



Probus Club of Sydney

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Newsletter

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JULY 2024

Issue 466

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Barangaroo Headland Park:
Design and Construction

AUGUST 6

DAVID CASSIDY

Australia's Economy:
a forward view

ACTIVITIES

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen,

Many thanks to John Doherty for chairing the June meeting in my absence in Europe. I was told it was another very successful meeting. Hugh Hopkins informed me 69 attended. It was also pleasing to see that 51 stayed on to enjoy lunch together, including the speaker.

The scheduled speaker had to withdraw due to an important interstate meeting, but thankfully he arranged as substitute his colleague Glyn Edwards. I am told Glyn provided a fascinating summary of some of the technology and challenges involved in developing the recent massive underground rail and road infrastructure projects under Sydney.

At our next meeting on 2nd July, the previously scheduled speaker has had to postpone until later in the year. We are grateful that our fellow member and past president Adrian Pilton has agreed to substitute, drawing on his deep experience to address us on "Designing and Building the Barangaroo Headland Park".

Coincidentally would you be willing to volunteer to help with the production of our monthly newsletter? A computer and basic (but not advanced) skills are needed. Adrian will provide training and assistance in this, which will involve typically a half day per month. Please ask Adrian for details or let me know if you can help.

Best wishes,

Peter James

President

Note

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

JULY 2

Adrian Pilton

Barangaroo Headland Park: Design and Construction



Adrian Pilton studied Architecture at the Queens University of Belfast and Landscape Architecture at the University of Sheffield. He has lived in Australia since 1973 and has worked in Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra, Hong Kong and Sydney.

In 2000 he was a founding partner of the firm Johnson Pilton Walker. He has had over 45 years of professional experience and has particular interests in urban and landscape design. He has been involved in a very wide range of projects in Australia and Asia including the

Australian Embassies in Beijing and Tokyo, extensions to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra, Governor Phillip Tower in Sydney, Sydney Olympic Boulevard, the Sydney Opera House and the Barangaroo Headland Park in Sydney.

Adrian has been the National President of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects and President of the NSW Branch of the Association of Consulting Architects. He is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Sydney.

He has been a visiting lecturer in design and professional practice at a number of Australian universities and has been a speaker on urban design and practice matters at numerous conferences and seminars in Australia and overseas. He has served as a juror on several architectural and urban design competitions and was chair of the 2014 AILA National Design Awards panel.

With his fellow partners, Richard Johnson and Jeff Walker, Adrian has won numerous professional awards and design competitions including the AIA Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Architecture for the Eastern Precinct of the Australian War Memorial and the National Portrait Gallery, the AIA Walter Burley Griffin Award for Urban Design for Pyrmont Bay Park, the AILA NSW President's Award for the Barangaroo Headland Park and AILA's highest award, the Award in Landscape Excellence, for Governors' Place in Sydney. Other awards include an Engineers Australia Award of Excellence and the AILA NSW Award for Excellence in Landscape Architecture on Road Infrastructure Projects for the Kings Avenue Overpass in Canberra.

He retired from practice in 2016 and was appointed as a Commissioner of the NSW Independent Planning Commission in 2018. He lives in Sydney with his wife Dairneen and has three adult children and five grandchildren.

Geoff McWilliam

JUNE MEETING REPORT

Vice President John Doherty, standing in for President Peter James who is overseas, welcomed four guests.

There were committee reports from Geoff McWilliam about the speakers programme for the next few months. Ted Brogan (Activities coordinator) spoke of the visit to the Archibald Prize at the Art Gallery of NSW on 24 June and the Winter Lunch to be held at the Killara Golf Club on 23 July, the speaker being Anna Louise Bouvier (a well known physiotherapist). He encouraged members to sign up for this event. Wayne Jones (Treasurer) advised that the club is in a sound financial position.

Inductions



Hugh Hopkins, Stephen Barrow, John Doherty, Peter Cadwallader, Bill Thomas

Peter Cadwallader

Bill Thomas introduced Peter Cadwallader. He was educated at Shore School and Sydney University before becoming a Chartered Accountant at Price Waterhouse and Coopers, He eventually became an expert in leveraged leasing, especially in shipping before becoming a shipping owner and manager. He had a separate career for over 40 years supporting indigenous and other marginalized people who had an idea to start a small business which Peter would support with micro-financing. He is married with a 'wife and three houses' as well as three children. He is an avid golfer and a bridge player.

Stephen Barrow

Steven Barrow was introduced by Hugh Hopkins. Stephen was educated at St Pius X College in Chatswood where he grew up. He joined the Valuer-General's Department and undertook courses in Real Estate Valuation and Business Development. Following 10 years with the Department he left to set up his own real estate agency in Cremorne to provide both sales and property management. During that time, he served on the Board of the Real Estate Institute, the Australian Property Institute and the Professionals Real Estate Group. He then worked as a project manager at Mirvac and General Manager of Landsbury Property providing research and advisory to development companies. He lives in Pymont and has 4 children and 9 grandchildren.

Life Before Probus

Paul Hansen



Paul described his life as more of a Boys Own adventure! He has had three main jobs – in the NSW Police, in the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service and in the Australian Army. He was educated at Waverley College and in the 10 years after leaving school he did a degree in Agricultural Science at Sydney University and worked on several different types of farm including a wheat farm in WA and a New Zealand dairy farm which he thoroughly enjoyed. He also worked for two years for the Department of Agriculture in Canberra which he did not enjoy! To escape he joined Australian Volunteers abroad and

was sent to a remote part of Papua New Guinea as an agriculturalist where he had some amazing experiences.

In 1983 he joined the NSW Police, following in his father's footsteps. He trained at Redfern Academy and became a detective in the Riverina covering a huge area of land where there were issues with marijuana plantations and all sorts of mayhem, including resolving a scuffle between an unhinged parishioner and the rector!

In the Quarantine Service he had other 'unusual' cases including fake paperwork for meat exports. He then joined the army and was taken on as a specialist service officer in Environmental Health even though he had no training in the area. He was issued with a Field Surgical Manual which covered such things as field amputations. He noted the differing attitudes between regular soldiers and the reservists who were known as 'Chocos' (because they melt under pressure!).

He currently volunteers with Disaster Relief Australia where he goes to bushfires and floods to assist.

Jeff Morris



Jeff grew up on the north shore in Wahroonga. He went to Normanhurst Boys High School before studying economics and law at Sydney University. He started out with the Touche Ross accounting firm followed by an actuarial firm, Towers Perrin. Despite his father's urging to do anything except work in a bank, he eventually worked for three of them!

The best job he ever had was at Bankers Trust. He said that investment banks work on a mix of fear and greed and described 'The Crocodile' (who ran the fear department: his office was called the swamp!). Jeff ran the greed department which was where the bonuses were worked out! When Bankers Trust failed in the US because of a derivatives meltdown, the only part left standing was the hugely profitable Australian arm which was acquired by Macquarie Bank for virtually nothing.

He eventually founded his own consulting firm which specialized in shutting down defined benefits super funds. In 2006 he took two years off to look after his family when his wife became ill. He then decided to go into financial planning as 'a good break' and joined the Commonwealth Bank's Financial Planning area where there were 750 planners, of whom there were only two or three he would recommend to a friend. He gave an entertaining (if alarming) description of the bank's financial planning services. He witnessed how the bank lied to their clients who suffered severe losses due to the planners' incompetence. The entire management team of the bank tried to shut down any complaints. He reported this to ASIC but discovered that they were absolutely useless. He had to go to their office and demand action about the cover ups before anything happened.

In 2013 he decided that a Royal Commission into the Banking Industry was needed and he enrolled a journalist and a politician to hatch a plan for a media dump which led to a Senate Enquiry which found that the Bank had lied.

Today he helps other whistleblowers including David McBride (who was imprisoned after a trial where all his evidence was removed citing 'national security') and Troy Stolz who blew the whistle on Clubs NSW.

Glyn Edwards

General Manager, Tunnelling & Major Projects, CPB Contractors

Tunnelling Supporting Transport Infrastructure



Glyn Edwards gave an interesting, knowledgeable, and insightful address about the major projects his company has undertaken in designing and building a large number of tunnelling projects in Australia and in various SE countries. These included the recently completed tunnels associated with the Rozelle Interchange and the Sydney Metro Project currently in progress plus many others.

The talk emphasised the increasingly sophisticated technology involved in delivering these projects using huge machines called TBM's [i.e. tunnel boring machines} as well as much ancillary equipment and a highly trained workforce. Strict safety standards and procedures are in force including intensive pre-project training and on-the-job supervision. The presentation was well attended by members and a number of lively questions were discussed and answered. In all an excellent presentation.

Geoff McWilliam

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Winter Lunch

The Winter Lunch will be held at Killara Golf Club on **Tuesday 23 July**.



We are delighted to announce that our Guest Speaker will be Anna-Louise Bouvier, the well known exercise physiotherapist. She is an Adjunct Fellow at Macquarie University and appears regularly on the ABC with Richard Glover giving practical advice on treating a variety of ailments through exercise. She also consults on wellbeing and fitness to major Corporations such as CBA, Optus, and ASX. An author of three best selling books with her Physiocise programmes being enjoyed by over 100,000 participants. She will speak on the very relevant subject of "Bones,

Brains and Balance" and introduce us to the interesting concept of a "Body Bank" into which we can make "deposits" via regular exercise to provide capital for a longer active life.

Although modernised extensively, Killara Golf Club has retained many of its unique Art Deco features. It is an outstanding function venue with many years of experience hosting events such as our Winter Luncheon.

Onsite parking is extensive, the Pacific Highway becomes a clearway at 3.00pm but parking is available in side streets such as Fiddens Wharf, Buckingham, Stanhope and Marian. Killara station is a 13 minute walk.

Cost is \$130.00pp and includes pre-luncheon drinks, canapés and wines. Bookings are open on the website - [here](#)

Salon des Refuses, SR Ervin Gallery

Watson Road, Observatory Hill

16 August, 10:30am



The Salon des Refusés was initiated by the S.H. Ervin Gallery in 1992 in response to the large number of works entered the Archibald Prize which were not selected for display in the official exhibition. S.H. Ervin Gallery's 'alternative' selection has become a much-anticipated feature of the Sydney scene

The building housing the Gallery was the original Fort St School and is now the HQ of the National Trust in NSW.

We will be guided through the exhibition by an experienced member of the Gallery Staff who will explain the works on display, why they have chosen them and perhaps give some clues why they were not include in the Archibald or Wynne Prizes.

Driving is recommended and parking is available at the front and rear of the Gallery. The nearest train Station is Wynyard followed by a walk North along Kent St and up the Agar Steps which unfortunately have been under renovation recently.

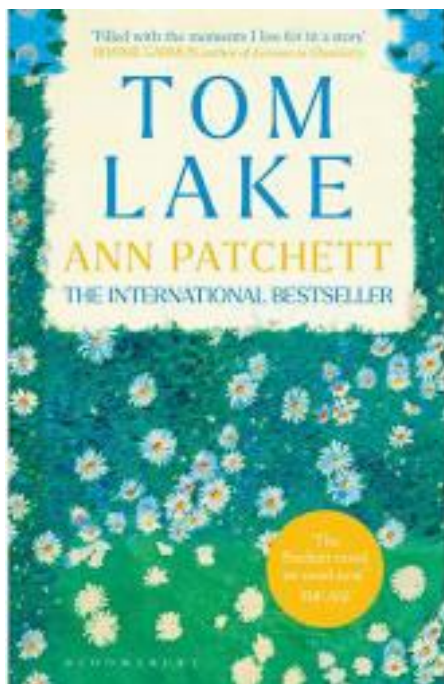
We have arranged for Lunch to be available, at member's expense, at the adjoining Trust Cafe.

Cost is \$18.00 per person. Book on the club website - [here](#)

Ted Brogan

BOOK REVIEW

Tom Lake by Ann Patchett (2023) – 309 pages – fiction



This all-American author has written some good books, including *Bel Canto* and *The Dutch House*. *Tom Lake* has also been favourably reviewed and has earned the author a trip to the Sydney writers Festival. She writes well and the book is hard to put down.

Inspired by the 1948 stage play "Our Town" by Thornton Wilder, the central protagonist weaves the story of her involvement with it, and her first love (who is now a Hollywood star) over a period of about 20 years, into a parable of resilience for the benefit of her daughters. In doing so, the storyteller shocks and amazes her adult daughters (and the readers) with her back story. Set against the background of a cherry orchard in New Hampshire, it is absorbing and easy to read and enjoy. You learn a lot about the play, cherries, narcissistic actors and young love.

Far less dark than her other books but in the interests of "feel good" threatens to stray into the sentimental. However, worth reading as an antidote to covid and the horrors we see on the news every day.

David Castle

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR!

Some thoughts on Ageing (from Frank Barr David)

"To get back to my youth I would do anything in the world, except exercise, get up early, or be respectable." *Oscar Wilde*

"The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for." *Will Rogers*

"We must recognize that, as we grow older, we become like old cars – more and more repairs and replacements are necessary." *C.S. Lewis*

"Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you are aboard there is nothing you can do about it." *Golda Meir*

"The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened". *Mark Twain*

"Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes, age just shows up all by itself." *Tom Wilson*

"Nice to be here? At my age, it's nice to be anywhere." *George Burns*

"Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get backup" *John Wagner*

"First you forget names, then you forget faces, then you forget to pull your zipper up, then you forget to pull your zipper down." *Leo Rosenberg*

"Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get." *Robert Orben*

"I have successfully completed the thirty-year transition from wanting to stay up late to just wanting to go to bed." *Unknown*

"At age 20, we worry about what others think of us... at age 40, we don't care what they think of us... at age 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all." *Ann Landers*

"When I was young, I was called a rugged individualist. When I was in my fifties, I was considered eccentric. Here I am doing and saying the same things I did then, and I'm labelled senile." *George Burns*

"The important thing to remember is that I'm probably going to forget." *Unknown*

"As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two." *Sir Norman Wisdom*

"It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone." *Andy Rooney*

"The older I get, the better I used to be." *Lee Trevino*

"I was thinking about how people seem to read the bible a lot more as they get older, and then it dawned on me—they're cramming for their final exam." *George Carlin*

"I don't do alcohol anymore—I get the same effect just standing up fast." *Anonymous*

"By the time you're 80 years old you've learned everything. Then, you only have to remember it." *George Burns*

"Old age isn't so bad when you consider the alternative." *Maurice Chevalier*

"Grand children don't make a man feel old, it's the knowledge that he's married to a grandmother that does." *J. Norman Collie*

"You know you are getting old when everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work." *Hy Gardner*

"I've never known a person who lives to be 110 who is remarkable for anything else." *Josh Billings*

"At my age 'getting lucky' means walking into a room and remembering what I came in for."

Unknown

Do you know Frank Feldman? *(Courtesy Frank Barr-David)*

A man walks out to the street and catches a taxi just going by.

He gets into the taxi, and the Cabbie says, 'Perfect timing. You're just like Frank.'

Passenger: 'Who?'

Cabbie: 'Frank Feldman...He's a guy who did everything right all the time. Like my coming along when you needed a cab, things happened like that to Frank Feldman every single time.'

Passenger: 'There are always a few clouds over everybody.'

Cabbie: Not Frank Feldman. He was a terrific athlete. He could have won the Grand-Slam at tennis. He could golf with the pros. He sang like an opera baritone and danced like a Broadway star and you should have heard him play the piano. He was an amazing guy.

Passenger: Sounds like he was something really special.

Cabbie: 'There's more. He had a memory like a computer. He remembered everybody's birthday. He knew all about wine, which foods to order and which fork to eat them with. He could fix anything. Not like me. I change a fuse, and the whole street blacks out. But Frank Feldman, could do everything right.'

Passenger: 'Wow, some guy then.

Cabbie: 'He always knew the quickest way to go in traffic and avoid traffic jams. Not like me, I always seem to get stuck in them. But Frank, he never made a mistake, and he really knew how to treat a woman and make her feel good. He would never answer her back even if she was in the wrong; and his clothing was always immaculate, shoes highly polished too. He was the perfect man! He never made a mistake. No one could ever measure up to Frank Feldman.

Passenger: An amazing fellow. How did you meet him?

Cabbie: 'Well...I never actually met Frank. He died and I married his widow.'

True Confessions (thanks to Geoff McWilliam)

At the end of the sermon, the pastor asked if anyone in the congregation would like to express a praise for an answered prayer. Suzie stood and walked to the podium.

She said, "I have a praise. Two months ago, my husband, Frank, had a terrible bicycle accident and his scrotum was completely crushed.

"The pain was excruciating, and the doctors didn't know if they could help him."

You could hear a muffled gasp from the men in the congregation as they imagined the pain that poor Frank must have experienced.

"Frank was unable to hold me or the children," she went on, "and every move caused him terrible pain." We prayed as the doctors performed a delicate operation, and it turned out they were able to piece together the crushed remnants of Frank's scrotum and wrap fine wire around it to hold it in place with metal staples."

Again, the men in the congregation cringed and squirmed uncomfortably as they imagined the horrible surgery performed on Frank.

"Now," she announced in a quivering voice, "thank the Lord, Frank is out of the hospital and the doctors say that with time, his scrotum should recover completely." All the men sighed with unified relief. The pastor rose and tentatively asked if anyone else had something to say.

A man stood up and walked slowly to the podium. He said, "I'm Frank." The entire congregation held its breath.

"I just want to tell my wife that the word is sternum."

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.