



# Probus Club of Sydney

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## Newsletter

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JUNE 2023

Issue 454

### MEETING DATES

JUNE 6

TIM ROCKS & RYAN CORMICAN

Perspectives on Australian  
& International Markets,  
post the Federal Budget

JULY 4

NYUNGAI WARREN MUNDINE AO  
It's not our Voice

### ACTIVITIES

JUNE 19

AGNSW: Archibald Prize Tour

JULY 21

Sydney Theatre Company Tour

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Gentlemen,*

Dr Chalmers gave a polished performance when delivering his 2nd Budget on May 9. But did you think it was ideal for Australia in 2023? Happy with everything, including the superannuation changes, the increase in migration, defence spending or WA's share of the GST?

To help us understand the issues better, our next Guest Speakers will discuss "Perspectives on Australian & International Markets post the federal Budget". This Meeting on Tuesday June 6 should be elucidating and stimulating.

Other highlights of our next meeting will be Ted Brogan on "Life Before Probus" and Max Moore-Wilton as a "Raconteur".

The attendance at the May meeting was 70 (including 4 guests) while 44 enjoyed the camaraderie of lunch. Although both figures were excellent there is plenty of room for more, especially at the dining tables.

I look forward to seeing you on June 6.

Best wishes

**John Carter**

President

### Note

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

### JUNE 6

#### TIM ROCKS & RYAN CORMICAN Evans & Partners

##### **Perspectives on Australian & International Markets, post the Federal Budget**

With the Federal Budget behind us, June seems timely to reflect on the outlook for the Australian economy and investment climate, as well prospects globally for investments, amidst the political, social, pandemic, technological, climate, etc issues that pervade. It is a very challenging task, and hence it is very pleasing that two senior managers from Evans & Partners have agreed to give us their perspectives, Tim Rocks and Ryan Cormican.

Evans and Partners was formed in 2007 to service investors who felt disenfranchised by larger institutions and craved a more personal, highly attentive service. It currently employs about 30 investment advisers based in Sydney and Melbourne and 25 dedicated research analysts. They manage and advise on in excess of \$15 billion in assets, advising clients on asset allocation and investment selection within domestic and global markets with outstanding performance results.



Tim Rocks is Chief Investment Officer, in which role he is also close to the research team, and gives advice to private and institutional clients. He joined Evans & Partners in 2017 after over 20 years experience, initially in the Reserve Bank as an economist, then Macquarie Bank working as a strategist in the Australian equity market before being posted by Macquarie to Hong Kong where he built and ran their Asian macro research group. Prior to his current role, Tim was Head of Market Research and Strategy for BT Financial Group and ran asset allocation for Westpac's \$30 billion Superannuation Fund. He has a Bachelor of Economics (First Class Honours) from the University of Sydney and a Masters in Finance from the London Business School.



Ryan Cormican is Director, Senior Investment Advisor, Private Wealth Management. In this role he provides financial advice to clients such as wealthy families, not-for-profits, associations, etc. His financial markets experience spans advisory and equity research roles, previously with UBS AG and Colonial First State before joining E&P. He holds a Bachelor of Economics from Macquarie University, a Master of Applied Finance from Kaplan and is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP). Ryan completed the FASEA Financial Adviser Exam in 2020.

# JULY 4

## NYUNGGAII WARREN MUNDINE AO

### **It's not our Voice**



Later this year Australians will be asked to vote at a referendum to amend the Australian Constitution to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

Nyunggai Warren Mundine will share why he is opposed to enshrining the Voice to Parliament in the Australian Constitution including why it will divide the country based on race and will not result in real outcomes for our First Nations people. He will also share his views on better ways to recognise and achieve practical outcomes for

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people including through focus on economic development, creating safe and educated communities and increasing opportunities for individual self-determination and economic prosperity.

Mr Mundine is a member of the Bundjalung Indigenous Nation of Australia and a descendant of the Gumbaynggirr and Yuin Indigenous Nations of Australia. He is from Grafton, NSW.

Mr Mundine is a highly respected and influential businessman, political strategist and advocate for empowering the Indigenous people of Australia to build businesses and sustainable economies. His life and career have been shaped by a personal commitment to community and economic development. He has more than 40 years' experience working in the public, private and community sectors. He has advised successive Australian governments since 2004 and his appointment as Chairman of the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council from 2013 to 2017 follows a long career in the public, business, policy, arts and community sectors.

He is currently Chairman and Managing Director of Nyungga Black Group, Chairman of the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation and a Governor for the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia, Chairman of Fuse Minerals, Aura Energy and was previously Chairman of Real Futures, RISE Ventures, NAISDA College, NAISDA Foundation and the Australian Indigenous Chamber of Commerce, among others.

***John Doherty***

## MAY MEETING REPORT

President John Carter opened the meeting, welcoming three guests: Graham Bailey (introduced by Peter James), Daniel Hayward (Bill Hayward) and Rod Hansen (John Doherty).

The President again asked for more volunteers to assist at the front desk. He noted that from July 1 the cost of the lunch will increase to \$30 (from \$28) and wine will be \$10 (from \$8).

It was noted that there are some members whose photographs do not appear in the club web app and the President asked that those without a photo send one to Bill Cheshire or Tony Andrew. Alternatively, Bill Cheshire could take a photo at one of the meetings.

There were presentations from John Doherty (Speakers Programme) and Ted Brogan (Activities).

### Induction



Keith Hartman introduced Peter Dodds for induction to the club. He has known Peter for close to 50 years. Peter was the anaesthetist for Keith's obstetric and gynaecological procedures.

Keith described Peter as an outdoor adventurer and as a Peter Pan who still behaves as though he was still 16 years old! He is a kind, considerate and very empathetic to the needs of his patients.

He is committed to the disabled in the community. He has two sons with severe autism and when they were young there were very few services available to make their lives better. Peter took it upon himself to lobby for and found "Giant Steps" which is still thriving today and helping the parents of disabled children.

President John formally inducted Peter into the club, encouraging him to enjoy what the club offers.

## Life before Probus

### Peter Towson



In what must be one of the most amusing “Life Before Probus’ talks ever given at the club Peter Towson told us of his amazing life and career.

He was called Peter because he was born on the day that Peter Pan won the Melbourne Cup (in 1932)! His father was unemployed from 1929 to 1942 and his oldest memories are standing in dole queues with his mother.

He went to Canterbury Junior High School (because he wasn’t smart enough to get into Canterbury Boys High!). There, the headmaster told the pupils that they were all stupid and would be lucky to get jobs as labourers. However, he got an apprenticeship as an electrical fitter with the railways. After completing his apprenticeship he set up as an electrical contractor but he hated the work and decided the only way up was to get an education, so he enrolled at Sydney Technical College and did the night-time matriculation, ultimately ending up with a Bachelor of Engineering at UNSW in Mechanical Engineering. During this period, he worked at the Public Works Department as an Assistant Engineer but he disliked the routine work so after a couple of years he joined the Bureau of Mineral Resources.

He worked in the Observatories in Sydney, Melbourne and West Australia. From November 1965 to 1967 he was the geophysicist in charge of the Mawson station in Antarctica, looking after the seismic observatory, especially working on crystals of sea ice. At the time there were only 14 people at the station so before he went to Antarctica Peter was sent to the Royal Melbourne Hospital for a month to learn surgery! The first week he learnt how to remove appendixes and how to do amputations in the second week! Finally he learned about orchidectomies.....(if you don’t know what that is ask Peter!). Peter then told us several hilarious tales of life in in Antarctica involving huskies, mid-winter festivities and a very dubious ballet about an explorer who falls in love with a fairy penguin.

After the pole he returned to Australia to finish his research work in Canberra. Unfortunately, there were few jobs for geophysicists at the time, so he decided to go back to Sydney University where he gained a scholarship to work on timber engineering. He did a PhD part time and got a job at the National Art School teaching design! The work he produced for his PhD has saved Australia hundreds of millions of dollars because he demonstrated that the depth of timber structures could be reduced.

He was then asked to apply for a job as a lecturer in the architecture faculty at UTS teaching structures, history of art and history of architecture.



He had kept in touch with the Scott Polar Institute about sea ice crystals and so spent a year in Cambridge to see whether it was possible for one material to slide over another to produce erosion. He returned to Australia to take up a lectureship in Structural Engineering but he didn't like the petty jealousies in academia so decided to leave and study law. Needless to say, he became a barrister with chambers in Martin Place. It was a disaster! He thus decided to do a second PhD on the issue of Security of Payments in the construction industry which led the NSW government to change the Act.

In 2000 when GST came in, he became a public servant but at the age of 75 he couldn't be employed by the government so became a consultant in engineering, the arts and architecture. He holds a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering, a Bachelor of Structural Engineering, a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts and a BA in Australian History plus of course his two PhDs!

## GUEST SPEAKER

### **ROBIN BAIRD and PETER BROWN**

#### **Sydney Metro West Overview**

Robin Baird gave us a comprehensive overview of the Sydney Metro network, which is under construction to transform Sydney's public transport system. It is the biggest urban rail infrastructure investment in Australia.



The system comprises:

- Metro North West line, which opened 2019 with 13 stations to link Tallawong to Chatswood
- Metro City & Southwest, which will open 2024 to link Chatswood under the harbour to the CBD Martin Place station onto Sydenham and then Blacktown, with 18 stations.

- Metro West, which is under construction to provide 9 stations to link Westmead & Parramatta via Sydney Olympic Park with the CBD at the new Hunter St station.
- Metro – Western Sydney Airport, on which construction commenced 2020 to link initially the Aerotropolis & Western Sydney Airport with the existing rail network at St Mary's. The possibility to extend this to link with other Metro lines will be assessed by the new NSW Government.

The system will provide up to 12 trains per hour during peak times, with state-of-the-art signalling and communications systems, so that the driverless trains operate under expert attention by the Operations Control Centre, with safety and security paramount. Stations are designed to be fully accessible including for the disabled and prams, enabling efficient safe transfers. Sustainability has been a key focus of the network, both during construction and later for operations.

The particular focus for the presentation was the Sydney West project, which also includes a side track to stabling and maintenance facilities for trains at Clyde. The Sydney West construction responsibility (including tunnelling) has been split into 3 major contracts (9 km west of Sydney Olympic Park, 11 km to The Bays station, plus 4 km to Hunter St station).

The EIS was approved in February, and excavation work has commenced. The planning process is staged, with Critical State Significant Infrastructure CSSI approval granted in Jan 2023 (covering works below ground and a few floors above ground), while Planning Proposal for rezoning to cover max height etc was submitted to council in April (following public exhibition/consultation last year). The Detailed State Significant Development Approval SSDA application has been prepared seeking approval for the final design.

As an engineer with responsibility for the Eastern Tunnelling Package (including Hunter St, Pyrmont and the Bays stations and the tunnels in between), Peter Brown gave us a close look at key aspects of the Hunter Street Station construction, noting this will be so important for passenger access to the CBD, plus pedestrian linkage to the Metro Martin Place Station, as well as existing Wynyard station, light rail etc.

The zone comprises construction of two major access blocks at opposite ends of the Hunter St station platform cavern, namely West (at corner of George & Hunter Sts, opposite Wynyard) and East (bounded by O'Connell, Hunter & Bligh Sts). In addition, there will be Turnback tunnels extending further east, including one tunnel out to the Domain. Construction of a Temporary Decline Excavation is underway in the East block.

***Peter James***

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

During April some 28 Members and their guests were shown around the Garvan Institute of Medical Research in 2 separate groups. Garvan have only recently re-introduced tours post-Covid.



The building, which is opposite St Vincent's Hospital and adjacent to the Kinghorn Centre for Cancer research is a stunning piece of architecture. The main staircase is modelled on a strand of genetic material and the library underneath it is also extraordinary (not only because it contains the Doctoral Thesis completed by our current President).

Garvan's mission is to harness all the information encoded in our genome to better diagnose, treat, predict and prevent disease. Its process is to

bring together clinicians with world-leading reputations and translational researchers and break down barriers between traditional scientific disciplines to find solutions to disease. The Institute currently studies 32 diseases including Alzheimer's, Bowel Cancer, COVID-19, Hearing Loss, Lung Cancer, Lupus, Diabetes and Prostate Cancer

Since 1963, Garvan has made significant advances in genome, epigenome, protein and cell analysis technology. It has revealed causes and treatments for diseases including diabetes, osteoporosis, cancer, immune deficiency and autoimmunity and claims to lead the field in medical genomics, epigenetics, and cellular genomics; cancer; diseases of immunity and inflammation; and diseases of ageing affecting bone, brain and metabolism.

We were shown some of the work being currently being performed and were able to look inside the labs where genome material was being prepared for examination and experimentation. Some sterile areas were off limits due to the nature of the work being performed. Clearly, we could not get up close to the microscopes as they cost over \$1 million each. Covid has had an effect on working arrangements and it was explained that the building was not fully staffed at present. Nevertheless, the diagrams of the many elements of a genome and the enlarged photos of the ultra-thin slides of genomic material to be examined microscopically were fascinating and



it was enlightening to learn of the cutting edge medical research being performed in Sydney.

### Future Events

19 June Archibald Prize Tour  
21 July Sydney Theatre Company backstage Visit

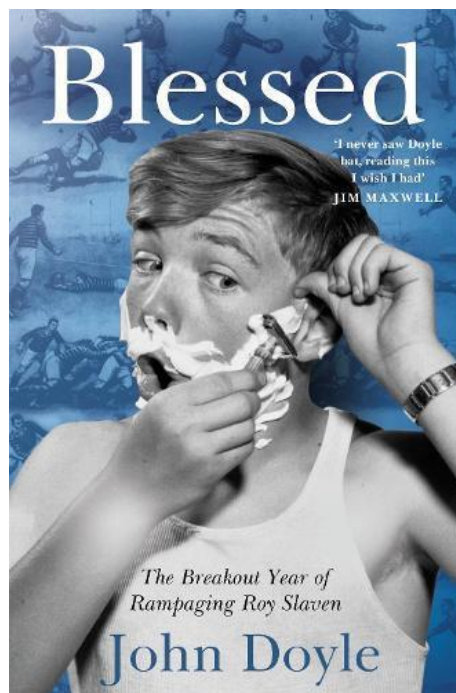
## SAVE THE DATE

Monday 14 August Winter Lunch (with Kate McClymont as Guest Speaker)  
Tuesday 12 December Christmas Lunch

**Ted Brogan**

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Blessed by John Doyle (2021) – 295 pages – part fiction, part memoir



Rampaging Roy Slavin is much better known than his alter ego, John Doyle. Here, the fictitious Roy writes about his life in Lithgow in 1967 at the age of 15. This gives Doyle (as Slavin) the opportunity to comment on Doyle (as Doyle) at 15! Obviously Slavin is invented but it is not clear how much of the rest of the book is true – not that it matters.

As you would expect from Roy and HG, there is much wry, gentle humour. But it has a lot to say about Lithgow at that time and growing up catholic. The De La Salle Brothers are dealt with sympathetically and humorously. Also, most of his many classmates are treated with sympathy and humour. The church and some of the locals do not come out so well.

But there are some serious subjects, in addition to the church, including autism. This makes the book well rounded and able to hold your attention.

For the sports fanatics, Roy as narrator, excels at every sport including cricket, league, tennis and billiards. A legend in the making, but modest with it, even though described by his mother as “the perfect man”. Did he invent the topspin forehand?

Easy to read and well written. Fans of Roy and HG will love it. Others will find it worth reading for descriptions of Lithgow and what it was like to be 15 – particularly growing up in a country town. Also the period, when television was only just coming in, and there was no Internet, is well worth remembering. A gentle read and full of nostalgia.

**David Castle**

## A TOUCH OF HUMOUR!

### More old groans (which I may or may not have used before....!)

- Two peanuts walk into a rowdy bar. One was assaulted.
- A jumper cable walks into a bar. The barman says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."
- A sandwich walks into a bar. The barman says, "Sorry, we don't serve food in here."
- A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says "A beer please, and one for the road."
- Two antenna meet on a roof, fall in love and get married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was great.
- Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other, "Does this taste funny to you?"
- Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my electron." The other says, "Are you sure?" The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive."
- A man takes his Rottweiler to the vet and says, "My dog's cross-eyed. Is there anything you can do for him?" "Well," says the vet, "let's have a look at him." So, he picks the dog up and examines his eyes, checks his teeth, etc. Finally, he says "I'm going to have to put him down." "What? Just because he's cross-eyed???" "No, because he's really, really heavy."
- I went to a seafood disco last week... and pulled a mussel.
- Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, and when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank. This proves once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it.

### A duck walks into a bar.....

A duck walks into a bar and orders a pint and a ham sandwich. The landlord looks at him and says "but you're a duck".

"I see your eyes are working" replies the duck. "And you talk!" replies the landlord.

"I see your ears are working too" says the duck "now can I have my beer and sandwich please?" The duck explains that he has been working on a building site across the road, drinks his beer, eats his sandwich and leaves.

This continues for 2 weeks. Then one day the circus comes to town. The ringmaster of the Circus comes into the pub and the landlord says to him, "You're with the circus aren't you? I know this duck that would be just great in your circus; he talks, drinks beer and everything."

"Sounds brilliant" says the ringmaster, "get him to give me a call". So the next day when the duck comes into the pub the landlord says "hey Mr Duck, I reckon I can line you up with a top job, paying really good money". "Yeah?" Says the duck. "Sounds great, where is it?" "At the circus" says the landlord

"The circus?" the duck enquires. "That's right, the circus" says the landlord,

"That place with the big tent, with all the animals, with the big canvas roof with the hole in the middle?" says the duck". "That's right" says the landlord. The duck looked confused, "What the hell would they want with a plasterer?"

### **Some natural laws according to Frank Barr-David:**

#### **Law of Mechanical Repair**

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

#### **Law of Gravity**

Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.

#### **Law of Probability**

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

#### **Law of Random Numbers**

If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal; someone always answers.

#### **Variation Law**

If you change queues (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.

#### **Law of the Bath**

When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.

#### **Law of Close Encounters**

The probability of meeting someone you know INCREASES dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

#### **Law of the Result**

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, IT WILL!!!

#### **Law of Biomechanics**

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

#### **Law of Theatres & Sports Arenas**

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

#### **The Coffee Law**

As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

### **Murphy's Law of Lockers**

If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

### **Law of Physical Surfaces**

The chance of an open-faced jam sandwich landing face down on a floor is directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or the rug.

### **Frank's Law of Logical Argument**

Anything is possible IF you don't know what you are talking about.

### **Law of Physical Appearance**

If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

### **Law of Public Speaking**

A closed mouth gathers no feet!

### **Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy**

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it or the store will stop selling it!

## **SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Tony Andrew has supplied the following article which gives plenty of food for thought! It certainly made me (the editor!) think and I am happy to report that I passed the tests at the end which is a relief!

### **HOW IS YOUR MEMORY?**

If you think you are suffering from memory loss don't worry!

In the following analysis Professor Bruno Dubois, Director of the Institute of Memory and Alzheimer's disease (IMMA) at La Pitié-Salpêtrière University Hospital in Paris, addresses the subject in a rather reassuring way. *"If anyone is aware of their memory problems, they do **NOT** have Alzheimer's."* For example, you know you forget names of families or you know that you don't remember where you put some things, but you remember you had them.

This often happens in people 60 years and older and they complain they are losing/lacking their memory. All the information remains in the brain, but the "processor" is lacking. This is temporary forgetfulness. Half of people 60 and older have some symptoms due to age rather than disease. Some of the most common cases are:

- forgetting the name of a person,
- going to a room in the house and not remembering why we were going there,
- a blank memory for a movie title or actor, an actress,
- wasting time searching for where we left our glasses or keys.

After 60 years most people have some difficulty, which indicates that it is not a disease but rather a characteristic due to the passage of years. Many people are concerned about these oversights, hence the importance of the following statements:

1. Those who are conscious of being forgetful have no serious problem of memory.

2. Those who suffer from a memory illness or Alzheimer's and are not aware of what is happening ('Anosognosia').

Professor Dubois reassures the majority of people concerned about their oversights.

*"The more we complain about memory loss, the less likely we are to suffer from memory sickness.*

Now for a little neurological test: Only use your eyes!

1- Find the letter C in the table below!

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OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO  
OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO  
OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

2- If you found the C, then find the number 6 in the table below.

99999999999999999999999999999999999999  
99999999999999999999999999999999999999  
99999999999999999999999999999999999999  
69999999999999999999999999999999999999  
99999999999999999999999999999999999999  
99999999999999999999999999999999999999

3- Now find the N in the table below. This is a little more difficult!

MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMNMM  
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If you pass these three tests without problem you can cancel your annual visit to the neurologist your brain is in perfect shape and you are far from having any relationship with Alzheimer's.

### THE EARTH'S POPULATION STATISTICS PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE?

The population of Earth at this minute is constantly changing, but it's around 8 billion at this very second. Check it out on Google.

World Population Clock: 7.95 Billion People (2022) - Worldometer (worldometers.info).

For most people, this is an unfathomable figure. However, if we condense that 8 billion into 100 persons, and then condense it further into various percentage



statistics, the resulting analysis is relatively much easier to comprehend.

Out of 100 people:

11 are in Europe  
5 are in North America  
9 are in South America  
15 are in Africa  
60 are in Asia

49 live in the countryside  
51 live in cities

75 have mobile phones  
25 do not

30 have internet access  
70 do not have the availability to go online

7 received university education  
93 did not attend college.

83 can read  
17 are illiterate.

33 are Christians  
22 are Muslims  
14 are Hindus  
7 are Buddhists  
12 are other religions  
12 have no religious beliefs.

26 live less than 14 years  
66 died between 15 - 64 years of age  
8 are over 65 years old.

Think about this - If you live in your own home, are able to eat full meals & drink clean water, have a mobile phone, can surf the internet and went to college, you are in a miniscule percentage of the population and are a highly privileged person. (This equates to being in the less than 7% category)

In every 100 people in the world - only 8 will live or exceed the age of 65!

If you did not leave this world before the age of 64, like the 92 persons who did pass before you, you are truly blessed amongst mankind. Take good care of your own health. Cherish every remaining moment.

## 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.**