



Probuss Club of Sydney

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Newsletter

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September 2025

Issue 479

MEETING DATES

September 2

- WILSONS ADVISORY

- Macro & Super Update

ACTIVITIES

August 21 – Tour of Charles Perkins
Centre, Sydney University

September 10 – Tour of the
Quarantine Station

October 16 – Conservatorium
of Music & Concert

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A Touch of Humour

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen,

The Winter Lunch was held at Royal Sydney Golf Club on 14th July, also known as Bastille Day. We were treated to an examination of the factors which lead to physical and mental decline, and how to slow down the aging process and its consequences by geriatrician Dr Stephanie Ward, probably best known for her role in the TV series “Old Peoples’ Home for 4 year Olds”.

At our meeting on 5th August Labor ex-Senator and heavyweight Stephen Loosely AM gave us a highly informative examination of global politics and the evolving situations in Russia, Ukraine, USA, China and India. Stephen compared the Trump presidency with that of Andrew Jackson the 7th president of the USA. I think that was a little unkind to Jackson. He also stated that the Trump presidency was a purely transactional one, a situation we have never seen before in a democracy.

Stephen saw the AUKUS submarines as having major deterrent value for any potential aggressive power in our region. This did provoke some spirited questions by at least one of our members.

On a lighter note, I was pleased to be present at Accor Stadium on Saturday night when the Wallabies won the 3rd Test 22-12 over the British and Irish Lions.

Rod Binsted

Vice President

Note: To Register to attend the 2nd September meeting at the Union, University and Schools Club, along with any male guest you plan to host - [click here](#)

2 September 2025

Three Speakers from Wilsons Advisory – Macro and Superannuation Update



Wilsons addressed our Club last year and have been invited back to build on the themes they presented at that time. It is indeed timely given the Australian Treasurer's economic reform/productivity round table takes place in Canberra from 19 to 21 August.



Chad Honen - Senior Private Wealth Adviser - Lead Relationship Manager

Chad has been in the finance industry for 15 years, advising individuals, families and corporations for the last 10 years. Chad specialises in strategic wealth planning as well as investment advice to ultra-high net worth clients and family offices.



Paul Allprandi - Senior Private Wealth Adviser, Equity Partner & Strategic Wealth Advice Specialist

Paul commenced his Wilsons career in 2021. Prior to Wilsons he was head of wealth management at Credit Suisse. In a role that spanned almost 14 years, he provided advice to senior business leaders, high net worth Australians, their families and entrepreneurs.



David Cassidy - Chief Investment Officer, Equity Partner & Family Office Specialist. Head of Investment Strategy

David joined Wilsons Advisory in 2020 as Head of Investment Strategy having spent 25 years as head of one of Australia's leading investments strategists. He is responsible for overseeing the development of Wilsons Advisory's global and domestic investment strategy and works directly with advisers of Family Office clients. Prior to joining Wilsons Advisory, David was Managing Director and Head of Investment Strategy at UBS Australia Investment Banking, where he provided research and advice on equity strategy, asset allocation, portfolio construction and portfolio risk management.

AUGUST MEETING REPORT

Vice President Rod Binsted opened the meeting welcoming members and four guests. The Vice President explained that he would chair today's meeting as President John Doherty remains unable to attend but is well on the road to recovery and undergoing rehabilitation. President John is very confident that he will be able to attend the September meeting.

Geoff McWilliam advised forthcoming speakers including the Hon. Stephen Loosely AM at today's meeting, Wilsons Advisory in September with an introduction by Chad Honen, then David Cassidy updating last year's investment presentation and Paul Allprandi to discuss changes proposed or recently enacted in the field of superannuation.

Hon Michael Pembroke a new member, retired judge and author of many books including *Silk Silver Opium* will speak to us in October, with Patricia Skehan, the author of the recent book *-The Secrets of Anzac Ridge Flanders 1917* in November.

Kim Oates reported on activities including the successful Winter Lunch and the Theatre Party, with the next outing to the Charles Perkins Centre at Sydney University on 21 August with only four spots left. The Centre is named after Charles Perkins partly because his philosophy was to get disparate groups working together. It is a big research centre with a large number of different research groups collaborating with the aim of combatting chronic lifestyle diseases. On 10 September there will tour of the North Head Quarantine Station and on 16 October a private tour of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music followed by a lunchtime concert.

INDUCTIONS x 6



L to R: Peter James, Paddy Grattan-Smith, Michael Leahy, Vice President Rod Binsted, Ted Brogan, John Carter, Michael Hooper, Bill Webster, Bill Thomas, Max Garcia, Jim Dominquez, Keith Mason, David Brand.

Six new members were inducted into the Club.

Max Garcia

Jim Dominquez was very proud to introduce Max Garcia, who has served in the US Marine Corps reaching the rank of Sergeant Major. He has led thousands of marines in diverse environments and multiple countries, including classified projects. Max has been awarded the combat action ribbon, a medal for “Valour” and “Heroic Achievement” from General James Mattis.

Max has taught hundreds of officers at the University of South Florida, lead marines in Afghanistan and served with a response force in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. He is widely travelled.

Max is married to Carolyn and has one daughter.

Paddy Grattan-Smith

Peter James introduced his friend Paddy Grattan-Smith who comes from a family of seven children including five boys all of whom were keen on sport. Four of the boys went on to become doctors and one became a vet.

Peter met Paddy playing first grade cricket – Paddy for Balmain and Peter for Sydney University and then more recently at a match of ex-cricketers from Bonnie Doon Golf Club. Paddy was a member of the UNSW first grade championship team in 1977 and played cricket in the UK in 1978.

Paddy graduated in medicine from UNSW in 1976 and then trained in pediatrics in the UK in 1979. Returning to Australia, he worked at the Children’s, Westmead and Sydney Children’s Hospitals becoming a pediatric neurologist. Paddy subsequently moved to private practice, retiring in 2018 to care for his wife who recently passed away.

Paddy is a keen golfer with wide interests and an excellent sense of humour.

Michael Hooper

John Carter introduced his friend Michael Hooper who he initially met at Royal North Shore Hospital in 1969, where Michael trained as an endocrinologist and following further training in Glasgow, moved to Adelaide as a senior endocrinologist, providing care not only in Adelaide, but also in remote locations. In 1984, Michael returned to Sydney as Director of the Endocrine Unit at Concord Hospital.

Michael has made a name for himself in Australia and internationally particularly in the areas of bone metabolism, Paget’s Disease of the bone and osteoporosis. He was an inaugural member and a driving force behind the establishment of the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society in 1988 holding various offices including President. Michael played a major role with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians as Director and Honorary Treasurer, being awarded the John Sands College Medal for “significant contribution to the welfare of the College” in 2017.

Michael moved to full time private practice in 2010, retiring in 2023.

Michael is married to Jenny and has two children.

Michael Leahy

Ted Brogan introduced his friend Michael Leahy who like Ted is a solicitor and has been for most of his life. Ted has known Michael for many years, previously, as a neighbour in Roseville, now living and working in the Rocks. He worked for many years in law firms and finance companies, but eventually moved to sole private practice, which has been very successful. He specialized in oil and gas as well as project finance ventures being involved in some significant projects and privatisations. Michael is not yet fully retired but is winding down his practice.

Michael enjoys woodwork turning beautiful native timbers into exquisite bowls and as an old boy of St Joseph's College, follows rugby, particularly schoolboy rugby.

Michael is married to Gabrielle with two daughters and four grandchildren.

Keith Mason AC KC

David Brand introduced Keith Mason referring to his illustrious legal career. Keith was born in Scotland in 1947, educated at The Kings School, becoming dux in his final year. Degrees include BALLB (Hons1) from Sydney University and LLM (London). He became a solicitor in 1970 and a barrister in 1972 and a QC in 1981 – a rapid progression. He was Chairman of the NSW Law Commission from 1985 to 1987, Solicitor-General NSW 1987-97 and President of the NSW Court of Appeal 1997-2008.

Other activities and interests include: Member and later President, board of Children's Medical Research Institute 1989-99, Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Armidale 1990-2017, Member and later President of the Appellate Tribunal of the Anglican Church of Australia 2007-2022 and Chair of the NSW Electoral Commission 2013-18.

Keith interests include an author writing books on legal history. He recently published a history of the Supreme Court of NSW, is a keen golfer including a hole in one, enjoys teaching and meditation.

Keith is married to Anne with two children and one granddaughter.

Bill Webster AM

Bill Thomas introduced Bill Webster having no doubt that he will be a fine member of our Club. Bill arrived in Australia as a "ten pound pom" in 1971. After arriving in Australia, he worked for Rothschild, JP Morgan, a Director of Lend Lease and a Director of MLC.

In retirement Bill has been heavily involved in social and not for profit activities, including the MS Society, the Benevolent Society, the Endowment Investment Advisory Group and recently assisting children who have suffered trauma and are impeded in their ability to interact and learn.

Bill is an avid golfer being a member of the Killara, Royal Melbourne and Bowral Golf Clubs, playing mostly at Killara.

Bill is married to fellow Scot, Heather with two children.

Stephen Loosely AM

USA and Global Politics with President Trump



Russia's Expansionism

Following Geoff McWilliam's welcome, Stephen opened his remarks by commenting that since Russia's attempted invasion of Georgia in 2008 we have been living through the second Cold War with President Putin aiming to establish a modern version of Czarist Russia. The West became more conscious of his ambition with the invasion of Crimea in 2014 and is now supporting Ukraine.

Russia's perceived military capability is built on lies. Its situation in Ukraine has deteriorated with very heavy losses, and it now faces further NATO countries including Finland and Sweden.

Russia has made some territorial gains, but they are not strategic. China is assisting Russia but for how long? Neither trusts the other!

Ukraine has changed the nature of the war through the use of drones!

The World, Australia and Trump

At the core of the second Cold War is the battle between the autocracies and the Western order established in 1945 and led by the US. President Trump does not see the Western Order as sacrosanct, raising the question in Australia of do we still have the US at our back? It means we need to continue our focus on strengthening relationships, not just with the President, but with members of Congress of both parties, and on the development of more bipartisan approaches to major issues of state including our approach the US. We also need to strengthen our relationships with other countries like Japan, India, Indonesia and Europe.

On the issue of a possible war between China and Taiwan, Stephen commented that he had no doubt, that in the event one occurred, America would intervene and that Australia would be involved.

He added that espionage would grow with AUKUS and with the new frigates and missiles programs, though as a result of these and other defence projects, we will be better able to defend our continent.

Questions and Answers

- Re AUKUS and Paul Keating's criticism of it, Stephen commented humorously "It is a very painful experience to have an argument with Paul!" Stephen added that he had originally supported the French submarine option and the AUKUS announcement had surprised him. However, he acknowledged that the Virginia Class is a very lethal submarine and to have three in the Indo-Pacific will be a serious deterrent!
- Re Taiwan, we need to do everything possible to avoid a conflict across the Taiwan Strait, including by careful choice of language in dealing with China and by supporting the development of Taiwan's democracy.
- On the issue of defence spending, Stephen commented that defending our country was not just a matter of kit, but also of encouraging the resilience of our population including through their being knowledgeable of the risks we face from terrorism and espionage. It also requires a well-trained army and having strong relationships with our partners and neighbours, as well as with the US.
- Dealing with the Trump administration during the remainder of his term will be "like going to the dentist every single day!" The Republicans could get "hammered" in the mid-terms if the tariffs cause significant cost of living pressures or they don't have the desired effect of increasing the sales of American manufactured or homegrown products. (Americans may still prefer some overseas produced products despite the tariffs!)
- Selling Darwin Port to the Chinese was a mistake and it should now be owned and operated by the private sector
- At any one time, the PM and Treasurer may not like each other, but their working effectively together is critical with the PM responsible for electoral success and the Treasurer focused on policy success.
- Re a concern about India's close relationship with Russia, Stephen commented that it has been thus for 75 years and that India had developed good relations with several countries including Britain and Australia.
- Ukraine has demonstrated that a "50 dollar drone can destroy a billion dollar battleship"
- Australia's immigration policies have been outstandingly successful; in the US the Democrats' losing control of their southern border contributed to the Republicans' recent electoral success.

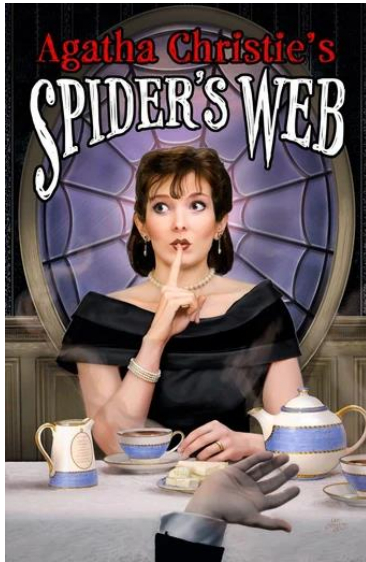
In thanking Stephen, Paul Cheever commended him for the broad and detailed knowledge he had displayed for the benefit of our members.

Alan Locke and Alec Brennan

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Recent Events

Theatre Party – Agatha Christie’s *Spider’s Web*



On Saturday 12 July 2025, thirty-one members and their guests attended a matinee performance of “Spider’s Web”, Agatha Christie’s second most performed play.

It is a mystery/comedy, performed at the Zenith Theatre Chatswood. The show was preceded by lunch at a nearby hotel. Feedback from members was very positive, although the writer of this report was unable to be in the audience, being a member of the cast.

Winter Lunch - Royal Sydney Golf Club



On Monday 14 July 2025, our winter lunch was held at the Royal Sydney Golf Club. It was attended by 83 members and guests. The weather was good enough to have drinks and canapes on the lawn. As it was Bastille Day, the main course and dessert had a French emphasis. Our guest speaker was Dr Stephanie Ward a geriatrician well known from the award-winning television series, ‘Old

People’s Home for 4 year Olds’. Dr Ward gave an engaging address with useful tips to keep our brains well-functioning.

Dr Ward mentioned a program where those over 65 can volunteer for 2 hours per week for 20 weeks interacting with preschool children. As there was some interest in this, the phone number for enquiries about being involved in the Integrity Study is 8052 4365 – see below for further information.



Have fun & get your hands dirty...

Join a 2 hour program for 20 weeks at your local preschool, aimed at community dwelling people aged 65 and older

Engage in building, social & creative activities & light exercise with 3 to 4 year olds (similar to ABC TV's 'Old People's Home for 4 year Olds').

Make new connections in your community and assist in research into combating frailty, increasing cognitive, physical and social health.

Eligibility criteria apply and a Working with Children Check is mandated to participate in any preschool program.

Contact us, or scan the QR code to express your interest:

02 8052 4365

integrity-study@georgeinstitute.org.au



This project has been approved by the University of New South Wales Human Research Ethics Committee, reference number: HC2207231



INTEGRITY
TRIAL



The George Institute
for Global Health



UNSW
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Future Events (please see the website and emails for further details)

Visit to the Charles Perkins Centre, Sydney University – 21 August 2025



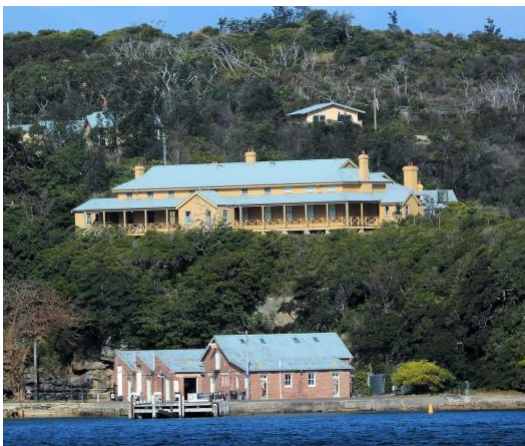
This is an opportunity to visit the Charles Perkins Centre, Sydney University on **Thursday 21 August** at 10:45am.

Sydney University has recognised the contributions of Charlie Perkins by establishing the Charles Perkins Centre, sharing his philosophy of collaboration, inclusivity and challenging the status quo in healthcare. The Centre is a multidisciplinary initiative committed to easing the burden of chronic disease by bringing together leading researchers from different disciplines to find new solutions to combat chronic diseases including obesity, diabetes and heart disease. It is a revolutionary approach with innovative partnerships.

Many of us will recall that Charles Perkins was the first indigenous person to graduate from an Australian university. As a student, he organised a student bus tour 'The Freedom Ride' around NSW to draw attention to the state of indigenous health, education and housing. Perkins went on to hold several distinguished positions in Australia.

The Centre is at the end of John Hopkins Drive off Missenden Road. The tour will commence at 10.45am behind the reception area on level 1 of the Centre and take approximately one hour. There is no charge. A reservation for lunch has been made at the nearby Grandstand Restaurant at attendees' own cost. See the Club website and email for further details.

Quarantine Station Story – Private Tour – 10 September 2025



A visit has been arranged to the Sydney Quarantine Station on **10 September 2025**. For over 150 years, from the 1830s, the Quarantine Station was for many, the beginning of a new life in Australia after making the arduous and lengthy journey from their homelands. Ships suspected of harbouring people infected with contagious disease such as Spanish influenza, smallpox or bubonic plague were quarantined here so that these deadly diseases would not reach the general

population in Sydney. Ultimately, a success story for the growing Sydney population, it did however leave an indelible mark on those that were quarantined; tales of love and loss play out alongside themes of cultural and social change, medical history and progress.

This tour will last 90-minutes visiting the various buildings and archeological sites that comprise the quarantine station precinct. Walking is required, sometimes on sloping or uneven surfaces. Please bring appropriate clothing for outside weather conditions, and closed walking shoes for the uneven surfaces.

After the tour, a light lunch will be provided. Weather permitting, this can be eaten outside, taking in the spectacular harbour view.

We will meet at the Q Station Reception Centre, at the end of North Head Scenic Drive. There is plentiful car parking there. As bus transfers are required to the quarantine station precinct, attendees will meet at 9.30am the Centre, for the tour commencing at 10.00am. The cost is \$60 per person which includes lunch at the tour's conclusion.

Sydney Conservatorium of Music Followed by a Chamber Music Concert – 16 October 2025



This private tour event on **16 October 2025** will be available of the Club website shortly with further details.

The Sydney Conservatorium of Music is a vibrant hub for music education, performance, and research, located in the heart of the Royal Botanic Gardens. A part of the University of Sydney it ranks number 1 in Australia for Performing Arts. It offers world-class facilities in a historic building, originally designed by Francis Greenway, blending heritage architecture with cutting-edge learning spaces.

The Conservatorium supports over 1,300 undergraduate and postgraduate scholars from classical and jazz to contemporary music, music theatre, digital media. The Con proudly nurtures creative artists who are destined to make meaningful contributions to communities across Australia and beyond.

Christmas Lunch



Looking ahead, the **Christmas Lunch** is booked for **8 December 2025**, at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. Please ensure that this important annual event is in your diary.

FOOD Train Weekend in Orange, NSW



The FOOD Train weekend package is the perfect getaway for food lovers. Hosted by local foodies, this 3-day guided trip on **27-29 March 2026** showcases some of the Orange region's best food and wine experiences and includes tickets to FOOD Week's most sought-after event, Forage. Enjoy exclusive local tours, selected FOOD Week events, and dining at some of the region's best restaurants and wineries.

The cost will be: \$1590 each twin share or \$1770 for a single. Bookings to be finalized by September 2025. Only 30 places are available and **are almost filled**. A waitlist will be available.

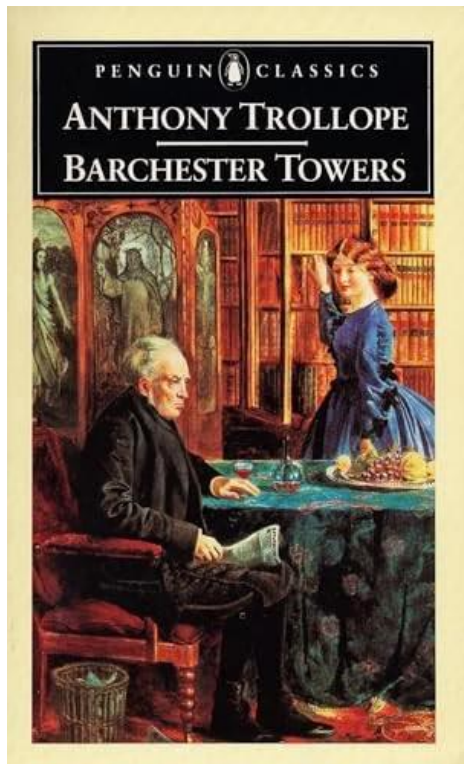
Activities included:

- Return train ticket in reserved carriage from Sydney to Orange, with the option to upgrade to a flight home.
- 2 nights' accommodation (twin share or single) at the Quest, Orange.
- Bus transfers between events and trains.
- Full day FORAGE experience on Sat 28 March.
- Breakfast at the Sunday Producers Market and Brunch on Sunday, the official closing event of FOOD Week.
- All meals over the three days.

Bob Eckstein & Kim Oates
Events Coordinators

Barchester Towers (1857)

by Anthony Trollope – 528 pages – Fiction



To people of a certain age, too few books, films and TV series remain in the long-term memory. Many of us will remember the wonderful BBC series based on *The Forsyte Saga* (1967) and the equally wonderful BBC series based on the *Barchester Chronicles* (1982).

Even after all these years, on re-reading *Barchester Towers*, the memorable characters in the TV series instantly return. Who can forget Mrs Proudie, Mr Slope, the Archdeacon, Mr Harding and La Señora Neroni? However, while the video gives us the characters, writ large, the book has ample time and space to remind us of a long forgotten era and the travails of the church at the time.

So, worth reading for the characters, satire on the mid-Victorian failings of the Church of

England and the humour. But the drawbacks for the modern reader are the frequent diversions and the role of the author as director, producer, auteur, writer, commentator, puppet master and general busybody.

Nonetheless, a good read for those who remember the TV series and for those who like reading about a less frantic era.

David Castle

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR!

A Happy Christmas

A few days before Christmas, a mother calls her daughter: Hey, I know this might come as a shock, but I'm pregnant.

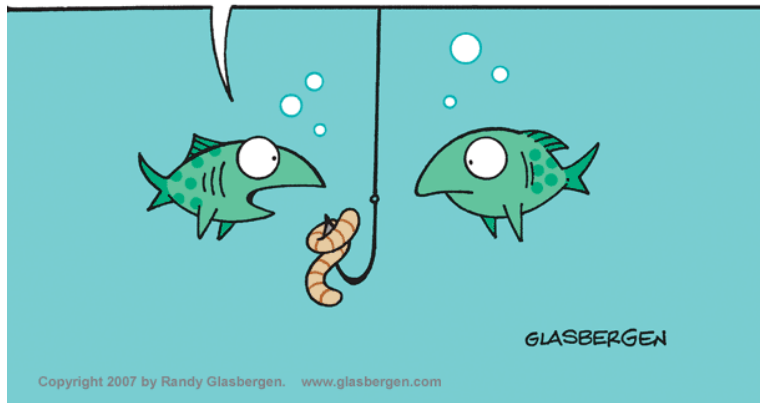
How could this happen the daughter responds, shocked? You're 46! Oh my gosh, this is horrible.

It was an accident, the mother says. Please just call your sister and tell her. Have to go!

The daughter frantically calls her sister who immediately calls her mother: The two of us are flying home right away. I'm booking the flights now. This is unbelievable! She hangs up the phone. The mother pops a bottle of wine, pours two glasses, and turns to her husband: "Honey, the kids are coming home for Christmas. And they are paying for their own flight tickets."

Something Fishy

I'M THINKING ABOUT GOING ONLINE,
BUT I HEARD IT CAN BE DANGEROUS!



Careful What you Ask For!

I asked the director of a psychiatric ward how they know for sure if someone is mentally unstable and needs to be committed. He explained their method: they go to a bathroom and fill a bathtub to the top. They then give the patient a big bucket and a small spoon and then ask them to empty the tub. Ah, I replied, so the normal person chooses the big bucket because it's larger, right? The director disagreed: No, a normal person would simply pull the plug. And added; by the way, is a room with a garden view okay for you?

HOW TO CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER

To contact any committee member [Click here](#)

Please use email where possible or telephone if you require urgent contact.