



Probus Club of Sydney

www.sydneyprobus.org

Newsletter

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AUGUST 2024

Issue 467

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DAVID CASSIDY

Australia's Economy:

A forward view

SEPTEMBER 3

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen,

It was great to see 75 attended our July meeting, including 5 guests who hopefully enjoyed the fascinating presentations and so will consider joining and sharing in the camaraderie and variety of topics that we enjoy so much. It was especially pleasing that 55 stayed on for lunch.

Les Anderson has analysed our 130 membership, showing in the attached data the diversity of experiences that we contribute. At the July meeting, Ian Ernst told of his remarkable Life before Probus, showing remarkable diversity in himself of where he has lived and worked plus his careers. In addition, 5 new members were inducted, perhaps a record.

Our fellow member and past president Adrian Pilton was an outstanding "guest" speaker, summarising the history, the challenges and the superb achievements in "Designing and Building the Barangaroo Headland Park". Aside from the fascinating political background, his summary of many revolutionary technical solutions was most impressive in transforming the flat container terminal space into the headland with its 1788 form that the public can cherish.

On 23rd July, we look forward to getting together at Killara Golf Club for our Winter Lunch featuring our guest speaker Anna-Louise Bouvier, a dynamic renowned highly entertaining physiotherapist.

Best wishes,

Peter James

President

Note

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

AUGUST 6

David Cassidy

Head of Investment Strategy, Equity Partner, Family Office Specialist, Wilsons

Australia's Economics – A Forward View



David joined Wilsons in 2020 as Head of Investment Strategy having spent 25 years as one of Australia's leading investment strategists. He is responsible for overseeing the development of Wilsons' global and domestic investment strategy and works directly with advisors with our Family Office clients.

Prior to joining Wilsons, David was Managing Director & Head of Investment Strategy at UBS Australia Investment

Banking, where he provided research & advice on equity strategy, asset allocation, portfolio construction and portfolio risk management. He has also worked at JP Morgan Australia (Formerly Ord Minnett) for 13 years. He holds a Bachelor of Economics (Hons) and is a Master of Business.

SEPTEMBER 3

Emily Ravenscroft

Senior Development Manager, Capella Capital

What is Planned for Circular Quay?



Emily has over 20 years of experience of project development in the property sector in a career that spans architectural practice and private sector development.

Since joining Capella in 2023, Emily has worked on the Circular Quay Renewal project leading the design and cultural strategies and managing key relationships. Emily's strength is in driving outcomes where buildings and public spaces are more responsive, respectful, and appropriate to our heritage, culture, and climate.

Prior to joining Capella, Emily worked at Lendlease on One Sydney Harbour, a residential tower development that is the final piece of Barangaroo South's transformation. She led the development of Residences 2, a 66-storey tower of 320 apartments. Further to this Emily led the delivery of the waterfront public domain and the public art and cultural strategy for the precinct.

Capella Capital are leading a consortium with Lendlease Construction and BESIX Watpac as the Planning and Design Partner for Transport for NSW to renew Circular Quay.

Capella Capital are a successful infrastructure developer, financier, and manager. Since 2009, together with our partners, they have secured over \$32 billion in infrastructure projects across Australia.

Geoff McWilliam
Speakers Coordinator

JULY MEETING REPORT

President Peter James welcomed four guests.

There were committee reports from Geoff McWilliam about the speakers programme for the next few months and requested suggestions from members for potential speakers. Rod Hansen spoke about the visit to the Archibald exhibition and the forthcoming Winter Lunch to be held at the Killara Golf Club. There is to be a visit to the Salon des refuses (details elsewhere in this newsletter). Wayne Jones (Treasurer) advised that the club is in a sound financial position.

Inductions



Peter James, Max Irvine, Adrian Pilton, Peter Dodds, Rob Robertson, Peter Caspari, Gavin Barr and Geoff Symonds

Geoff Symonds

Gavin Barr introduced Geoff Symonds. Geoff grew up in Grenfell and was educated at Scots College and graduated in medicine at Sydney University in 1976 before qualifying as an anaesthetist. He then worked at Westmead Hospital and Kings College Hospital in London. He then worked in private practice until he retired in

2019. Since retiring he has enjoyed walking, playing bridge and has joined a Mens Shed. He continues to do voluntary work. He has three children and six grandchildren. His second wife, Jennifer, of 22 years died at the end of last year from cystic fibrosis.

Peter Caspari

Gavin Barr also introduced Pater Caspari who retired as a cardiologist at the end of 2023 after a long career. He was educated at Sydney Grammar and did his medical degree at Sydney University. He trained as a cardiologist at Sydney Hospital before going to London. At age 61 he completed a Master of Humanities at Sydney University whilst working. He is a keen golfer, avid reader and enjoys classical music and the theatre. He is married to Anya and has one son and two grandchildren.

Rob Robertson

Peter Dodds introduced Rob Robertson. Rob was born and grew up in Sydney, being educated at Sydney Grammar and at Sydney University. After graduation he undertook a residency in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Royal North Shore Hospital before postgraduate training in medical genetics at UCLA. He never practiced in his primary fields, instead becoming one of Australia's leading geneticists, helping thousands of couples on the path to parenthood. He has been married to Jilly for 51 years and has four children and six grandchildren. He is a keen golfer and bridge player.

Max Irvine

Adrian Pilton introduced Max Irvine who he has known for over 30 years. Max was born in New Zealand and graduated in civil engineering from Canterbury University. He gained his early experience in London, working on bridge design before undertaking further study at Cal Tech. In the 1980's he was an Egerton Professor at MIT before coming to Sydney as a professor of Civil Engineering at UNSW. He retired from this post in 1995 and was made an emeritus professor before starting his own private practice. He has won numerous design awards. He has written two books on specialized engineering topics. He and his wife Penny Haskins have a blended family with seven children and ten grandchildren.

Jim Dominguez



Jim was introduced by Bill Thomas. Jim is self-described as a 'failed retiree'! His background is in finance, having co-founded Dominguez and Barry as a Stock Exchange Member in 1976. The firm was later to become Dominguez Barry Samuel Montagu, SBC Dominguez Barry before

becoming UBS AG Australia. He has had active involvement in Asia. He has been an advisor to Federal and State governments including as a Commissioner for the Private Health Insurance Administration Fund and chair of Wine Australia Corp. He has held board positions in a number of diverse areas. He planted Yering Station vineyards in the Yarra Valley and has an interest in pearl farming in the Kimberley region. He has been married to his wife Sue for 59 years and they have five children and nine grandchildren.

Life Before Probus

Ian Ernst



In his own words, prior to Probus, Ian Ernst has had a life full of interest, mostly fun and intellectually rewarding. He was born in Zagreb in 1938 to a mother from Vienna and a father from Czechoslovakia. In 1939 with Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia, Ian's parents decided to move to Australia, a choice for which Ian is forever grateful. They were allowed to enter Australia as 'Friendly Aliens' and arrived on 3 September 1939, the very day that

Robert Menzies announced Australia's entry into World War II and just two months before his Ian's first birthday. They were not locked up but were required to report the local police station each week from 1939 to 1945.

Ian's father set up a business called General Bolts and Nuts (GBN) in which screws and nuts were manufactured for the Australian war effort. Ian attended kindergarten in Coogee and his first paid job in school holidays was counting nuts and bolts at GBN. In 1946 his father Herman tragically died from a heart attack while swimming at North Sydney Pool leaving his mother with a seven-year-old son and a recently born daughter to feed and GBN to try and manage. His first 14 years were in a tough

environment. His mother remarried in 1952 when Ian was 14 and was fortunate to attend Barker College at Hornsby. Ian took the surname of his stepfather Dr Rudolph Ernst.

On completing his schooling, he enrolled at the University of Technology at Ultimo and did a 4-year course in Applied Chemistry with a Bachelor of Science (hon) and went on to do a PhD in Physical Chemistry UNSW and at the same time did a BA at Sydney University majoring in anthropology and economics. During his time at the UNSW, he was active in theatre and reviews and was elected as a student representative on the University Council chaired by Professor Baxter. After a considerable period of time being involved with UNSW Students Union and on the executive of the NUAUS, he was appointed an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his many services. NUAUS has played a significant part in campaigning for the end of the Australia's White Australia Policy and in re-orientation of Australian Federal Government towards Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. As a student he worked at Johnson & Johnson for a year, and later at the Australian Atomic Energy Commission at Lucas Heights after completing his PhD at the UNSW and the BA at Sydney University. In 1965 he moved to London to be employed by the International Wool Secretariat and returned to Sydney in 1968 to a job as Director of R&D General Silicones. In May 1969 Ian married Susan Richard who was an Occupational Therapist. Among her many other achievements she helped make Sydney more accessible for the disabled. In 1975 the closest public toilet to Martin Place with wheelchair accessibility was at Mascot Airport. Wheelchair users needed strong bladders in those days. Susan played a big part in bringing Sydney Accessibility Legislation up to International Standards.

1970 brought his most challenging and difficult job, being responsible for the conversion of a large Real Estate Development into the first International Residential and Vacation Resort in the islands of the South Pacific. Managing a luxury resort and its development was a truly challenging job and when he left in 1977 there were over 1000 employees. Visitors to the resort included Prince Charles, Margot Fontaine and many titled UK lords and ladies as well as a variety of other famous and infamous people. Ian and his wife Susan lived in Fiji for six years during which time he was on the board of Fiji Air, chaired the National Tourism Committee and established the Fiji Craft Association.

On his return to Sydney in 1978 he decided to become a Patent Attorney and qualified in 1980 to become a partner in the firm Shelton Waters and remained a partner until 1998 when he retired after a minor stroke. As a retiree in the year 2000 he saw an ad for the State Emergency Service which badly needed volunteers. He was able to join and took up a position as the Mosman SES Media Officer. In 2005 he won the New South Wales SES photography competition and received the Mosman SES Volunteer of the Year award. He was appointed Operations Officer in 2005 and

Mosman Deputy Controller in 2006. He retired from active SES service in 2013 aged 75.

Pre-Probus hobbies were (and remain) photography, attending theatre, listening to chamber music, and travelling.

Roger Williams

GUEST SPEAKER

Adrian Pilton

Barangaroo Headland Park: Behind the scenes



Adrian Pilton was introduced by Geoff McWilliam, who referred to Adrian's distinguished career as a professional architect, details of which had been distributed to members in the last newsletter. He noted that Adrian held degrees from Belfast and Sheffield Universities in both Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

Geoff drew members attention to the many iconic buildings that Adrian had been involved with and his extensive contribution to many organisations associated with his profession and the building industry

Adrian then addressed the meeting on the Headland Park at Barangaroo. He took us through the extensive conceptual thinking that went into the final design. He told the members of the many colourful characters that contributed and the difficulty in forming an image of what the head land would have looked like in 1788.

Once the concept had been agreed Adrian's architectural practice was commissioned to develop the design so that the concept would be delivered on completion of the building works. The design developed over several years and much research went into every element.

At all times during the design development the architects were heavily involved in how it would be built. Global research went into many elements, since much of the design requirements required building techniques which had never been used before.

Adrian address was supported by many visuals including some paintings that were used to define the headland as it was in 1788 since “no aerial photographs ‘were available”. The design was to ensure that the park would receive high usage by all people of Sydney and indeed international visitors. If you visit the headland on any sunny day the success of this design requirement is evident

This project, that went over many years, was the only project that Adrian worked upon in his career where he was never given details of the budget!

On closing Adrian reminded us of how the planting grows each year and ultimately will reflect how the headland looked in 1788.

Adrian then addressed many questions from members.

Adrian was thanked for his excellent presentation by Max Moore- Wilton.

Geoff McWilliam

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

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 into 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. Register on the club website.

Ted Brogan
Events Coordinator

PROBUS TRAVEL AGENT

Many of you no doubt have your own travel agent and have been very happy with the services provided. I generally have arranged my own bookings via the Internet but in recent years have found it more and more difficult to determine the most competitive fares, especially with complicated itineraries. Have you ever found a “cheap” price during a preliminary Internet search and then found it had significantly increased when you logged on again to formalise the booking? So frustrating.....



We recently flew from Sydney to Malta via KL and Istanbul, returning from Dubrovnik to Sydney, also via Istanbul and KL. We contacted two travel agents, each of whom were happy to book our air travel at a cost of \$200 per person (agents apparently no longer receive commissions from the airlines). Around this time, I saw an article on the Probus Travel Agent in the South Pacific Probus Magazine and thus made contact. The company affiliated with Probus is “Trade Travel” in Brisbane (1800 034 439) and they were marvellous. Not only do they offer a free service for Probus members, nothing was too much trouble for them, and they also found a much cheaper airfare than I could find on the Web. I could not recommend them more highly.

As an aside, Probus also offers travel insurance for members which I understand is very competitive, but I have had no personal experience.

John Carter (Immediate Past President)

KNOW YOUR CLUB

Les Anderson recently analysed the demographics of our club. Here is a summary of his findings:

To be a member of the Probus Club of Sydney is to be part of a richly diverse gathering of experience and achievement, as is constantly demonstrated at our meetings and

well recognised. Not so well-known is the detail of that diversity, as revealed in our Member Directory and summarised here:

Age

We are aged but defy decrepitude. Our average age is just over 80 years – 4 in their 60s; 43 in their 70s. 66 in their 80s, 16 in their 90s, and one aged 100. Yet we list an extraordinary range of activities and interests still happily engaged in.

Place of birth

We come from at least 15 countries. Most were born in Australia but some 30 of us had their start elsewhere: nine in the U.K. and one or more in each of the U.S., Malaysia, New Zealand, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Ukraine, Austria, Lithuania, Ireland, Fiji, Canada, India and Peru – a reflection of Australia's multinational make-up.

Profession

Here we are even more diverse.

Medicine has our largest representation with 27 members, including 13 surgeons.

Then – with some latitude of definition – come:

Company directors and executives – 17

Engineers – 14.

Lawyers – 12, including 3 judges

Banking and Finance – 11

Accounting – 10

Education – 5

Real Estate – 4.

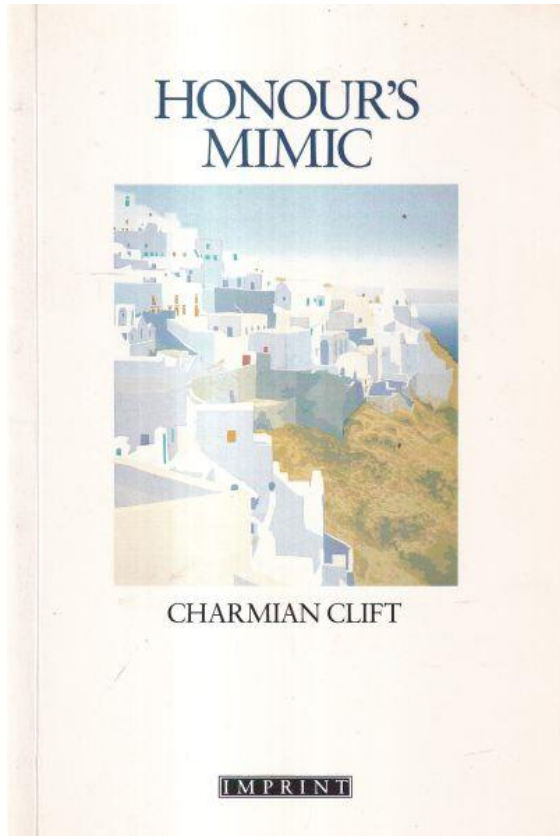
Mining – 3

Navy – 3

Then, in ones and twos, careers include – *Diplomacy, Public Service, Management Consultancy, Travel and Tourism, Architecture, Shipping, Scientific Research, Nuclear Physics, Publishing and Printing, Agriculture, Army, Retail, and more.*

(At July 202 our Membership stood at 130.)

Honour's Mimic by Charmian Clift (1964) – 211 pages – Fiction



This Australian author seems to be everywhere at the moment – books, films and newspaper articles. She is famous not only for being the wife of George Johnston (*My Brother Jack*), but for living in Greece for 10 Years from 1954, returning to write for the Herald and, sadly, for committing suicide in 1969.

She had an unparalleled knowledge of living on small Greek islands (Kalymnos and Hydra) in the 1950s – before they had been discovered by tourists. She wrote extensively about the harsh Greek environment, sponge divers and the traditional Greek way of life, pre-tourism. Many of her books are factual, but this is fiction.

So you get a lot for your money: landscape, Greek life, sponge divers, the sea, expatriates and the beginnings of change. She writes beautifully and very few words are wasted. Central to the story are the similarities and differences between Greeks, the British and Australians.

It is a great story and full of surprises. Certainly not out of date and loses nothing from having been written and set some years ago. Highly recommended and may well inspire you to revisit the world of Charmian Clift.

David Castle

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR!

Some Bob Hope Jokes (*from Geoff McWilliam*)

“Have you read the latest census reports? People are having babies faster than they are dying.

Given the choice, who could blame them?”

“I was destined to be an actor. The day I was born I stood up and took a bow. Really, when the doctor slapped me, I thought it was applause.”

"Mom used to say she never spoiled any of her children. Dad would look at me and say, well who did?"

"My secret for staying young is good food, plenty of rest and a make-up man with a spray gun."

"I'm so old they cancelled my blood type."

"If I had my life to live over, I wouldn't have time."

On why he choose show biz as a career, "When I was born, the doctor said to my mother, 'congratulations you have an eight pound ham.'

On his early struggles "Jobs didn't come easy. For months at a time, I forgot what work I was out of.

They were really tough times. I would have starved except for the eggs and other stuff the audience threw at me."

On vaudeville: "There were thousands at the door screaming madly. Daring me to come out."

On winning the Congressional Gold Medal "I feel very humble, but I think I have the strength of character to fight it."

On having six brothers, "That's how I learnt to dance: on waiting for the bathroom."

On being born in the UK. "I left England when I learnt I couldn't be king."

On his childhood: "Four of us slept in the same bed. When we got cold, mother threw on another brother."

On never winning an Oscar: Well it's Academy Award time again or, as it's known in my house, Passover."

On getting older:

Three stages of life" Youth, maturity and 'don't you look well!'

On turning 70 : you still chase women, but it's only downhill.

When asked "Who wants to live to be 100?" he answered: a "99 year old."

On hearing a report that he had died "that's not true is it?"

Some thoughts

- 1 I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 2 Borrow money from pessimists – they don't expect it back.
- 3 Half the people you know are below average.
- 4 A conscience is what hurts when all of your other parts feel good.

- 5 A clear conscience is usually a sign of a bad memory.
- 6 All of those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand.
- 7 The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- 8 I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met.
- 9 OK – so what’s the speed of dark?
- 10 If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlamps still work?
- 11 How do you tell if you’re out of invisible ink?
- 12 I intend to live forever. So far, so good.
- 13 If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- 14 Why do psychics have to ask you your name?
- 15 Experience is something you don’t get until just after you need it.
- 16 To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- 17 Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don’t have the film.

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.