



# PROBUS CLUB OF PORT PHILLIP Inc.

Associations Incorporation Act 1981 - Registered No A0029363K

## NEWSLETTER

### PROBUS CLUB OF PORT PHILLIP Inc.

Chartered on 25 March, 1986, Incorporated on 9 May, 1994

This Probussouthpacific Club meets at:

Kew Golf Club, 120 Belford Road, East Kew 3102

At 10:00 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the Month (excepting January)

The Club can be contacted by email at : [portphillipprobussouthpacific@gmail.com](mailto:portphillipprobussouthpacific@gmail.com)

The Club's web site details are: [www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/portphillipm](http://www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/portphillipm)

### Issue 435

June 2025

#### PRESIDENT

Prof. F. Larkins (Frank)

Mob: 0400 109 785

E: [f.larkins@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:f.larkins@unimelb.edu.au)

#### SECRETARY

Dr. V. Beck (Vaughan)

Mob: 0418 362 792

E: [vbeck@bigpond.com](mailto:vbeck@bigpond.com)

### NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

At **Kew Golf Club**, 120 Belford Rd, Kew East, 3102 (Melway Ref. 45 G1)

Coffee and Fellowship: 9:00 am      Meeting commences: 10:00am

### IMPORTANT DATES in June, 2025

Deadline for Lunch Bookings	5.00 pm	5 <sup>th</sup> June	page 5
Meeting	10:00 am	10 <sup>th</sup> June	page 4

### Message from the President



Dear Probussouthpacific Colleagues,

The May meeting was notable because of the number of activities that are currently in progress or resolved this past month. It has been decided that our 40<sup>th</sup> Celebratory Luncheon will be held at the Kew Golf Club replacing our usual 8 July general meeting. Details may be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Our Catering Officer, Jim Studebaker, will manage the details. My request for members to reactivate the Membership Sub-Committee has borne fruit. The members will be Margaret Hill Russell Smith, Ruth

Bunyan and Don McAllister. They will have an important role in mentoring prospective new members, especially individuals not sponsored by an existing member. Several members have also volunteered to assist Barbara Fox with desk duties. Thank you. This is a rewarding experience for all involved.

Adrian Farrell has developed a plan to reposition our website on a new platform and modernise the presentation and content. The balance of residual funds from the Boroondara grant for our February planning day will be mainly directed towards this initiative.

Speaking about grants, Jim and Dedrie Green have prepared an excellent submission to the Boroondara Council for \$10,000 to provide a subsidy for our Lakes Entrance Getaway. We are most grateful to them for their expertise in grant preparation. We anticipate that we will not know the outcome until late October, so the financial planning being undertaken by Colin Palethorpe for the Getaway must assume we DO NOT get the grant. If successful, a partial refund of costs will be made to participants.

It was my pleasure to induct two new members. Sandra Williams and Stephen Ryan. They both bring much talent to the club, so please make them welcome when you see the 'red star'. In June we will induct another new member, Barry McGrath.

Our guest speaker Dr David Adam gave a most informative talk about developments in cardiology technologies. The advances in microelectronics have been extraordinary, leading to the saving of many lives.

I am always moved by the compassion with which Ross Fardon informs us of the welfare of some of our members facing health challenges. The care and concern for all members is a strong feature of the club that we aspire to be.

Valerie and I will be away for the June meeting. Grandchildren's birthdays in northern NSW are calling. In the absence of a Vice President, Past President, Peter Laver will chair the meeting.

Please contact me if you have suggestions as to how the operations of the club can be improved. [Frank.larkins@bigpond.com](mailto:Frank.larkins@bigpond.com) Mobile 0400109785.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**'Life is like a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving'. Albert Einstein**

***Frank Larkins***

***President 2025-26***

## **New Members, Sandra Williams and Stephen Ryan Inducted at the May Meeting**



### **Induction of Sandra Williams**

Sandra has been a very sports person and volunteer over many years. She has been a member of the Kew Golf Club since 1982 and the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club since 1980 where she was also President of its very active Children's Hospital Auxiliary. As a volunteer she been with the Boroondara Council assisting migrants and people with disabilities. She has also acted as a voluntary guide at both the Botanical Gardens and the Old Treasury Building

In addition to these activities, she has worked at Scotch College for five years and St. Kevins College for seven years until COVID struck.

Sandra (centre above) is pictured here with her sponsor, Gill Comfort (right) and the President, Frank Parkins



### **Induction of Stephen Ryan**

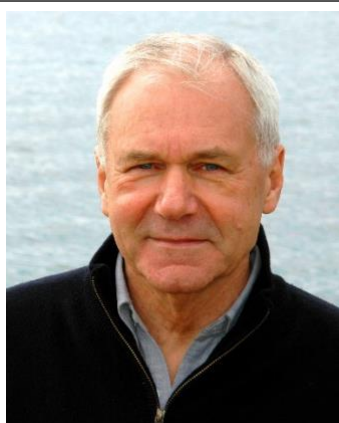
Stephen is a qualified Chartered Accountant, member of the CPA and AICD and has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Melbourne

He has had a long career as a CEO and senior executive of a number of organisations including HVP Plantations, a large plantation forestry company, Myer Department Stores and Elders IXL Materials Group. While at Elders IXL he lived and worked overseas in Houston, Texas during 1987-90.

(Stephen (centre) is pictured above with his sponsor, Russell Smith (right) and the President Frank Larkins). Stephen has a strong interest in sport, including AFL (as a Carlton member),

Formula One Motor Racing, cricket, soccer tennis and many Olympic sports. He follows Formula One Grand Prix, and Test Cricket around the world and has attended the Olympic Games in Paris. His hobbies are travel, reading and family history research. Stephen has built a family history database of over 1,100 ancestors dating back to 1480. He is married with three children.

## Speaker for the June Meeting



**Dr. Graeme I Pearman AM**  
(FAA; ATSE; RoySocVic; FAMOS)

### **The Risk of Climate Change and its Impact on our choices about the use of Energy**

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Graeme completed his training at the University of Western Australia and commenced his career at CSIRO in 1971, eventually becoming Chief of the Division of Atmospheric Research at Aspendale in 1992. His first task was the measurement of carbon dioxide uptake by a wheat crop at Rutherglen and was sceptical about the emerging view that atmospheric carbon dioxide was increasing due to human use of fossil fuels. He established high precision aircraft measurements of the gas and its isotopes and quickly confirmed that this view was correct, posing the questions: how and why, and what might the consequences be. To address these, he established a major climate change program within CSIRO.

His presentation will show some of these results but importantly discuss the basis for assessing that the risk of climate change is serious, imminent, and long lasting. He will address how the climate change issue interfaces with our choice and use of energy options. He will also briefly discuss how specialisation can sometimes lead to policy less useful than where assessments are more holistic.

**Colin Adam Speakers' Co-ordinator Ph Tel: 9889 4774 Mob: 0418 483 136**  
[cmadam@bigpond.com](mailto:cmadam@bigpond.com)

## Catering: 10<sup>TH</sup> June Meeting



**Meeting, Lunch & Tea/Coffee \$50pp.**

**Meeting & Tea/Coffee \$10**

***Tea/Coffee available pre and mid meeting.***

### **Lunch Menu**

#### **Main Course**

**Spiced Pork scotch with Escalivada, romesco sauce and patatas bravas.**

#### **Dessert:**

**Pear Tart with vanilla bean ice cream.**

**Booking Arrangements:** Please contact me (**Jim Studebaker**) on **0413 304 864** or [wjstudebaker48@gmail.com](mailto:wjstudebaker48@gmail.com) if you wish to attend lunch or just the meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Booking (and payment) must be made no later than 5pm Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Payment arrangements:** Payments by direct credit to the club's bank preferred. For the NEXT meeting, payment must be cleared into the Club's account no later than 5 pm Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup> and make sure your name is included on the transfer. Please DO NOT pay before the 1st of the month.

***A/C name: "Probus Club of Port Phillip", BSB: 033 058, A/C NO 750921***

If paying by cash or cheque, please place in an envelope clearly marked **Lunch** or **Tea/Coffee** and showing your name and those of your attendees. The correct amount must be tendered as no change is given. Envelopes need to be prepared before arrival. Everyone who has paid will be given a table number and can request one for a guest.

**Jim Studebaker - Catering Officer Ph 0413 304 864**

[wjstudebaker48@gmail.com](mailto:wjstudebaker48@gmail.com)



## Coffee and Conversation

The next Coffee and Conversation will be held at

**10.30 am Tuesday 24th June 2025**

at Rylands, 349 Riversdale Rd, Hawthorn East. Not far from Camberwell Junction and on the route of the 70 and 75 trams.

**Rod Grant has offered to speak on the topic.**

**“Demographics: Houston, we have a problem”**

This will be about the major impact that declining birth rates, i.e. birth per woman, will have on the population of many countries, bringing dramatic changes and economic problems. The situation of many countries will be noted. Despite its high immigration rate, Australia will not be immune to these effects.

Please let Allan know if you are coming. Numbers are limited and coffee has to be ordered. Note Coffee and pastry is now \$10.

**Allan Brownrigg, C & C Coordinator: Ph 0420 401 310 or 03 9193 7785**

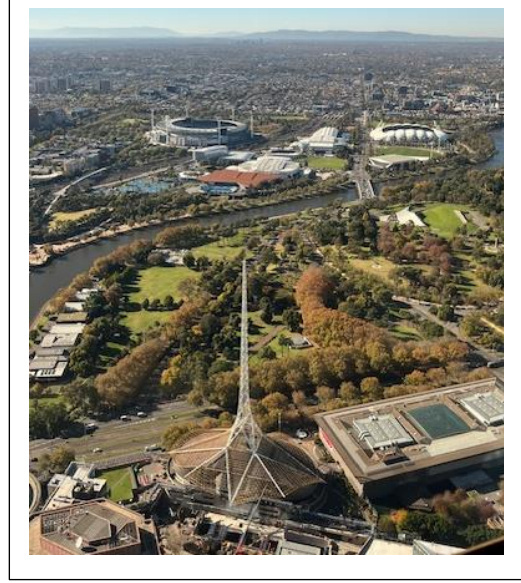
[ambrownrigg@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ambrownrigg@optusnet.com.au)

## Report of May Visit – Skydeck Eureka Tower



Fifteen of us went to the Eureka Tower visit. On May 20. It was a perfect day and we had fantastic views of over the city and across the bay. We started the visit with a very fast lift up to the viewing platform where we were had huge scones, jam and cream and a choice of coffees or teas. A member who could not have the scones was given a delicious fruit platter. We had as much time as we wanted to wander around and see the city from all points of the compass. The descent seemed even faster. We were told that it was the second fastest lift in Australia and no one questioned that!

It was an excellent visit arranged by Dedrie and Jim Green. Thank you.



**Photos of the viewing platform and one of the views from Eureka Tower**

## **June Visit – Capital Theatre, Swanston St.**

11.00 am Tuesday June 17<sup>th</sup>

The next visit is to the Capitol Theatre in Capitol Arcade on Swanston Street, in the city. There is no charge but a donation to the rebuilding of the organ would be appreciated. I will attach an envelope to the booking form so that people can donate at the meeting. This will also be available on the visit. We are to meet at the base of the stairs into the theatre at 11.00 am on 17th June.

The visit will take about an hour and a half. Then those who want to may eat lunch at Momo Station which is there at Capitol Arcade. I do have a number of people on the list but there is no limit so please come and see one of the famous early Melbourne theatres with its spectacular ceiling.

**Susan Harraway – Ph 0447 941 963 [susanrlharraway@gmail.com](mailto:susanrlharraway@gmail.com)**

### **ALMONER**

Members who wish to inform the Club of the illness of themselves or of others, please contact;

**Ross Fardon** telephone 03 9874 6838, or e-mail:- [rossfardon@gmail.com](mailto:rossfardon@gmail.com)

## Getaway Lakes Entrance November 2025

While Colin is away, he has arranged for blank expression of interest forms to be available at the front desk for those who wish to go on the Lakes Entrance Getaway, and haven't yet indicated an interest in going. As reported in the April and May Newsletters, participants then need to book their own rooms at the *Bellevue On The Lakes*. **As of May 27 bookings are still available at the hotel, however it is suggested that those needing a ground floor room should book as early as possible as there are now only 3 (three) ground floor rooms left and no lift. (so ground floor room options are almost exhausted).** See below for information from the Group Booking lady at the hotel.

Accommodation: **Bellevue On The Lakes**

Dates: **17th - 21st November 2025**

Telephone: **03-5150 9488** and quote **reservation 1717761** Probus Club of Port Phillip Getaway. A booking can also be done by e-mail to [info@bellevuelakes.com.au](mailto:info@bellevuelakes.com.au) and quoting the above Reservation number.

Guest rooms @ \$175 per room per night

Executive Spa suites @ \$195 per room per night

### Terms & Conditions

Guests are welcome to call and book, quoting reservation number **1717761**, as the hotel will continue to have rooms on hold. A \$100 deposit is due at the time of booking. The remaining payment due 60 days prior to arrival

If fully cancelled between 60 and 20 days prior, a cancellation fee of \$100 will be payable, and the balance will be refunded. No refund is available within 19 days before arrival.

During his absence **Colin Palethorpe** is available for queries at [cpaletho@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cpaletho@bigpond.net.au)

Newsletter Editor – **Graham Marshall**

Mob: 0408 308 382 Email [graham.marshall8@icloud.com](mailto:graham.marshall8@icloud.com)

Please send copy for the next newsletter to Graham

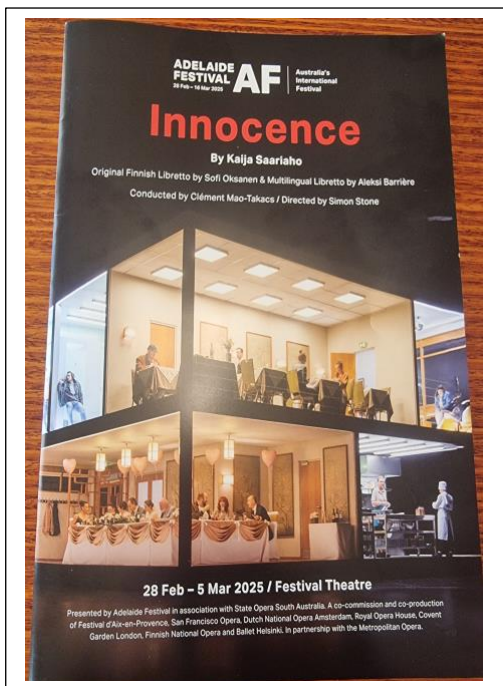
Closing date for the **July 2025** Newsletter is: **am – Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**



## Cultural Notes 1 – Opera at the Adelaide Festival

By Peter Laver

*A Night at the Opera* was probably the best film the Marx Brothers ever made. It certainly punctured the egos of the sanctimonious opera tragics from that era, around 90 years ago. Today many of those following this most costly art form are looking for something different. Unrequited love, family feuds, cross-dressers, and 120kg heroines dying of consumption are being replaced by grittier, if less tuneful forms of the art. (Although who would not continue to enjoy a 100kg Tosca jumping to her death from the walls of Castel Sant'Angelo only to appear a couple more times flying through the air, courtesy of what was apparently a trampoline stationed to break her fall.)



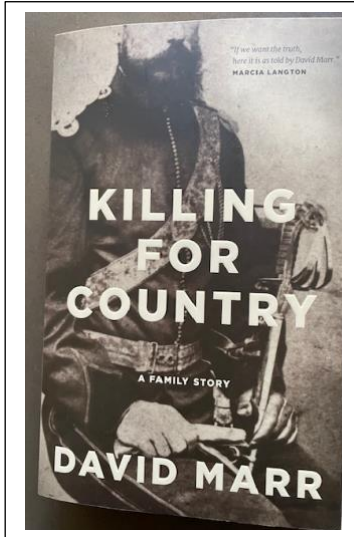
An exemplar of the new age of opera was staged at the recent Adelaide Festival. It was *Innocence* by the Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho. It was an absolutely riveting production on the very contemporary subject of a school shooting. In less than 90 minutes, a wedding celebration is disrupted by a stand-in waitress revealing that the brother of the groom was in prison for killing ten children, including her daughter, something about which the bride was completely unaware. The two-level massive rotating set included the wedding party, the kitchen, the schoolroom and other places.

The cast was international and each sang in their native language, although thankfully the surtitles were in English. At the end several dozen people who had been the off-stage chorus and the technicians operating the set appeared so with the cast of about 15 and the orchestra, well over a hundred people would have been involved.

The set and some of the cast were off to the USA after Adelaide, leaving behind a vivid memory of a night at the opera.

## Cultural Notes 2 Book Review – *Killing for Country*

***Killing for Country* by David Marr (Black Books, 2023) – Reviewed by Andrew Turner**



Maureen McAlister drew our attention to a book seeking to track a revision of Australia's view of Aboriginal History after settlement at Sydney Cove. Anna Clark, the author, is a granddaughter of CH Manning Clark, himself a postgraduate of the History Dept of the University of Melbourne. Manning Clark wrote a different account of the status of aboriginal peoples post settlement after moving from Melbourne University to the Australian National University in Canberra. Anna's book is a broad brush of the historical interpretation of the interaction of European versus Aboriginal nations. I would like to bring Members' and Associates' attention to a detailed account of what interactions occurred between Aboriginal and European people.

David Marr researched his family's history and found that he had two forebears who joined the Native Police, and that their grandfather who was a greedy and ruthless businessman, lawyer and entrepreneur involved in early whaling ventures and establishing sheep stations contrary to the directions of the British Colonial Office to Governors Brisbane, Darling, Bourke and Gipps on how the natives were to be treated. All failed to provide British justice to the Aboriginal Nation as directed. Maybe it was self-preservation from the greed of the settlers.

David Marr is a lawyer and broadcaster on Radio National's Late Night Live and vividly presents in *Killing For Country – A Family History* a detailed 'account of an Australian War fought here in our country with names, dates, crimes, body counts and the remorseless acts and views of 'Sydney centred settlers'.

I recommend reading this account of how the country was settled by Europeans to get an accurate understanding of how the Aboriginal Nation was treated and how even worse was to come when 'the remnants' were rounded up, incarcerated into enclaves and treated by the early 1800s Governments. This treatment was meted out until well into my life-time. I have researched and documented that what happened in Victoria was no different to New South Wales' early settlement. Ultimately Victoria led the nation in passing 'An Act to provide for the Protection and Management of the Aboriginal Natives of Victoria 1886' and establishing the cruel and racist law now cited as 'The Aboriginal Protection Act of 1886'. The legislation was orchestrated by Alfred Deakin, Victorian Chief Secretary and Attorney General. The other Australian Governments followed with the same legislation. But that is another story.