunctional lifestyle, old problems and old ways, stealing, fraud, etc to fund drug taking, with housing lost, parents disillusioned, girlfriend and any children deserted, etc. Traditionally 70% return to jail.

The Court's alternative ethos is called THERAPEUTIC JURISPRUDENCE, or SOLUTION-FOCUSSED JUDGING. Features involve: the program excludes violent criminals, sex offenders, traffickers. Instead, the focus is on those with sentences of up to 5 years, who steal etc to finance their drug dependency.

Eligible and suitable offenders receive their proper sentence of full time jail for those offences.

That prison sentence is suspended whilst the participant complies with a very intensive treatment plan. That treatment may require residential rehabilitation, and may include the assistance of pharmacotherapy, such as methadone.

If the treatment plan is a community-based one, participants do three supervised urine tests per week, attend court to meet with the judge and team twice a week at first, and have weekly counselling, group programs, home and curfew visits. It's often said "I've never been so busy in my life"

If they succeed on the program, they do not return to jail, but receive a non-custodial order, called a Community Corrections Order

About 270 drug-addicted offenders are currently managed through the Drug Courts in Parramatta, Central Sydney and Hunter region. A 4th at Dubbo will open early 2023, with NSW Government funding to near double the numbers in the programme. The Dubbo region will provide a special challenge, with a high percentage of offenders identifying as Aboriginal, who can be currently a key target of traffickers.

A broad network of dedicated health, welfare, education, financial advisers, counsellors, etc are actively involved to redirect, train and encourage the individuals, sometimes needing extra focus on their families.

The economic benefits are well established, much cheaper than the cost of jail, as set out in the notes. But the long term personal benefits to the successful individual and family in stepping away from drugs and crime, to being a valued part of the community are even greater. There are a substantial number who don't succeed, who reinject, who reoffend and who go back to jail. But over 50% do succeed, which is quite remarkable given the base, the successes are encouraging.

Through the programme, there are rewards for achievement of goals involving reduction of their sentence. However, along the way, it is found that praise and claps by the court are highly valued by the individuals, some of whom have had little if any positive recognition their whole life.

It shows the power of a clap of recognition for achievement. The Judge well deserved the enthusiastic clapping of our members!

After a stimulating Q&A, on behalf of members, Bill Windeyer thanked Roger for bringing a sense of optimism in this very difficult part of the community, aiming at giving offenders a chance to break the cycle, and bringing a better feeling about drug and juvenile justice.

Peter James

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Christmas Lunch 2022

On Tuesday 13 December we returned to Dunbar House at Watsons Bay for the Christmas 2022 lunch. A very enjoyable day was had by all at this iconic venue. Our numbers were a little down this year. We started with 89 bookings however only 73 members and guests were able to attend due to a number of issues, including Covid cases and other medical problems.

The food was exceptional, the service by the Dunbar House staff was first class and the weather was kind to us. The usual fun and games was had by all with the raffles and Tony Andrew's world famous quiz again testing our knowledge which was found wanting. The day was a great way to end our Probus year and I am sure we are all looking forward to a terrific Probus 2023.

Future Events

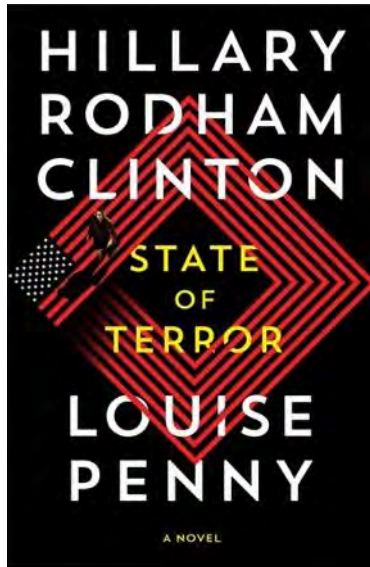
Our next activity will be a visit to the Metro Martin Place tunnel on 24 February. There is a strict limit on numbers and this visit is already booked out but there is a waitlist available.

On March 27 there will be a visit to the Penrith Museum of Printing which has some printing presses that are 150 years old and still operating. There is a limit of 20 for the visit so members are encouraged to book soon. The cost will be \$10 per person.

David Brand

Activities Director

State of Terror by Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny (2021) – 486 pages – fiction.



It is surprising that this book has not had more publicity. So far as I am aware. Could there be a better credentialled person to write about international espionage, centred on America, then Hillary? Penny, as a writer, has a list of 17 thrillers to her credit.

It is a story of our times and the chaos created during the Trump era. So many good and reliable people with, in his administration, replaced by cronies. So many mistakes made and enemies treated as friends. The plot moves rapidly across all the trouble-spots and international terrorists of the world, with the US secretary of state (fictional – but Hillary in disguise) as the main protagonist. She has many scores to settle, and does not hold back.

There are telling and chilling thumbnail sketches of Trump and Putin – thinly disguised – as well as the leaders of Iraq and Iran among others.

I could not put the book down, as new layers kept on being uncovered. As well as a good read, it is a chilling reminder of international geopolitics and terrorism. Any further description would give away too much of the story.

However, highly recommended as both a thriller and an insight into international politics – particularly in America.

David Castle

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Not an advert but funny (I think)!



"OK, Mrs. Dunn. We'll slide you in there, scan your brain, and see if we can find out why you've been having these spells of claustrophobia."

WANTED

We desperately need volunteers to man the registration desk. Currently we have a good number of vacancies on the roster for the February to July period. It's a great way to meet members and a very easy job. If you can assist, please contact Hugh Hopkins on **9983 9489** or hopkins.pymble@bigpond.com.au

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.