



Probus Club of Sydney

www.sydneyprobus.org

Newsletter

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DECEMBER 2024

Issue 471

MEETING DATES

DECEMBER 3

NICK BRYANT

America and the Election Result

FEBRUARY 4

TBA

ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 9

Christmas Lunch

FEBRUARY 10

St Paul's College Tour

CONTENTS

Future Guest Speakers

November Meeting Report

Guest Speaker Report

Social Activities Program

Book Review

A touch of Humour

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen,

The results of the survey have been circulated to you, showing a high level of satisfaction among members of our club, including our aim to provide a variety of interesting speakers and activities, plus the friendly camaraderie members enjoy in getting together at meetings including lunches and visits. However we should not rest on our laurels, and it was very helpful to receive several excellent constructive ideas which will be well considered by the relevant committee member and the committee as a whole, as we strive to enhance the club further. Special thanks go to Tony Andrew, Rod Binsted, Hugh Hopkins and Chris Luget for creating, processing and summarising the survey, which has been such a useful snapshot of member's opinions.

At the last meeting, the Wayside Chapel chairman Simon Perrott summarised the role of this Sydney icon since its start by the legendary Rev Ted Noffs 60 years ago, and the great efforts made to provide services to help their "visitors", who often have challenging complex personal issues. We also heard terrific LbP talks by Peter Corlette and Peter Cadwallader, once again showing the wide diversity of life experiences among our members. The December meeting guest speaker Nick Bryant will surely be timely, drawing on his extensive experience reporting for the BBC on US politics.

Our Christmas Lunch at Royal Sydney Golf Club on Monday 9th December promises to be the usual splendid celebration of our club in the welcome company of our wives and partners. I understand there are a few places available, so make a booking asap if not already on the list.

Best wishes,

Peter James

President

Note

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

FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS

DECEMBER 12

Nick Bryant

America Today! What is the impact for Australia?



During a career spanning almost thirty years, Nick Bryant came to be regarded as one of the BBC's finest foreign correspondents and was described as 'the new Alistair Cooke'. He has been posted in Washington, South Asia, Australia and, most recently, New York, where he covered the Trump years. His writing has appeared in *The Economist*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *The Monthly* and *The New Statesman*. He broadcasts regularly on the BBC and ABC. Nick studied history at Cambridge and has a doctorate in American politics from Oxford. He now lives in Sydney with his wife and children.

His book, *When America Stopped Being Great: A History of the Present*, currently resides on Joe Biden's bookshelf in the Oval Office.

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

President Peter James welcomed two guests. He raised the subject of the seating plans for meetings, noting that the theatre style arrangement worked well at the October meeting and that we would probably return to this format in the future.

[Subsequent to the meeting President Peter advised that it is the 50th anniversary this month of the first Probus Club in the southern hemisphere, the Kapati club in NZ. We at the City of Sydney Probus are now well into our 40s, and it is very special to be part of a club that we treasure, a feeling enriched by the historic venue of our meetings at the UUSC.]

INDUCTION

Michael Lunzer



Rod Binsted (filling in for Rob Roberston who was ill) introduced Michael Lunzer as a new member of the club. Michael attended Cranbrook School from Kindergarten through to Year 12. He then went to Sydney University from 1960 to 1965, followed by post graduate study at Prince of Wales, Prince Henry and Concord hospitals. He went overseas in 1971 to London and San Francisco

studying gastroenterology and hepatology. On his return to Sydney he joined North Shore as a staff specialist and later visiting PMO in gastroenterology. He is now happily retired and plays a lot of golf at The Australian club. He enjoys travel, music and theatre. (Rod explained how he was introduced to Roman places of ill repute by Michael – diverticulum being the Latin word for places of ‘diversion’ off the Roman roads!!).

LIFE BEFORE PROBUS

Peter Corlette



Peter started by explaining how difficult it would be to condense his life into 7 minutes because he really likes talking about himself! He left school at age 16 and was aimed at a life on the land and enrolled at Wagga Agricultural College. He spent 3 years studying there before spending 2 years working around the Central West ‘chasing cattle and sheep on horses and motorbikes and driving trucks’. However the life didn’t appeal so at age 22 he enrolled at the Sydney Medical School, followed by 2 years as

a junior doctor before going to England for further training. He decided that ENT was the area he wanted to specialise in and spent three years in England doing that before returning to Australia. He eventually started his practice in Tamworth. In addition to ENT he became involved in micro-surgery. He was told by an Aboriginal lady that the real need in the area was that Aboriginal kids are all deaf. He then set up a series of clinics in the area but they were a long way apart and difficult to travel to so he learnt to fly. Later he moved to Mittagong and worked at Cambelltown and Liverpool. He

became involved in Aboriginal health again in Queensland. He is now retired and enjoys cycling, swimming and fishing.

Peter Cadwallader



When Peter Cadwallader left school his only objective was to get overseas to London and New York as fast as possible, so after he achieved his degrees in accounting and economics off he went! He worked as a chartered accountant in London with a very large company where one of the the bosses was financial advisor to the Queen and who brought in massive amounts of special work mainly involved in takeovers. His job was to prepare reports for the acquiring companies.

One of the other bosses discovered that Peter played rugby (for the 'Expendables' who were mainly former top class players but who lacked an Australian.) Their posh captain, who was well connected, would arrange the invited teams to play and so they played against the like of the Infantry Regiment. Eventually he moved to New York where he worked on audits. When he returned to Australia he worked in leveraged leasing. One of the projects was to buy a ship for a client but when the purchaser pulled out Peter and his partner simply bought the ship and that's how he got into shipping! They now have five ships in Australia and that's where his life is today.

GUEST SPEAKER

Simon Perrott

The Wayside Chapel



Our guest speaker was Mr Simon Perrott Chairman of the Wayside Chapel. The organisation was founded by the Rev Ted Noffs 60 years ago to provide a level of hospitality and guidance for a variety of unfortunate people suffering from alcohol and or drug addiction, homelessness, domestic violence and other afflictions. The Chapel is currently managed by John Owen as a Pastor and CEO along with dedicated staff.

Simon made the important point that all visitors were treated with sympathetic respect and were extended love not hate

and without any 'us and them' approach. Since the covid crisis the numbers of visitors has dramatically increased, evidencing the stresses in our society. An unhappy statistic is that First Nations people comprise about 50% of all visitors. People who visit are seeking various things. In some cases it is simply the company of others who are seen as their "family". In other cases it's a much needed meal, homeless seeking accommodation, people suffering domestic violence and so on. About 230 visitors are received each day.

The presentation powerfully demonstrated the sheer need that exists in our community for those hugely less fortunate than people such as our Probus members. A number of interesting questions and answers followed the presentation with everyone evidently learning a better appreciation of the problems being tackled by the Wayside Chapel and similar organisations.

Sean Wareing

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM



In November Committee Member Adrian Pilton took members and guest on two guided tours of Barangaroo Headland Park where he had lead the design team. We now realize what a significant transformation Adrian achieved in transforming the headland and surrounds to a condition in which reflects what it might have looked like before Sydney was first settled by Europeans. The plantings, stormwater collection and irrigation delivery systems, retaining walls and civil works involved were extensive and the result now is a unique precinct for Sydneysiders and tourists to enjoy.

Future events (please see the website for details)

Earlier this month we visited to the new facilities of NextSense (previously the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children) who have relocated from North Rocks to a site within the campus of Macquarie University. It was an exciting tour and there will be a full report in the next Newsletter.

The Christmas Lunch will be held on Monday 9th December at Royal Sydney Golf Club. Unlike our meetings at UUSC where coat and tie are required in the dining room, the dress code for the Christmas Lunch is smart casual, so no tie is necessary.

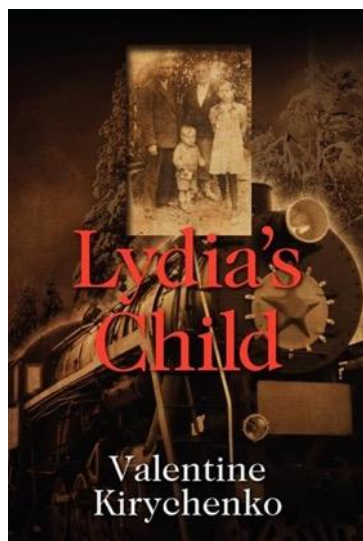
On Monday 10th February 2025 we have a visit planned to St Paul's College within the grounds of Sydney University.

Booking for these latter 2 events are now open and are filling fast.

Ted Brogan - Events Coordinator

BOOK REVIEW

Lydia's Child by Valentine Kirychenko (2011) – 288 pages – fact



Val is a member of our Probus club, so this is not my usual review.

Val (born 1940), a medical doctor living in Sydney, is Lydia's child and tells the gripping story of his family who lived through horrific times starting with the First World War in 1914 and ending with their immigration to Australia in about 1950. During that period, mainly in the Ukraine, they suffered first from Russian brutality and then from the Nazis. For Ukrainians, and other Central Europeans, to be sandwiched between Russia and Germany from about 1917 onwards was not the place to be. Shades of things to come for modern day Ukrainians.

It is the story of survival against impossible odds. They were always hungry, lived in impossible situations and always in fear of their lives. Told simply it is a story that should be read and understood by all Australians as a reminder of the courage and sufferings experienced by so many migrants before and after the Second World War. How lucky we are to live in Australia.

Highly commended as a tribute to the power of survival against impossible odds. Let's not forget.

David Castle

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR!



**A friend who has
worked in Chicago his
whole life says it is not
that violent.
He's a tail gunner on a
school bus.**

The Wisdom of Grandmas (from Frank Barr David)

Grandma prepared for her annual checkup; the new doctor told her to bring a list of all the medicines that had been prescribed for her. As the doctor was looking through these his eyes grew wide as he realized Grandma had a prescription for birth control pills.

"Mrs. Smith, do you realize these are birth control pills?"

"Yes, they help me sleep at night."

"Mrs. Smith, I assure you there is absolutely nothing in these that could possibly help you sleep!"

She reached out and patted the young doctor's knee and said, "Yes, dear, I know that. But every morning, I grind one up and mix it in the glass of orange juice that my 16-year-old Granddaughter drinks. And believe me it definitely helps me sleep at night."

You gotta love Grandmas!

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.