



# THE CLUB

— OMNIBUS 2024 —

*Magazine*

**Sydney • Australia**



# PRESIDENT'S *letter*

Our Club has been located for over 150 years at the very heart of Sydney's Central Business District (CBD). It is thus close to the New South Wales Parliament, the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney Harbour, and the Sydney Opera House. And, of course, to major businesses and the law courts.

However, one notes a real change in the nature of Sydney's CBD, accelerated by Covid and facilitated by the internet and remote visual conferencing. This is having an impact on working lives in the city and on the use of the Club. Quite a few members now come into the city only three days a week, and as a result, some have relocated their chief place of residence into the countryside.

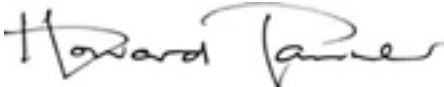
We now focus club life on the centre of the week with an exceptional range of interesting offerings – talks, excursions, concerts, jazz evenings, wine tastings, special lunches, and dinners. One notes the increased use of the Club's accommodation by those members whose homes are in regional areas. Given the relative informality of modern city offices, the Club is remodelling its Terrace Room and related Garden Terrace to cater for 'smart casual' attire. A pantry/kitchenette and laundry have been introduced adjacent to the bedrooms for the benefit of travellers staying at the Club.

Today's planning for Sydney is focussed on increased population and greater commercial and residential density. While recognising the inevitability of urban growth and development, the Club is committed to being an advocate for acceptable change that, while providing the required accommodation and facilities, will enhance the city and its character.

The continuing relevance of the CBD is emphasised by the provision of two new metro lines, with key stations near the Club, and the construction of new office blocks and apartment buildings. The apartment dwellers, typically living within walking distance of the Club, represent a growing contingent of new members.

The cultural life of the city has been enhanced by a revitalised Opera House, an enlarged Art Gallery and remarkable performing arts groups, such as the Sydney Theatre Company and several excellent dance companies.

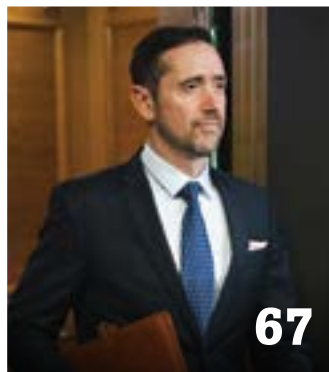
The Club remains focussed on quietly evolving, retaining traditional comfort and ambience, and always seeking to provide a convivial environment for our men and women members, while ensuring a relevant role for the Club in the daily life of the city during the twenty-first century.



Howard Tanner AM  
Club President



# CONTENTS

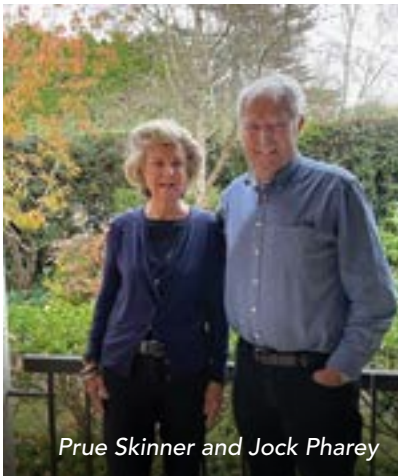


- 6** HIGHLIFE ESCAPE
- 8** THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS OF NSW
- 10** 'THE GREAT DIVIDE'
- 12** NEW CLUB MEMBERS
- 14** LAW DINNER
- 17** WENDY SHARPE AM FRSN
- 18** THE FERRY TO MANLY
- 20** NORMAN LINDSAY AND ELIOTH GRUNER
- 22** ALL THINGS FOOTBALL
- 24** CUISINE & WINE COMMITTEE
- 26** INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
- 29** ATSE
- 30** AUSTRALIAN WOMEN WRITERS' BOOK CLUB
- 31** CUE SPORTS SNOOKER, BILLIARDS & POOL
- 32** THREATS TO AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY
- 35** IN CONVERSATION LUNCHEON
- 36** A JOURNEY THROUGH THE CLUB
- 40** UUSC FILM CLUB
- 42** TRAVELS WITH THE KIDS
- 44** THE ROYAL BOMBAY YACHT CLUB
- 46** THE FULL SCOTTISH
- 48** PRIVATE FUNCTIONS
- 51** MARGAUX HARRIS
- 52** HEALTH CLUB & GYM
- 54** ACCOMMODATION
- 56** RUGBY ROYALTY IN THE MEMBERS' BAR
- 58** BRITISH & IRISH LIONS 2025
- 59** WHAT'S ON IN SYDNEY
- 60** FROM MONIVAE
- 62** REFUGEES
- 64** GENERAL COMMITTEE
- 65** THANK YOU
- 66** WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS
- 67** IN-COMING CLUB SECRETARY
- 68** DES OVEREND
- 69** HONOURS
- 70** GENEROSITY OF ITS MEMBERS

# Highlife Escape

## COUNTRY CONNECTIONS

Interviews by Howard Tanner AM



*Prue Skinner and Jock Pharey*



*Christine and Gordon Windeyer*



*Dr Suresh Badami OAM*



*Julia Kelly*

Earlier in the year, Club President Howard Tanner took the opportunity to catch up with some of our members who live in Berrima, Moss Vale, Sutton Forest, and Bundanoon. An attractive part of the State, the elevation of the Southern Highlands gives it a cooler, wetter climate, which, with good soil, provides a somewhat English character to the landscape.

Berrima, the first town in the district, was established around 1830. Located on the main road between Sydney and the southern pastoral districts, its inns made it a favoured coaching stop. The Colonial Government saw it as the administrative centre for southern New South Wales, and a fine courthouse and gaol were constructed in the 1830s.

Berrima was bypassed when the railway reached nearby Moss Vale in 1867, and the areas adjacent to the stations became popular holiday destinations. The Southern Highlands became very fashionable after the NSW Governor Lord Loftus made 'Hillview' at Sutton Forest his official summer residence in 1882.

### **Moss Vale**

Club member, Julia Kelly, grew up in country New South Wales and enjoyed her time at boarding school in Sydney before training in orthoptics and health management. Following a distinguished career at the Sydney Eye Hospital, she and her husband sought a place that would provide a true sense of country, with the city only a couple of hours away. At Moss Vale, they found a suitable house, garden, and lifestyle. Over time, with fellow members Prue Skinner and John Hopkins, they participated in worthy community causes, whether averting coal mining in Berrima or assisting local families in distress.

### **Berrima**

Of all the towns in the region, Berrima retains a village scale and charm through heritage protection. Prue Skinner lives in a handsome house down a leafy driveway off the town's historic Market Place. Hers was an intriguing career, initially as Adelaide's first female bank teller, then as an administrative assistant in London and Northern Ireland, before returning to work in Brisbane in financial services. In due course,

Prue retired to the Southern Highlands. She loves the cooler climate and the log fires of winter and enjoys the seasons as expressed in the gardens.

Also in Berrima, member Grant Mason lives on the hill near the sandstone courthouse and the National Trust property Harper's Mansion. He grew up in Britain, loved rugby, and joined the Royal Air Force as a parachute instructor. Subsequently, he worked in Equities in Hong Kong and then in Property in Sydney. Covid made Berrima his permanent residence, with the Club's business centre a useful Sydney base. Grant's parents were proud Scots, and he plays a key role in the Club's annual celebration of Robbie Burns and Scottish traditions.

### **Sutton Forest**

South of Berrima is a massive ridge dominated by Mount Gingenbullen. Here, Christine Windeyer and her husband, Gordon, have restored a fascinating c. 1900 'Arts & Crafts' house that enjoys distant vistas to the north and the east. Gordon's love of golf brought them to the region. They appreciate special friendships and the sense of community, with Christine having a specific association as a director of Oxley College, an independent school at Burradoo.

### **Bundanoon**

After training as a doctor in India, member Suresh Badami OAM RFD came to Australia and immediately sought ways to integrate into the life available here. He joined the Army Reserve Medical Corps and worked at various Sydney hospitals. Subsequently, a general practitioner and a medical administrator, a highlight of his professional life was establishing the regional hospital at remote Barradine and enabling air transport for critical patients. In a very busy career, a welcome break was a regular weekend stay at the University Club in Sydney. His wife enjoyed an annual retreat at a health farm in Bundanoon. They grew to love the town with its peacefulness and sense of community and chose to retire there.

# THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS *of NSW*

**Berrima**



**Moss Vale**



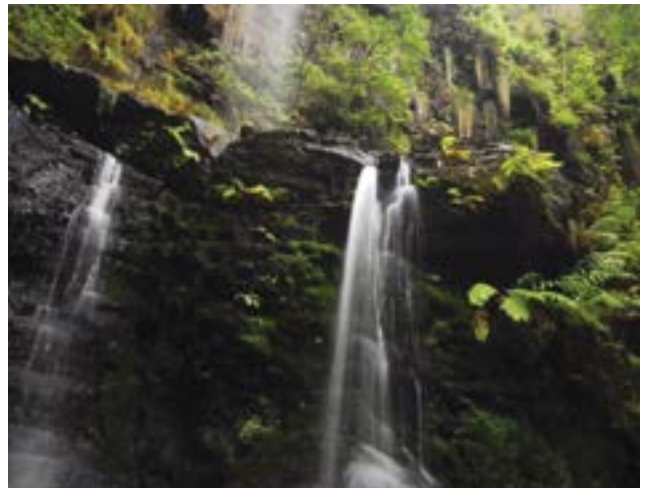


The Southern Highlands in New South Wales have been a magnet for travellers for more than a century, drawn to the lush landscapes, bucolic charm and a slew of pretty villages. A new generation of food-makers, wineries, retailers and hoteliers continue to make the region the ideal destination to rewind, refresh and rejuvenate.

### **Sutton Forest**



### **Bundanoon**





## ‘THE GREAT DIVIDE’

### A new play by David Williamson AO

The first Literary Luncheon of the year featured Australia’s ‘Living National Treasure’, David Williamson, in conversation with Club member Adrian Morris. Before an appreciative audience, David attributed his unexpected comeback from retirement to the intervention of medical science, which has given him a new lease on life, and the fact that he ‘missed the buzz, the addiction’ of writing for the stage. He further explained that he had three new ideas that he felt ‘needed to be put into place... had to be written,’ including *The Great Divide*, which premiered this week at the Ensemble Theatre, Kirribilli. ‘Australia is obsessed with identity politics, such as LGBT,’ he said, ‘but the elephant in the room is the great divide, which is not being addressed. In 1974, Australia had the second-most even distribution of wealth; we were genuinely egalitarian. Now we are second or third in the world OECD for wealth inequality. Tax laws make money trickle up to the rich... and we should be addressing it.’

*The Great Divide* unfolds in the picturesque town of Wallis Heads, not unlike Williamson’s current hometown, Noosa, in Queensland. Penny Poulter enjoys an idyllic life until the ruthless and immensely wealthy Alex Whittle arrives with ambitious plans to put the town firmly on the tourist map for the rich and reckless. This results in a bitter rivalry that questions the consequences of wealth and ambition. ‘It’s a David versus Goliath story; whereas in real life David wins, in drama you can give it the ending you want,’ David explains. When asked about the naming of his characters, David commented that Alex Whittle – ‘whittling everyone down to “nothing” – typified how wealthy, hard-nosed individuals can destroy a beautiful community’. With a laugh, he added, ‘She was just the type of ruthless character Georgie Parker loves playing!’

There were many insights offered into the production, such as the extent to which the actors

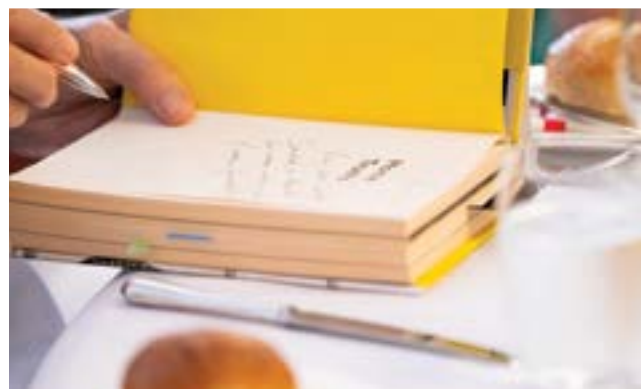
**‘With a good cast and director you can see the topic connecting to the audience.’**

help write the script. ‘Not a lot,’ he says, ‘but certain truths emerge when you hear it, so you have time to fine tune it before it goes to performance.’ In the dress rehearsal on Saturday afternoon, for example, the mayoral contestant, Penny, was off stage when her victory was announced, but this was changed for the Saturday night performance.

David mentioned writing for the Sydney Theatre Company for 25 years, noting that realistic plays work well in intimate theatres. ‘With a good cast and director, you can see the topic connecting to the audience.’ He also reflected on his fruitful relationship with the Ensemble Theatre, dating back to when Sandra Bates, who directed more than 20 of his plays, was the Artistic and Governing Director. ‘At the Ensemble you’re part of the action. Emotion flows back and forward from the audience outwards. We need that intimacy now. Of course, intimacy can sometimes be quite challenging for the actors, ...’ He illustrated the point by recalling a production at the Ensemble of *Cruise Control* when his actor son, Felix, gave a darkly entertaining performance as an acerbic and horrible failed English novelist. As he exited the stage, two ladies leaned over and hissed at him, ‘you slime’.

Crucial to the success of the event was the warmth between Adrian and David, with Adrian seamlessly guiding the conversation while allowing flexibility. Topics ranged from the politics of envy and class warfare to concern for the environment, intergenerational conflict, and the symbiotic relationship between the media, politics, and business. Questions from the floor were answered with candour and good will. At the conclusion of the event, David, as always, had the final say: ‘Time is running out,’ he said. ‘The next time I retire, you can believe it.’

**Convenor, Adrian Morris**



# New

## CLUB MEMBERS

### **Xavier Shea**

Xavier is a recent member of the Club with a significant commitment to music. He plays the piano, enjoys composing music, and has had an important role with the Sydney International Piano Competition and the Sydney Children's Choir/Gondwana Voices.

On leaving school here, he sought adventure and went to Hokkaido in northern Japan, where he taught English, quickly grasped essential Japanese, played piano in a bar, and joined a national radio choir. After working as a waiter in a leading Tokyo hotel, he returned to Sydney, attending Macquarie University to study Japanese and psychology. A telco career followed, where he gained expertise in mergers and acquisitions; for recreation, he sang in the Sydney Philharmonia Choir. In 2003, he commenced his own business, exploring and analysing trends in commercial property in the Sydney CBD and providing advice and strategies to interested parties.

Xavier's father was from Los Angeles, and he enjoys holidaying there with his American cousins. He likes our Club for its history, the wonderful art on display, the opportunity to play snooker in the Billiards Room, and the genuinely friendly atmosphere.



### **Dr Jennifer Hsu**

Dr Jennifer Hsu's current career explores countries in the Asia-Pacific region, their economies, and strategies in a changing world.

Born in Taiwan and raised in Sydney, her studies at UNSW focussed on the social and economic development of various countries. Her good grasp of Mandarin facilitated some years in Beijing, firstly teaching English and later working for the NGO 'Save the Children'. At Cambridge University, she studied comparative development and focussed her doctoral thesis on China's evolving civil society. China's politics, social, and economic policies were changing rapidly in the 2010s, and for eight years she taught Sociology, Chinese Politics and Development in the US and Canada.

Changing tack, Jennifer undertook courses in Asian art history at Sotheby's and at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London before returning to Australia, initially working for art auction house Leonard Joel. Before too long, the think-tank China Matters, the Lowy Institute, and the Australian Government all sought her expertise on the strategic matters that affect Australia.

We have been privileged to have Jennifer give a talk at the Club and appreciate her special insights into the emerging issues of our region.



### **Ann Amos**

Having recently been transferred from Melbourne to work in Sydney in the early 1990s, I was keen to meet young people with similar interests. I was flattered with University and Schools Club member Judy-Anne Edwards, and after attending a few events, she acted as my primary sponsor to join USC. I met lots of great people and had many wonderful evenings enjoying dances, cocktail parties, etc. I have always been very interested in personal fitness, and the gym was certainly a drawcard for me as I was working long hours in those days.

I married in 1996 to member Quentin Amos, and when we decided to have a family, my time became much more restricted, so I chose to take up spouse membership at that point. As our boys grew and school activities became a major part of our lives, I resigned from the Club to concentrate on work and family.

Over the last few years with now young adult children, I have been able to enjoy returning to the Club for many evening events, so in 2023 I decided to re-join and take full advantage of the Club's great variety of programs and to again meet many people with similar interests and, in a way, complete a full circle back to my starting point.



### **Dr Rebecca James**

Dr Rebecca James comes from a family with a long connection with our Club. Her parents and sister are members, and she recalls numerous wonderful family occasions held in the special rooms on the second floor. She also recalls a splendid holiday with her children at the reciprocal Tanglin Club in Singapore.

Career wise, Rebecca studied a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney, focussing on French and English, before commencing her medical degree. Her specialist training is in Paediatric Emergency Medicine, with a responsibility for resolving outcomes for children in crisis and assisting their parents to better understand and cope with the treatments proposed.

Having gained certain behavioural insights from her two children, Rebecca is currently writing 'Jonah and the Magical Hospital Bed', a story with illustrations designed to spark the imagination and make hospital less formidable for young patients. Working in General Emergency in a large public hospital has given her empathy with a huge cross-section of society, especially the less fortunate, who arrive with specific needs every day.

Rebecca is keen to participate in future events at the Club, particularly those linked with art and music.



## LAW DINNER

### with the Honourable Andrew Bell Chief Justice of New South Wales

In March this year, our distinguished dinner speaker was the Chief Justice Andrew Bell, a member of the Club.

A full house of Club members and their guests were treated to an absorbing, wide-ranging, and delightful talk, conducted as a conversation with member Adrian Morris.

His Honour started with an account of his family history, education, some of the influences on his pre-judicial career, and his personal interests. These included Sydney University Medals in History and Law followed by a Rhodes Scholarship and Doctorate at Oxford University, teaching, and the Bar. He touched on his involvement as a director and Chair of *Sculpture by the Sea* and dwelt on his passion for the great game of cricket, including as a member of the Wentworth Wombats team on its tours of England.

With the then bicentenary of the first sitting of the Supreme Court of New South Wales falling on 17 May 2024, his Honour gave an absorbing account of and reflection on aspects of the Court's history

and evolution and the significance of its work and role in society and how he sees his role as Chief Justice. He shared descriptions of the experiences and contributions of some of his 17 predecessors as Chief Justice.

The talk wound up with an outline of what the Court is doing to mark and celebrate its two-hundredth birthday, including a ceremonial sitting on 17 May, a "History Wall" in the Court, revealing aspects and incidents of the Court's eventful life, and performance in the Banco Court of Gilbert and Sullivan's Trial by Jury. His Honour kindly presented to the Club an inscribed copy of *Constant Guardian-Changing Times*; the massive book just published commemorating the Court's 200 years.

After a session of lively questions from attendees and answers from his Honour Club Vice-President, Maryanne Maher delivered a splendid vote of thanks for a talk that informed, entertained, and inspired us all.

**Convenor, Adrian Morris**



*The Honourable Andrew Bell*



*Wendy Sharpe in the Club's Knox Room Level 2*



# Wendy

## SHARPE AM FRSN

**By Club member, former editor of the Australian Art Review and owner of the Crawford Gallery, Patricia Anderson**

Painter Wendy Sharpe, who won the Archibald Prize in 1996 with an acid-coloured self-portrait called 'Diana of Erskineville,' gave a most spirited and memorable talk to a responsive audience at the Club's annual Archibald Dinner on Friday, 5 July this year.

She might have spoken about her own career, which is a stellar one, but chose instead to focus on the serendipitous nature of prize-giving and receiving. There was a degree of luck she suggested, as she and artist friends had all offered works to prizes that were rejected, but subsequently won prizes in other prestigious exhibitions. She herself had been on the 'awarding' side of the equation on occasions.

Painting large murals is an all-consuming and exhausting task. Michelangelo knew of this first-hand when he wasn't carving marble tombs for the Medici family, and so does Wendy Sharpe. Earlier this year, the Art Gallery of New South Wales invited her to fill three adjoining rooms with a mural.

The result is dazzling. It embodies paintings large and intimate, and an assemblage of small plaques, miniature frames, and mementos, which together present a sort of totemic abundance, as she had inserted mini self-portraits into many of them.

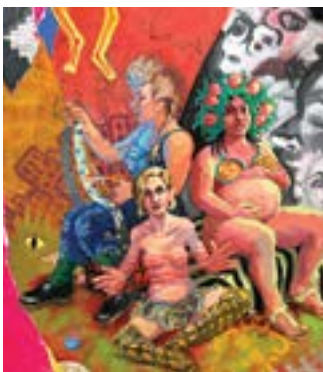
Wendy has a studio in Montmartre in Paris, and many of these frames she found in flea markets there.

She says, "It's fascinating and moving to imagine who might have owned them. Where were they? On a mantelpiece or on someone's bedroom wall? What was in them? How did they end up in the flea market?"

There is something poignant and intimate about them."

The viewer is struck by the sheer vitality of the works she has painted across walls, which she primed with a textured grape-grey coloured paint as an unifying backdrop. Those who are familiar with her work will recognise the same Bacchanalian atmosphere, the sharp colours, the colliding perspectives and the manipulation of light so characteristic of her smaller paintings. But the scale of the mural has given Wendy the opportunity to introduce some new elements, including abstract shards of flat colour in the larger paintings and entire walls of intimate miniature drawings, watercolours, gouaches, and sketches.

She is the first Australian artist to be given this opportunity, which included an invitation to recreate her studio – a capsule of a robustly feminine world – filled with drawings, sketchbooks, ceramics, sculptures, and, of course, plenty of brushes and used paint tubes.



# THE FERRY TO MANLY



*One of the most wonderful city excursions in the world*



The old adage 'Seven Miles from Sydney, a Thousand Miles from Care' was used to promote the steamer service to Manly, celebrated as Australia's Premier Seaside Resort in the 1920s. The behest to enjoy the glorious harbour scenery on this remarkable excursion is just as relevant today.

The City of Sydney was founded on Sydney Cove some 200 years ago. Today it hosts the Overseas Shipping Terminal and the wharves of the numerous ferry services across Sydney Harbour. These are based at Circular Quay, a mere two blocks from the Club.

The inexpensive ferry trip to Manly takes just over twenty minutes.

As you depart the Quay, you experience the breathtakingly beautiful glories of the harbour, with the gigantic steel arch of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the sweeping glazed sails of the Sydney Opera House framing the picture. A wooded peninsular, where blue hydrangeas lap the water's edge, lies to the north, and within extensive grounds, Admiralty House, a handsome arcaded mansion, and Kirribilli House, a Gothic cottage orné, provide the Sydney residences of the country's Governor General and Prime Minister.



The ferry now turns to the east, passing an island originally called *Muddawahnyuh* by the Indigenous population but referred to as *Pinchgut* by the convicts who were housed there in the late eighteenth century. In the mid-nineteenth century, it was remodelled as Fort Denison, with a circular Martello tower designed to defend the port in the event of a naval invasion.

The city's Botanic Garden presents as a sweep of greenery to the south and handsome waterfront suburbs are on view as we head toward Bradley's Head, crowned by the mast of the World War I cruiser, the HMAS Sydney.

The ferry now turns to the north past rugged sandstone outcrops and cliffs topped by native bushland. Between North and South Heads lies the entrance to the harbour. Typically, here one feels the swell of the great Pacific Ocean, providing an animated moment in the voyage. Calmer waters take us to Manly Cove, so named by Governor Phillip in 1790, when impressed by the demeanour of the local inhabitants.

## **'Seven miles from Sydney and a thousand miles from care'**

The handsome ferry terminal at Manly opens directly to The Corso, which provides easy access to the famous surf beach and a locale for a seafood meal. Alternatively, you can stroll along the waterfront beside stands of towering Norfolk Island pines and groups of glossy-leaved coastal fig trees, perhaps making a visit to the Manly Art Gallery. Further afield, there are walks in the Sydney Harbour National Park on North Head and at Grotto Point.

Return ferries to the city occur at regular intervals. As you travel along, you will glimpse some beautiful harbourside beaches, such as Balmoral, Camp Cove, and Neilson Park – all wonderful places to visit by bus or car during the warmer months.

**Article by Howard Tanner AM**



# NORMAN LINDSAY AND ELIOTH GRUNER

Article by Dr Patricia Holt

## *Friends at the Club*

Norman Lindsay's watercolour painting, *Greek Messengers* (1920), which currently hangs in the Board Room on Level 4, is typical of his extravagant watercolours of the interwar years. The original colour has somewhat faded, unfortunately, in this inheritance from the Millions Club (later The Sydney Club). Purchased directly from Lindsay's Springwood studio for £290 by committee member Mr Austen Phillips, sometime around 1956, it was initially hung in the Club's bar lounge, where it was unfavourably viewed by some of the more straightened members.

Norman Lindsay took his art very seriously, but his subject matter is usually satirical, which is why his pictures often look silly. He was influenced by almost every important European artist from the Italian Renaissance onwards, but he added his own twist of satire and inversion. Some of his paintings that feature massed figures, and winged creatures could almost be 'Last Judgement' scenes, except that the winged creatures are not angels, and there is usually a nude woman, centred, boldly standing in bright light and about to ascend, rather than be cast down into darkness with the demons. In his novel, *A Curate in Bohemia* (1913), inspired by his art student days in Melbourne at the close of the nineteenth century, Lindsay satirised his style of art variously as the 'Decorative Symbolical', the 'Grandly Moral', the 'Languorously Sinful', and the 'Demoniacal or Languorously Feminine'.

*Greek Messengers* is a reminder of associations that Lindsay had with the Union Club. His first studio in the city of Sydney, around 1902, was in Rowe Street, close by the Millions Club. This studio was shared for a short time with his friend, black-and-white cartoonist and WWI artist Will (Bill) Dyson. Lindsay's first Sydney exhibition (1900) of drawings, courtesy of the NSW Society of Artists, was held in the art gallery of the grand colonial sandstone Education Department Building, on the corner of Loftus and Bent Streets.

From late 1932 into 1933, Lindsay was often a resident at the Wentworth Hotel. He was at the time

a director and editor of *The Endeavour Press* (owned by *The Bulletin* newspaper). At the Wentworth he entertained (at teas and sandwich lunches) the writer (Stella Maria Sarah) Miles Franklin whilst preparing for publication her spoof on English country house detective novels, *Bring the Monkey* (1933), an amusing story for which he also supplied illustrations as a favour. Franklin and Lindsay were born in the same year; they first met in 1901. Not long ago, *Greek Messengers* was displayed in the UUSC's foyer, on the wall of the staircase, opposite the grand oil landscape, *The Araluen Valley* (1922), painted by Lindsay's 'intimate' friend Elioth Gruner (1882-1939). The figure on the horse is reputed to be Club member Rowland George Hassall (1858-1933), whose father pioneered grazing in the Braidwood district in the 1850s.

Lindsay maintained an 'abiding affection' for Gruner, whose work remained, for him, a 'perennial delight'. It was Gruner who, in London in 1923, managed the major exhibition of Australian art on behalf of the Society of Artists. Lindsay's many nudes were relied upon to draw attention to the Australian exhibits. The patrons of this controversial exhibition included the Governor-General, three state governors, Dame Nellie Melba DBE and other notables. The threat of censorship dogged the show before the pictures had left the Sydney docks. Various organisations, including the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Feminist Club and the Business Women's Prohibition League, protested at Lindsay's nudes being included as representatives of Australian art. The English customs officials were initially doubtful about allowing in Lindsay's pictures, but the ensuing publicity encouraged a crowd at every viewing. When the show opened on 11 October, 'a large crowd blocked the approaches to Burlington House', and even a fortnight later, crowds were still queuing up every afternoon. At closing time, it sometimes took an hour to empty the room in which the Lindsay pictures hung.



*'Greek Messengers' (1920), Norman Lindsay*



*'The Araluen Valley' (1922), Elioth Gruner*



(L-R) Wayne Erickson (Convenor), David Campese AM, Craig Johnston and Nick Farr-Jones AM

# All things football

## CRAIG JOHNSTON & DAVID CAMPESE AM

**Two of Australia's most highly decorated footballers in conversation with former Wallaby captain and Club member Nick Farr-Jones AM.**

On June 20, in the midst of a jam-packed calendar of international sporting events in Sydney, a "full house" of Club members and their guests were treated to the rarest of opportunities – a sporting lunch featuring two of the world's best footballers from two codes of football!

We heard from Craig Johnston the fascinating story of a boy who travelled alone to England to try and make his mark as a professional soccer player in the Premier League and of his fight against the crushing weight of rejection, to become one of international soccer's true superstars.

And from World Rugby Hall of Fame's David Campese, the story of the kid from Queanbeyan who burst onto the international stage and became a "first-picked" Wallaby during the fifteen years when the Wallabies were the world's number one team, claiming along the way a glittering array of awards: as the world's leading try-scorer in Tests, a hundred-Test Wallaby, World Rugby's Player of the Tournament at the 1991 Rugby World Cup, a Member of the Order of Australia, a Rugby Australia, and Sport Australia Hall of Fame member, one of rugby's Invincibles, and now an Immortal.

We learnt that for both of these legends, their point of difference was their commitment to the sheer hard work of shaping their natural talents into an unstoppable force in their respective games. Both brought a vision to their game that was in many ways decades ahead of their time – from Craig, the invention of a revolutionary boot design – the Predator – which became the world's best-selling boot – and from David, a singular and uncanny ability to see and exploit space on a rugby pitch that was not possessed by any of his contemporaries, or indeed since.

Nick Farr Jones invited these visionary legends to cast their eyes over the current state of soccer and rugby in Australia, and the elegant simplicity of their proposed solutions thrilled an audience willing to embrace the possibility.

All in all, an excellent afternoon's entertainment, with members and their guests continuing to enjoy the Club's hospitality late into the evening, celebrating All Things Football!



# When food meets wine

## **CUISINE & WINE COMMITTEE**

**Marion Pascoe Chair, Cuisine Committee and  
Quentin Amos, Chair Wine Committee**

In the opening song from the musical *Oliver*, children from a workhouse for orphans who are fed only unpalatable gruel fantasise about 'food glorious food' like hot sausages and mustard and jelly and custard. The children wonder if their next meal will be "worth waiting for."?

The Club's special cuisine events try to provide members with bills of fare that are a little different from the standard day-to-day fare at the Club (which is, of course, rather better than gruel!) and definitely worth the waiting for.

The skills of the Club kitchen brigade are evident as members and guests are treated to a range of classic, innovative and unusual, dishes at our game degustation dinners, great chefs' dinners, taste of the sea, and themed regional dinners. Whether a classic consommé or fillet of beef or pasta from Puglia or a never-tried-before camel dish or a taste of the sea dessert of "fish fingers" with squid ink ice cream, members are assured of a delicious and enjoyable meal.

Not sausages with mustard or jelly and custard, but definitely Food Glorious Food!

*Oliver* finds himself in the company of a gang of likeable rogues after being told to "consider yourself at home. Consider yourself part of the family".

Being part of a Club is like being part of a family, and most members have wonderful memories of the camaraderie experienced with other members.

### **'Food Glorious Food!'**

Memories of wine enjoyed at the Club are often part of this experience. People can sense over 1,000 different aromas, from the lightness of a rose in their first spring blush to the powerful depths of sweaty saddles! It is no wonder then that smell is by far our most important sense for recalling memories of things past.

Our appreciation of wine is very strongly linked to those wonderful, recalled aromas of memory, scents of floral, spice, mineral, fruit, wood, earth, and leather, and where we smelt them and with whom.

Flavour is the second most important element in the appreciation of wine, but it is a third element, the company in which we taste wine, that strongly dictates whether we enjoy a particular wine.

Our Club strives to create cuisine and wine events where members and guests can enjoy the enticing aromas and flavours of fabulous food and excellent wines, so please bring your family and friends and create memorable occasions at your Club.





Freshly shucked Sydney rock oysters



Julian's apple and blackberry crostata



Cuisine Committee Chair:  
Marion Pascoe



Wine Committee Chair: Quentin Amos



Arancini with aioli



Squid Ink Ice Cream

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

with Dr Cassandra Goldie AO  
 Convenor: Dr Wendy Michaels OAM



*Counting her in: Invest in women*

**Women's Equality through Economic Empowerment was the theme of this year's International Women's Day**

Dr Wendy Michaels, convenor of IWD's celebration luncheon, opened the proceedings with a fascinating brief history of IWD: women garment workers went on strike for equal pay and better conditions in New York in 1908, inspiring others. The 1910 International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen resolved to establish a day celebrating women and demanding equality. March 19th, 1911, saw the first IWD celebrated with street marches and meetings. Two World Wars and the Great Depression later, in 1946, the newly minted United Nations established the Commission on the Status of Women, but it took 30 years to recognise 8th March as International Women's Day. Wendy noted that the first IWD celebration in Australia was by the Militant Women's Movement in the Sydney Domain in 1928 and that Gillian Moore AO was instrumental in establishing IWD celebrations at the UUSC. The stage was set.

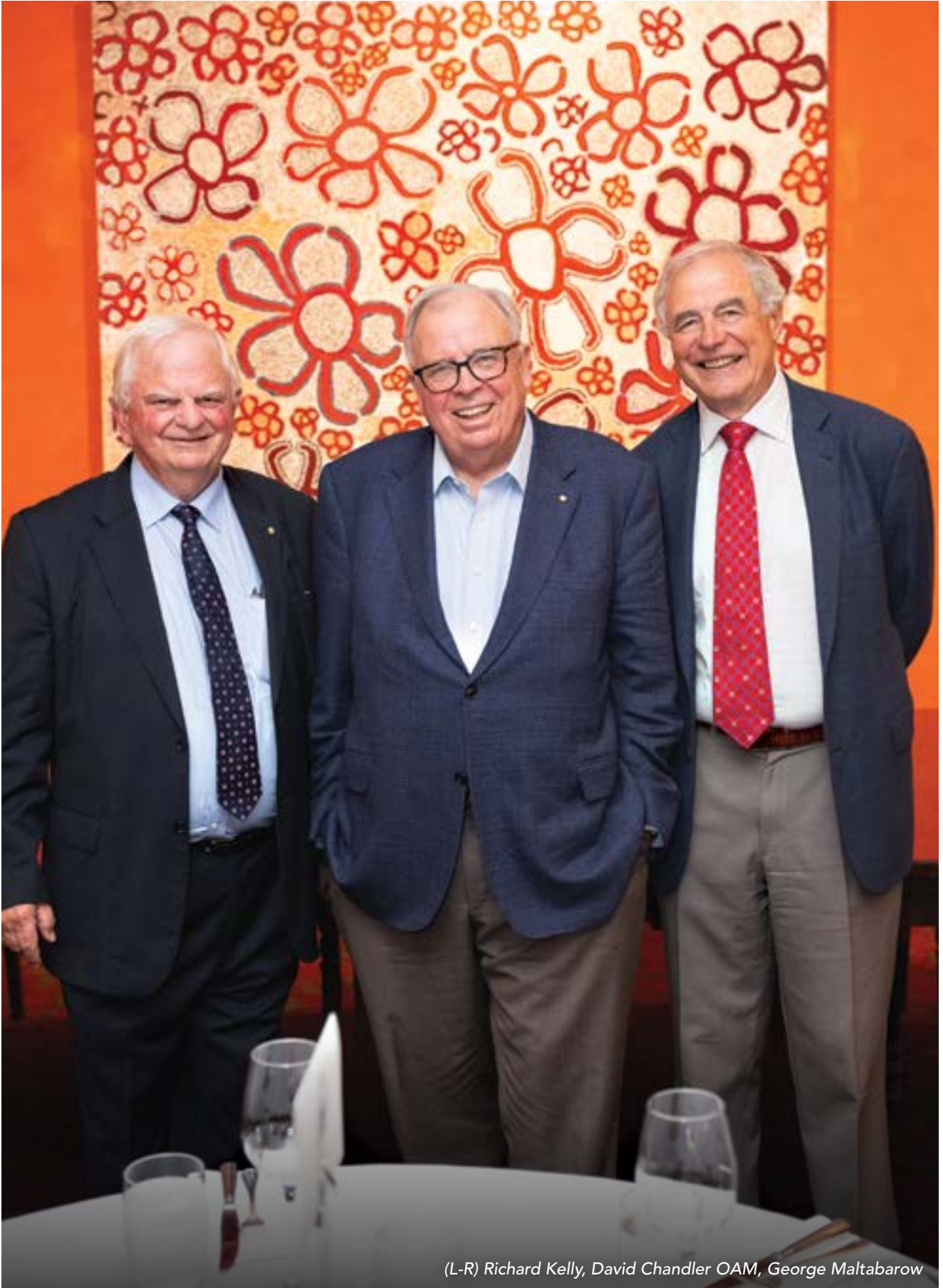
In her powerful address, Dr Goldie recalled her adoptive mother impressing on her that 'a man is not a plan' and the vital importance of ensuring her own, every woman's economic independence: knowing you can survive economically is essential to a woman's empowerment and participation. She knew her birth mother had not had the financial resources to care for her and her brother; her family exemplified for her how essential women's economic participation and independence are.

Dr Goldie brought to life the significant obstacles to women achieving equal participation in the economy globally and locally, conveying the severe, often devastating consequences for women and their children of being economically dependent on others (usually men) in their lives. She outlined how the experience of poverty in Australia is highly gendered, with households with women as the main income earner, especially those not able to work and dependent on unemployment and parenting benefits, being almost twice as likely to experience poverty as those where men are the main income earner. Lack of equal pay and superannuation for women, the significantly lower numbers and proportion of women compared to men, in executive positions, and the growth in older women living in poverty, often becoming homeless, were detailed.

There are though solutions. Dr Goldie pointed to the work of the Women's Economic Equality Taskforce and its focus on increasing women's economic participation and independence. These lie in structural reform, improving financial literacy and increasing access to capital for women, raising income benefits to cover essential living costs, and ensuring equity for women and girls in building their capabilities and strengthening their capacity to learn, earn, and lead.

Lively discussions ensued, with questions from the floor and many engaging personally with Dr Goldie after her talk.





*(L-R) Richard Kelly, David Chandler OAM, George Maltabarow*

# ATSE\*

## David Chandler OAM Luncheon Article by George Maltabarow

### The NSW Building Commission Achievements, Challenges, and the Future

The NSW Building Commission was established by the Government in 2019 in response to a spate of serious, well-publicised problems in apartment buildings (Opal Towers, Mascot Towers, Crown Street Wollongong, etc.). Many involved huge rectification costs and pain for owners, some even requiring evacuation.

David Chandler OAM was appointed as the inaugural Building Commissioner. He recently indicated that he would step down at the completion of his 5-year term in October. When David spoke to our ATSE UUSC luncheon shortly after his appointment, he outlined the challenges as he saw them, including strategies for dealing with dodgy developers and lifting standards. At this return presentation, David was able to report on what he has had to deal with and the impressive achievements of the Commission.

David's term tenure as Building Commissioner has been remarkable by any measure. Such was the entrenched culture amongst developers that many doubted it could be changed, but he has proven them wrong. As Peter Tyree AM has said, 'The doubters did not know David!' He has ruffled feathers but has gone a long way to restoring trust in the building industry and fully deserves the appreciation of NSW citizens.

In his presentation and response to questions, David emphasised that while developers are ultimately responsible, all stakeholders needed to lift their game. On one level, restoring trust would mean 'no more Mascot Towers' or 'no leaking bathrooms.' But broader recognition by all stakeholders – builders, engineers, certifiers, and others – of the need for quality performance was required. David gave us examples of how quality incurs a negligible premium compared with the costs of rectification.

The establishment of an effective Commission, the cleanout of the "cowboys" from the industry, and the upgrading of regulations, together with innovations such as the excellent iCIRT Register, which enables purchasers to identify trustworthy builders and professionals, will be lasting legacies of David Chandler's term as Commissioner. Another part of his legacy is his recommendations for regulatory harmonisation between States and a "trustworthy index".

A key feature of his tenure has been availability to both the media and the public. However, not all stakeholders liked what he had to say! Members of UUSC and ATSE have been the beneficiaries of David's availability and willingness to "tell it as it is." His presentation and responses to questions were most entertaining and enlightening, and those who attended were very appreciative.

**Article by George Maltabarow**

\*ATSE - Australian Academy of Technology Sciences & Engineering

# AUSTRALIAN WOMEN

## Writers' Book Club

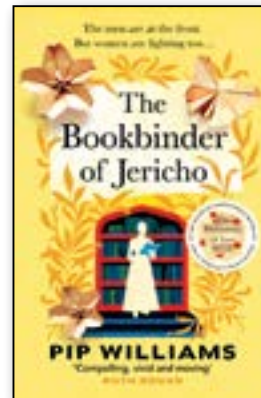
Convenor Sharryn Ryan

The Australian Women Writers' Book Club meets on the first Monday of each month at 12.00 pm in the Members' Dining Room for lunch and then moves to one of the Club Rooms at 1.00 pm for the Book Club Meeting. This group is for those who wish to highlight and explore the works of this under-recognised group of writers. All members are welcome to come along and join in the discussion.

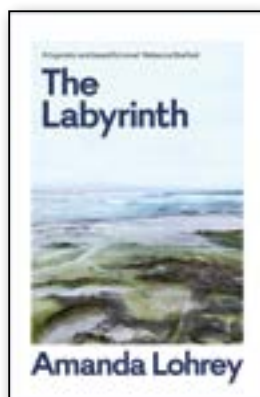
### Four Books From Their 2024 Reading List



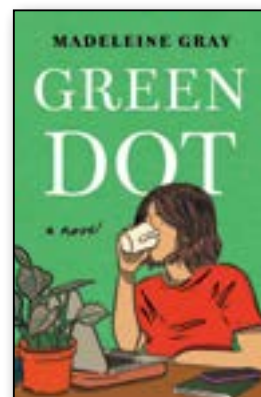
1941, West Java. Love and revolution are in the air.



Heart wrenching and bittersweet.



A novel that asks how to keep going in the wake of a disaster that has no neat ending.



A hilarious yet surprisingly emotional first novel from a serious new Australian writer.

## CUE SPORTS SNOOKER, BILLIARDS & POOL

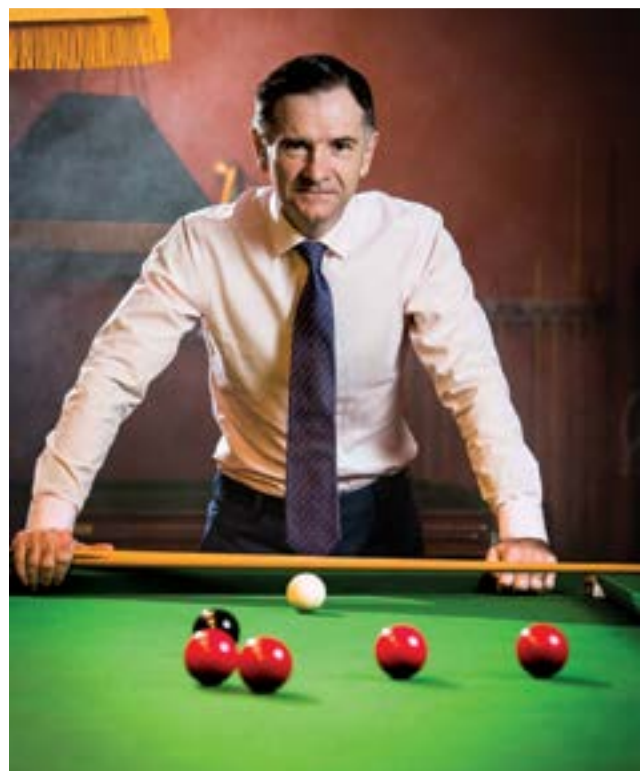
Convenor Steven Thomson

Our Club's Billiards Room holds two magnificent colonial billiards tables. One is a red cedar table by Sydney makers, R. Moran, in the so-called Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh style. The second is a particularly ornate fiddleback blackwood table produced by the legendary Melbourne makers, Alcock & Co.

In 2024, we introduced social snooker and social billiards nights to introduce new players to the games, restarted the annual Club tournaments, and invested in an upgrade of the billiards room with new brass hooks for the tables to accommodate our range of rests and free up space on the racks for our cues, seven of which were professionally re-tipped to provide more choice for players.

We also hosted social nights for fellow private Clubs in Sydney that compete in the Winter City Interclub competition, with a view to taking part in the future.

Future events and opportunities to play will be featured in the Club's regular newsletter, and you are also welcome to email [smthomson175@gmail.com](mailto:smthomson175@gmail.com) at any time for further information.





## THREATS TO AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

*Malcolm Turnbull* AC

Former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull AC addressed a full house for a lunchtime event at which he offered his observations and thoughts on contemporary threats to Australian democracy. The event was convened by long-time Club member Nigel Weaver, and I was delighted to act as master of ceremonies on the day.

Our 29th prime minister spoke with passion about the decline of reasoned debate in public discourse and the fact that disinformation is more widespread than ever. He noted that politics and public policy operate in an environment, an ecosystem, of which the media is the most important element. Whether it is mainstream curated media or social media, that is where we find out what is happening, follow debates, and exchange ideas – good or bad.

(At this point, the former PM self-effacingly quoted the saying that ‘the politician who complains about the media is like a sailor who complains about the sea.’)

Returning to his theme, he remarked that the media sea in which we operate had changed dramatically in recent years. Twenty years ago, there was no social media, and curated mainstream media generally sought to attract a broad audience – so while newspapers would lean left or right if they wanted an audience large enough to support a viable level of advertising revenue, they had to be credible to a wide cross-section of the community. With digital technologies having dramatically reduced the cost of publishing, however, social media has made us all publishers with potentially enormous reach. Furthermore, smart phones have meant we possess the capabilities of a television studio in our pocket. In short, the media landscape is now totally transformed. The upshot, in Mr Turnbull’s analysis, has been that it is now possible to monetise very small audiences and that increasingly people are living in media silos where they are receiving news and information that conforms and reinforces their own prejudices and points of view.





At the same time as competition for the attention of viewers becomes more intense, both mainstream media channels and social media platforms seek to increase engagement by riling people up – so much news today is “angertainment,” and this is delivered both by the algorithms that determine your feed on YouTube, Twitter, or Facebook and by the producers of many news channels. The consequence of this, he noted, is that society becomes more divided, angrier, and less capable of resolving issues at the centre.

So, what is to be done? How do we make our democracies resilient in the face of this challenge?

Mr Turnbull strongly believes we must stand up for truth and call out lies for what they are. There used to be received wisdom in politics that you should not respond to wild and outrageous claims lest you give them oxygen. In the viral world of social media, that is no longer the case, Mr Turnbull noting that he learnt this the hard way in the 2016 election when his party lost a number of seats due to a ludicrous lie put about by his opponents that his government was going to “sell Medicare”. That claim was pushed on digital channels to older, less sophisticated voters in marginal seats, and it worked.

So, the answer is that when lies are told, they must be corrected and rebutted with great energy and speed. Mr Turnbull lauded the Australian Electoral Commission for actively doing that to counteract various lies and conspiracy theories designed to undermine faith in our electoral system.

At the conclusion of his address, Mr Turnbull generously took questions from the audience, (co-ordinated by member, John Sergeant) across a range of topics. In wrapping up, a thoughtful vote of thanks was offered by General Committee member, and long-term friend of Mr Turnbull, Adrian Morris.

**Article by former Club President,  
Craig Lee**



(L-R) Wendy McCarthy AO & Sam Mostyn AC

# IN CONVERSATION LUNCHEON

## Wendy McCarthy AO in conversation with Sam Mostyn AC

*Don't be too polite, girls*

In June, the Members' Dining Room was abuzz as 120 members and guests gathered for a luncheon titled *Don't Be Too Polite, Girls* with Wendy McCarthy AO In Conversation with Sam Mostyn AC.

Wendy McCarthy AO, BA Dip Ed is an experienced executive and company director who has worked for change across the public, private, and community sectors in education, women's rights, public health, overseas aid and development, media and the arts. Wendy has held many significant leadership roles in key national and international bodies and was a founding member of the Women's Electoral Lobby and the Sydney Community Foundation Women's Fund. Wendy was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for outstanding contributions to community affairs, and to women.

Sam Mostyn AC, BA/LLB is a businesswoman and sustainability adviser, with a long history of executive & governance roles across business, sport, climate change, the arts, policy, and NFP sectors. Sam has served on many boards and was a founding supporter and Chair of the women's climate action group 1 million Women. Sam served as a Commissioner with the Australian Football League, was an inaugural

commissioner with the National Mental Health Commission and was Deputy Chair of the Diversity Council of Australia. Sam was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law from the ANU, in recognition of her work as a pioneer of gender inclusion and equity, and leadership in sustainability and climate change, was presented the distinguished 2020 United Nations Day Honour Award for her significant contribution in advancing the work of the United Nations, and in 2024 she was awarded Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for eminent service in the social justice, gender equity, sporting, cultural, and business sectors, to reconciliation, and to environmental sustainability. In July 2024, Sam Mostyn was sworn in as Australia's Governor General.

On 1 March 2022, Sam Mostyn had launched Wendy McCarthy's second memoir, *Don't Be Too Polite, Girls*, at the Australian Museum, and in May that year Wendy spoke about her book at our Club. Since then, the book has taken on a life of its own, and we were honoured to have Wendy and Sam continue the conversation. Sam began by inviting Wendy to recount her recent heart attack, which occurred when she was visiting Sam, and she then went on to

ask why Wendy had chosen to write another memoir when she turned 80. Wendy teased out ideas about becoming a widow, adjusting to living on your own, the lack of stories of women over sixty, and owning your own story in a different way. She highlighted the importance of investing in friendships, honouring the women in your life, continuing to work, and finding new things to do. She spoke of the need for respect and politeness in public discourse, and, returning to the theme of politeness, she cited the pile on when Grace Tame rolled her eyes at a public event and ended with the pithy, 'politeness is the new black!'

When Sam invited audience questions, Georgie Dent asked about her own preparation for the role of Governor General. Sam outlined the meetings with King Charles III, with former Prime Ministers, and with State Governors and was pleased to report that five current State Governors are women.

Shirley Randell AO gave the Vote of Thanks to these distinguished Australian women to resounding applause.

**Dr Wendy Michaels OAM  
Convenor, Chair Events  
Committee**

# A journey THROUGH THE CLUB

with Howard Tanner AM

The Union Club's original site included all the land now occupied by the Wentworth Hotel. The present Clubhouse was erected in 1959, with simple quasi-traditional elevations of brick with stone trims, not dissimilar to much of the post-war reconstruction that occurred in the environs of St Paul's Cathedral in London. The main interiors sought to replicate some of the styling found in handsome London interiors. The Union Club merged with the University and Schools Club in 2007.

## The Entrance Hall

An attractive marble-edged space providing reception and the opportunity for members to meet and greet. Its main focus is the staircase and the beautiful marble statue of 'Oceana' created by the celebrated sculptor, Sir Bertram Mackennal. This statue was Mackennal's first major work, commissioned in 1896 and presented to the Club by leading pastoralist Albert Augustus Dangar in 1897. The walls of the Entrance Hall are hung with fine paintings, including 'The Araluen Valley', said to be Elioth Gruner's largest work.

## The Bar

A friendly and intimate space overlooking the intersection of Bent and Phillip Streets, with a vista to the State Library's grand portico. It's a great place to meet a friend for coffee, a drink, or an informal meal.



## The Members' Dining Room (MDR)

Members, their friends and colleagues, and reciprocal Club members are all welcome to lunch here. The reddish walls provide a suitable backdrop to a stunning collection of indigenous art, reflecting the Club's understanding of the significance of indigenous history and culture. It is the largest room in the Club and hosts important dinners, lectures, and concerts. Cabinets display historic Club silver and rare wines.

## The Dangar Room

A comfortable sitting room, centred on Lord Leighton's bronze sculpture of 'an athlete wrestling with a python' and an historic drum table holding the day's newspapers. Like many traditional British clubs, there is a painting of the Battle of Waterloo over the fireplace; nearby a cabinet holds famous racing trophies. A large credenza has magazines and a selection of interesting reading material. Eccentric accents in the room include Sir Daniel Cooper's Snuff Mull mounted in a ram's head and cartoonist George Molnar's evocation of Robert Louis Stevenson's visit to the Club.



Snuff

## The Billiards Room

Dominated by two imposing 19th century billiards tables, this distinctive interior is lined and carpeted in russet colours, with the walls housing Club memorabilia. There are views of earlier Union Clubs, and evidence of the founding of the University Club and the Schools Club.

## The Grand Stair

An attractive open stair links the three most active levels of the Clubhouse. The walls are hung with portraits of important Club members and a collection of paintings of the 19th century British naval ships. On the landings, one can observe an imagined European landscape attributed to artist John Glover and a large French tapestry with a classical theme.

## The Library

A handsome interior, its walls are lined with historic and modern books and portraits of all the Australian Prime Ministers. The leather chairs and sofa are from the 19th century clubhouse, and recommended reading material is placed on an historic games table in the corner. A splendid venue for a private dinner party.



'An Athlete Wrestling with a Python'



Billiards



The Library



Card Room



Knox Rooms



Sir Edward Knox



Terrace

## The Card Room

Scene of many a grand dinner, the room has velvet-lined walls and a crystal chandelier. On the historic mantelpiece is the sculpted head of a Greek goddess. A portrait of Sir Edward Knox – Founder member 1857–1901, President 1892–1901 – dominates one wall; Hogarth's 'The Rake's Progress' dominates the other.

## The Red Room

An intimate dining room, its walls are hung with beautiful bird prints and silhouette cameos of 19th century Club members. The imposing vase of ruby glass was donated by a member of the Deloitte family whose ancestor was treasurer to King Louis of France.



*'Deloitte Cup'*

## The Knox Sitting and Dining Rooms

A fine pair of rooms, one dominated by a highly ornamented grand piano, the other by a lavish twelve-panel Chinese screen. Throughout are handsome paintings. The Knox Rooms provide a quieter dimension of club life.

## The Terrace Room and the Terrace

The locale of informal club life, the Terrace Room has a bar and a generally contemporary character. It opens onto a generous terrace enhanced by Lutyens garden benches and flanked by hedges and tubs with clipped Podocarpus trees. The Terrace is a popular venue for barbeques and cigar and whisky nights.

## Three Accommodation Levels

These levels include eighteen comfortable bedrooms, all with ensuite bathrooms. On the top floor is a pantry/kitchenette for weekend guests and laundry for the use of travellers.

## The Health Club & Gym

Across Phillip Street lies the former University Club, whose sporting and fitness facilities house our wonderful Health Club & Gym.

The Health Club includes a large area for exercise and spin classes, a serious gym/weights room, a heated swimming pool allied with a spa pool and a sauna, and two squash courts. Personal training and squash coaching are available.



*Accommodation*



*Health Club*

## UUSC FILM CLUB

WITH SPECIAL GUEST,  
STAR OF *THE CASTLE*

*Anne Tenney*

Convenors, Virginia Milson  
and Kathy Glass

Interesting, special, and high-quality Australian films are the centre of our attention when we decide on screenings for the Film Club. As we have progressed through the decades of locally produced films, we have now reached the 1990s. This was a time of considerable creativity and variety in Australian filmmaking.

Our plans for the rest of 2024 are to host the Wharf Revue in late August with the Revue team in attendance, coinciding with the screening of a previous Revue from 2011. This is always a most enjoyable evening with lots of laughs, fun, and seriousness.

September will bring *Muriel's Wedding*, a particularly remarkable film, and with special guest



John Gaden AO to highlight his experiences and stories surrounding acting in this wonderful film. It promises to be an excellent night.

One of the most exciting and interesting aspects of our Film Club is meeting those associated with the making of the films that we screen – the directors, the producers, and the actors. All are dedicated, committed, passionate, and determined to tell their stories; some have spent up to ten years getting their films to the screen. A huge commitment and dedication to their art!!!

In meeting those who performed in *The Castle*, we were most privileged to have Anne Tenney join us.







Anne played the role of the mother, Sal Kerrigan, and she gave us a window into the making of the film and the challenges involved. *The Castle* is one of the most successful Australian films ever made, with its appeal to Australians' concern about the 'triumph of the underdog'. A large crowd welcomed Anne and enjoyed the film and dinner afterwards.

Next year, there are many more films from the 1990s to feature in our screenings. Many were not necessarily box office hits, and some may have been overlooked due to a lack of effective promotion. But they are important, and we relish the opportunity to look at these films again.

Documentaries have been an area of interest this year, and we plan to further develop this in the year to come. We screened a number of documentaries in 2024. These were popular and were timed to coincide with major events such as International Women's Day and NAIDOC week. There are many more worth screening that cover a wide variety of issues and topic areas, including the arts, artistic

achievement, and history, and which feature charismatic and interesting characters. They tell real stories about our country and the characters who lived on it.

*Tell him he's dreamin'*

However, the screening of feature films does not mean the abandonment of other films, and we have in our sight's films such as *There's an Angel at My Table*, *The Big Steal*, *Oscar and Lucinda* and *Two Hands* for future screenings.

Meanwhile, we remain hopeful that such important film figures as Bryan Brown AM, Gillian Armstrong, George Miller AO, and Richard Roxburgh might be attracted to our Club.

The thought of these luminaries and the films mentioned will continue to attract an ever-increasing audience to join us for happy, viewing experiences into the future.





## TRAVELS WITH THE KIDS

Article by Andrew Horsley

In December last year, my son Xavier (24) and I flew out of Sydney for a motoring tour around France and Switzerland. The immediate purpose was to fly to Nice to pick up a car and drive to Aix-en-Provence to collect my daughter, Olympia (22) who had just completed a year of “in-country” study there. We spent New Year in Paris, then travelled to Oslo and London before returning home.

Naturally, I was mindful of visiting our reciprocal clubs but quite a few, including Cercle de la Terrasse in Geneva and Club Baur au Lac in Zurich, (where I have had enjoyable visits in the past), were closed over the Christmas holiday period.

A real find, however, was the Norske Selskab in Oslo, a superb club with around 1,200 members, where Xavier and I enjoyed a convivial lunch. Its splendid and stylish traditional premises occupied one floor in a modern building in Akersgate 18 off Karl Johans Gate, just by Parliament. It is certainly a club to visit on any trip to Oslo.

In London, we stayed at the Garrick Club which was quite busy. With plenty of members sporting their 'salmon and cucumber' ties, its links with the theatre were most apparent. The rooms were comfortable, and the food and amenities were excellent. Xavier even had a glimpse of the London Eye from his room.

In Paris, my favourite Club Cercle de L'Union Interalliee was closed. Whereas last year I stayed at the Travellers Club, this time Olympia had organised our accommodation at Hotel Saint Petersburg in rue de Caumartin off Bvd Hausmann by Opera, so there was no need to travel very far afield.

While in London, an old friend, took me to Brooks', where we had a most enjoyable lunch. Again, it was very stylish and a traditional St James Club.

We drove through the French Alps, the heart of Switzerland – Geneva, Montreux, Grindelwald, Zurich, then to Strasbourg, Luxembourg, Amiens, and Paris for New Year, covering over 2,000 km. Certainly, this was not Clubland, but the most spectacular lunch of the trip was high up in the alps in Liechtenstein!

Being able to enjoy the reciprocal clubs while on the move was always something we looked forward to, and we greatly appreciated the Club having emailed letters of introduction to the various clubs prior to our arrival there.

Reciprocal clubs are an aspect of club life that should always be nurtured and fostered when travelling.

## France & Switzerland



# THE ROYAL *Bombay Yacht Club*

Article by Sunder Kimatrai



I have had an association with The Royal Bombay Yacht Club from when, as a teenager, I ventured into the city's harbour on youth sailing days. My father was a member, though I suspect for the Club's social activities and bar and dining facilities rather than for the sailing.

The Club itself dates back to 1846. It was given its Royal Charter, (proudly reproduced in large letters on a portico wall), by Queen Victoria in 1876. The current club house was built in 1896 and was the annexe to the original club house nearby. Located in the heart of the Colaba shopping, entertainment and art district, it is just a stone's throw from the well-known "Gateway to India" and the historic but slightly younger Taj Mahal Hotel. Also nearby is the

equally historic and still younger Prince of Wales Museum (now renamed after Shivaji, who founded the Maratha Confederacy in the late 1600s). The Club has hosted visits from the Prince and Princess of Wales as well as King George and Queen Mary.

While much of modern Bombay's (now Mumbai's) economic activity takes place outside the southern tip of the city where the club is located, this is the historic heart of the city and likely to be of most interest to visitors. Much restoration work is progressing, particularly in the Kala Ghoda precinct nearby, and there are a number of road and public transport improvements underway that should make journeys from other parts of the city faster by the time this appears in print.

The bar, one of the city's oldest, is legendary. It often features live music and is decorated with burgees and gifts from other clubs or from visiting sailors, as is customary at many sailing clubs. The adjoining lounge, dining room and smoking room (a must to visit; the seats are arranged in a circle, and it's a popular spot even for non-smoking members to converse and escape the strong air conditioning) add to the atmosphere. With the large number of members, as well as reciprocals, visiting the bar on any given day, there is always someone's company to enjoy. It is customary to order one's meal at the bar and spend time there, or in the adjacent lounge, until you are called to your table when your meal is ready. Like any good club, the staff are key to the members' experience, and Naresh, who heads up the bar, is no exception. Be sure to give him my best regards when you visit. He makes great Bloody Marys.

During the afternoons, the bar is closed, however, refreshments are available throughout the day on the veranda or in an adjacent air-conditioned lounge. The Club features a library as well as a traditional members' room, which, like many clubs in India, has planters' chairs for you to retire to after a heavy lunch. There is also a small gym with an in-house masseur, a barbershop, a grocery store, billiards and cards room, and a small lawn. Wi-Fi is available throughout the building, and like all clubs there are areas demarcated for telephone and computer use.

The accommodation at the Club is comfortable and respects the heritage of the building while ensuring effective air-conditioning and noise insulation.

The higher floors offer unique perspectives of the Gateway and the Taj Mahal Hotel. A nominal fee is charged to reciprocals and their guests for use of the Club and credit cards are accepted. It is now a mixed club.

The Club's sailing program, which pauses during the monsoon season but is otherwise very active, cooperates closely with the Colaba Sailing Club and Bombay Sailing Association to offer racing, training, and cruises for its members. The most popular class of boat sailed in the harbour is the Seabird, which was designed for the Club in the 1920s by Morgan Giles. The Club is also known for being the first home of Sir Robin Knox-Johnston's Suhaili, which was the first yacht to be sailed solo, non-stop around the world.

Although I don't use the accommodation, I spend a fair amount of time at the Club during my regular visits to Bombay and often entertain there. On my most recent visit, for example, I arranged a function to introduce my son-in-law to our friends and family in the city.

The Club is well worth a visit even if you are staying elsewhere in the city.



# THE FULL SCOTTISH\*

Article by Doug Bailey

## Caledonian Club

An extended holiday in Scotland. A trio of Scottish Reciprocals. Where to begin? Why Belgravia, of course, and The Caledonian Club. The building at 9 Halkin Street exudes Scottish charm with kilts, accents, and tartan-rich décor. There's even a Snuff Mull to remind you of Bent Street. Founded in 1891, the clubhouse is the last Neo-Georgian mansion built in London. Its grand staircase leads to a magnificent ballroom, used as the Member's Dining Room, reverting to its original purpose for special occasions. A jacket and tie are required, except for breakfast, at all Clubs in this story.

Dining at The Caledonian was a silver service masterclass. Orchestrated by the maître d' and his waitstaff par excellence, every meal was an occasion, including breakfast. Of course, one had to experience the 'Full Scottish\*' - there's an 'offal lot' in it, fond memories indeed.

Dinners were grand. Exploring an extensive wine list with the knowledgeable wine waiter and his French half-bottle recommendations. Matching the delicious Scottish produce with traditional dishes was a delight. Their beef Wellington uses haggis instead of mushrooms. Canny. Time to Cranachan on.

The Member's Bar and Terrace was welcome after long walks and queuing in a London summer. With its own Caledonian Lager on

tap plus a prodigious single malt selection. As well as Scottish Gin. Just remember Colonsay. They also have a well-stocked humidor.

We enjoyed a three-night stay, then returned from Porto for two more nights. Trying different room styles. Although our choices were not air conditioned, a fan kept us comfortable. Were they roomy, or were our suitcases too large? It was the latter. The Club has 39 well-appointed bedrooms offering a range of facilities and accommodation styles.

A short stroll away in Belgrave Square is a gated private garden. Ask for the key at reception. Find this special bench and daydream. You'll think of something.

## The Royal Northern and University Club

This was the smallest of the Scottish reciprocals. Located in the plush end of Aberdeen, the granite two-story building is minutes from downtown, and having arrived by car, it provided easy on-premises parking.

Founded in 1854 and given its 'Royal' status following a visit to Aberdeen by Queen Victoria in 1863, the Club retains an elegant and dignified atmosphere. And with only one other couple staying, it certainly seemed more personable. Everybody had time for a blether.

Dining was a treat. Breakfast was taken in a conservatory-like space. Lots of morning light and fuss

made over just four guests with an extensive menu full of wonderful temptations. And always the seductive 'Full Scottish,' if you're hungry enough.

One special dinner with an old friend was sublime, and we want to repeat it, but not wait another 30 years. Quite apart from the friendly silver service, curated wine list, and knowledge, the traditional Scottish dishes and produce were always the star of the show. Yes, I wish I had photographed every plate. I'll do that next time.

Our Deluxe King Room was certainly regal, spacious, and comfortable. The Club has ten well-appointed bedrooms on the first floor. There is no lift. A few more nights would have been welcome in this most friendly and relaxed Club. A game of snooker or time in the Library. And get familiar with that humidor.

## The New Club

At 88 Princess Street, Edinburgh, search for an alcove, a black door, alongside an ATM. It's easy to miss the first time. Such an understatement, until you gain entry, when it all suddenly soars. Take the lift to reception at the New Club. Founded in 1787, it is Scotland's oldest club.

The present building is a Category A: this denotes it as having national or international architectural significance for its Princes Street façade, faced with plate glass and Rubislaw

granite and with distinctive cantilevered sections. The magic though begins on the inside. The view up to Edinburgh Castle and the Old Town is breathtaking. On the generous terrace, the skirls of the bagpipes, rehearsing for a tattoo, waft over you.

Reinforcing its status as Scotland's oldest club, the Formal Dining Room is a magnificent Lorimer wood-panelled room from 1910. Around the room hang wonderful loch-scapes and regal portraits. Above, recessed skylights bathe the room with natural light. Breakfast is always taken here, and the silver service makes your day. Until you return for dinner and the pleasure of fine dining ratchets up another notch.

Open 7 days a week, this pre-eminent private Members' Club also offers entertainment and a socially vibrant atmosphere in a welcoming and historical environment. You are an easy stroll up to The Royal Mile, its medieval buildings and laneways, bustling with quirky shops and characters.

Or simply wander along the international shopfronts of Princess Street opposite the Gardens. The New Town will keep you busy discovering classic taverns and trendy cafes, restaurants, and shops.

The Club offers 22 well-appointed, comfortable bedrooms that include suites and double rooms, all en-suite.

One can enjoy a drink in the main bar, then luxuriate in a comfy chair and let your eyes wander up the glass to the Castle. Another bar option opens at different times upstairs. Better still, is your beverage of choice on the terrace? Especially if you have chosen from the humidor located at reception.

***\*I enjoyed bacon, link sausages, Lorne sausage (also known as square sausage or slice), black pudding, haggis, baked beans, fried mushrooms and tomatoes, toast, tattie scones, and fried eggs. The full Scottish breakfast is a sight to behold. Nip of whisky optional.***



*The versatile Members' Bar - Caledonian Club*



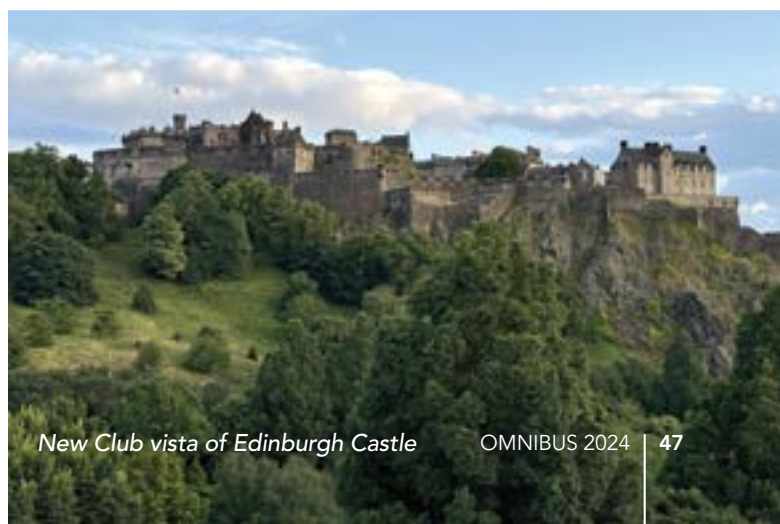
*Private Garden - key at Caledonian Club*



*A familiar and friendly face in London*



*RNUC - Plush end of Aberdeen*



*New Club vista of Edinburgh Castle*

# PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

## *At the Club*

### **‘Members possibly don’t know how busy the Club can get.’**

**Says Robin Schmitz, Functions & Events Co-Ordinator.**

We have around 20 private functions a week, excluding Club events, so it’s important for members to plan early.”

### **So Robin, what kind of functions do members typically book?**

We accommodate pretty much everything. From wake to wedding sums it up really. Birthdays, AGM’s, cocktail events, anniversaries, we cater for any special occasion.

### **How many people can you accommodate?**

It depends on the room size. The Members’ Dining Room is the largest room. You can have up to 180 in there for a cocktail function, and for a seated arrangement, you can fit up to 140. But for something smaller and more intimate, I always suggest the Library, which is our most popular room, as the ambience is unique. Our smallest function room, the Red Room, is ideal for up to 12 people. The Knox Room, on the other hand, is perfect for cocktail events, pre-dinner, or pre-lunch drinks because it’s a very relaxed and comfortable space where people can choose to sit on the sofas in groups.

We also have The Terrace on Level 3, which can hold up to 80 people in a cocktail-style setup. It can be an inside/outside arrangement. Having a rooftop space this size in the middle of the city is very special, especially in summer. We had a private group here last week; a member and his best mates came along to play social cards.

### **Is this uncommon?**

Not at all! It’s not just members we get here at the Club; it’s also private groups (through a sponsoring member, of course). We have universities come here, we have finance companies, lawyers, and other clubs like the Lyceum Club for example, or the Claude Club. And the Probus Club. ATSE too. A group of women judges come regularly. We have

sport groups and societies like the Australia-Britain Society, the Cook’s Society, the NSW Rod Fishers’ Group, and special interest groups.

We also have a group of business people who come for breakfast. Companies often hold training sessions for their staff here, so sometimes our function rooms are booked for several days. Full day rates apply because we supply them with breakfast, lunch, and sometimes dinner.

### **What about accommodation? If people wanted to have a wedding here and...?**

Absolutely. We had a wedding here last year. The ceremony was held elsewhere, but the member brought his entire family to stay at the Club. That was great. We had a full house, and even last week one of our members celebrated a birthday and stayed in-house. We offer delicious breakfast as well.

### **Would you like to explain the process for hosting a private event at the Club?**

Yes, so there are many ways to book a function, but the easiest would be to contact me directly by email or phone. Just say, ‘Hello, I would like to celebrate my birthday, or my anniversary, or whatever it might be.’ And I’ll then send you our Function Planner which we have just newly designed and updated. It contains detailed information about room sizes, costs, facilities, and just about everything you need to know. We also have it available on our website, which means it can be downloaded. When you’re ready, you can fill out the enquiry form and forward it to me directly. Of course, a booking can also be made through our reception desk.

### **Functions Planner**

Contact the Functions Department for a copy of the Club’s Function Planner, [functions@uusc.com.au](mailto:functions@uusc.com.au)





Whatever the occasion, the Club can accommodate your needs.





*Margaux Harris*

# MARGAUX Harris

**You have been a member of the Club since 2004. What do you enjoy most about the Club?**

So many things: the Health Club, the yoga classes, lunches in the bar, dinners in the Knox Room, the Library, the Red Room, and the Card Room, drinks and Jazz Nights on the Terrace, and events like the recent RBG lunch with actress Heather Mitchell.

I also love staying at the reciprocal clubs overseas.

**You're a Barrister. How long have you been at the Bar?**

8 years now. I came to the bar in 2016.

**What areas do you practice in?**

A broad range of areas still: Commercial, Defamation, Succession, Family, Human Rights.

**What has been the highlight so far?**

Probably cross-examining a Paralympian recently in an unled serious harm hearing for a defamation case. Cross-examination is the most fun thing we do as barristers. You need to understand how people's minds work and to set the scene for them to expose themselves and reveal the truth.

**What did you study at university and where?**

I did a combined Arts (French Hons I)/Law degree at Sydney University with an exchange to Sciences Po in Paris and then a Master of Studies in Film Aesthetics at Oxford University. I did my Sydney University French Honours Thesis on the French actress Catherine Deneuve, and I interviewed her in Paris for it. Then, to get into Oxford, I had to translate some chapters from French into English. The Oxford Masters was a new multi-disciplinary course in the Modern Languages faculty, with subjects also with the English, Philosophy, and Music departments, with only 12 students from around the world. I also did a Screen Acting course at NIDA which was a year and a half part-time while finishing Law School.

**You speak fluent French. Have you used this in your career?**

Yes, I did a summer term at the Sorbonne before my Sydney University exchange at Sciences Po in Paris. Then, during and after my French Honours

year, I tutored French at The Women's College, within the University of Sydney. In terms of using French in my career, when I was a solicitor before coming to the bar, I worked for a French partner at a global law firm, and one day he asked me to translate the Australian Government's French submarine contracts.

**I know you've also done some acting and singing. Do your acting techniques help you in the courtroom?**

Definitely! You need to be highly prepared for both disciplines, but then on the day to be free to read the room and improvise.

**What performances have you been in lately?**

I have just done 2 shows through the Bar actually and am so grateful for the collegiality and the creative outlet. The first was a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta Trial by Jury, which was held in the Banco Courtroom for the bicentenary of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. The second was the Bar Revue, a skit comedy show with some satirical musical numbers. It's the second year there has been a Bar Revue in NSW and the first year I have done it. I think it might be the beginning of a great tradition.

**You also sing jazz and might be performing at the Club soon?**

Yes, this is in the works for later in the year. I am getting back into my jazz singing. I sang with the Oxford University Big Band when I was doing my master's there and also with the Sydney University Big Band as an undergrad. I've also sung with the Sydney Big Band "Dr V's Swing Thing" and used to have a weekly gig at the White Horse in Surry Hills. I'm excited to record some songs this year too and to put something together to perform at the Club.

**Who have been the most influential people in your life?**

I come from a very close-knit family as the eldest of 4 children, and my parents have been very influential. My mother is a specialist eye surgeon in oculoplastic, and my father is a corporate finance solicitor. They instilled a strong work ethic in all of us. Also, my tutor for my first year at the Bar was the great late Sandy Dawson SC, who became a wonderful mentor and friend. I don't think I've ever known anyone with such empathy and wit.

## HEALTH CLUB & GYM

**‘Travel all over the country side,  
*ask the Wayland Brothers*’**

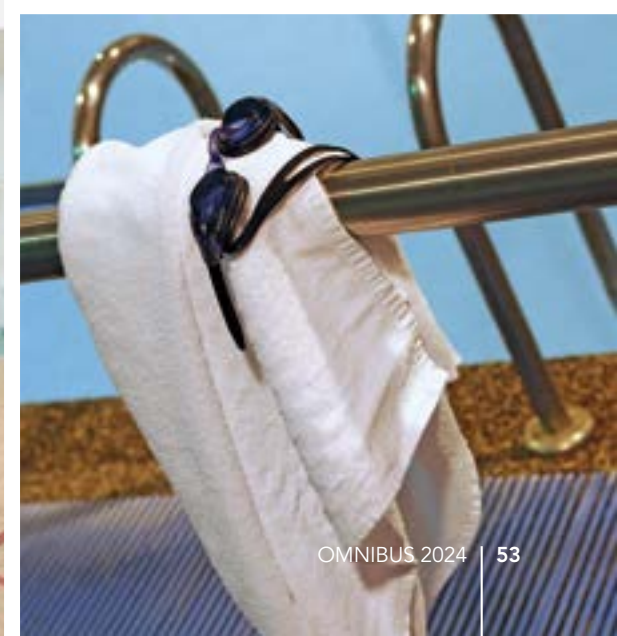
**Article by Thalia Stevens**

In 1974, when the University and Schools Club was being rebuilt, there was a rumour going around that Mike and Mel Leyland, regulars on ABC TV with their show “Ask the Leyland Brothers” were involved with the redevelopment of the Phillip Street site.

Perhaps the rumours started as a bit of a joke among members, but the facts are somewhat different. The Wayland brothers (note the spelling of their name) were indeed involved with the redevelopment, but their names were John and Michael, and they were chartered accountants, not adventurers and documentary film makers!

Nevertheless, the adventurous Wayland brothers were the catalysts for change. Years after initiating a move to amalgamate the University Club and the Schools Club, John Wayland’s bold plan for the Club to join with the Commonwealth Government (which owned the building next door), in redeveloping both sites together, was adopted. With their father, Jack, the Wayland brothers were chosen as the developers.

When asked whose idea it was to incorporate a health centre, complete with a heated pool 16.7 meters long, spa, sauna, and fully equipped gymnasium, John Wayland gave himself the credit, especially for the inclusion of the swimming pool. Forty years on, as the recipients of this rare and wonderful facility in the heart of the CBD, we can thank the Wayland brothers.





## ACCOMMODATION

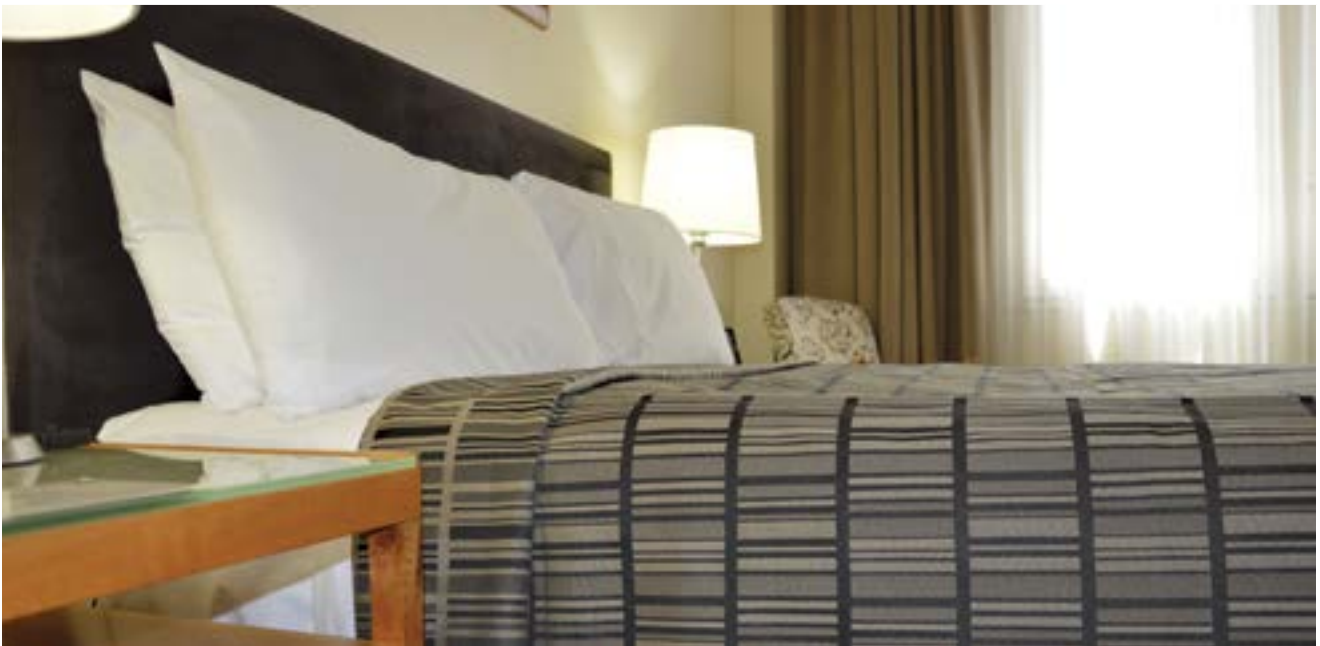
*Sojourn in the  
Heart of Sydney*

**Access all areas**

Booking a stay at Sydney's third oldest Club comes with perks. Its prime location near Macquarie Street, cultural landmarks, and Sydney Harbour ensures easy walking access to the historic and verdant Royal Botanic Gardens.

An overnight or extended stay in a comfortable Club Deluxe Room or Deluxe Suite includes a special privilege, especially once members have gone home. You will have access to all areas of our heritage Clubhouse. An enthralling art, sculpture, and book collection resplendent with antique furniture. Pocket a few balls in the historic Billiards Room, no pressure, especially on weekends.

Recent Clubhouse additions include a new guest pantry and laundry, major upgrades to Level 3, including a new bar area, our 24-hour Business Centre and improved access to The Terrace. Popular



with both Cuban cigar aficionados and inner city sky garden lovers. The Health Club is nearby, open daily, and free for guests.

The ease and pleasure of accessing all areas outside needs to be experienced. Sydney has a new Metro: a train every 4 minutes, just minutes away from the Club. The Light Rail has rightly won Sydneysiders over and continues to rejuvenate George Street from Circular Quay to Chinatown and beyond. And, Sydney Harbour Ferries bring the romance back to even the shortest commute. Best of all, any ride on Sydney transport is an Opal or credit card tap away.

Leave time for dining and conversation in the Members' Bar and Members' Dining Room. The intimate Knox Dining Room is open three nights a week. And there is sure to be action on Level

Three. Sydney 2025 has an epic program of events and activities. Sporting, multicultural, theatrical, artistic, community, indigenous, historical – far too many to encapsulate here. An online search of [sydney.com](http://sydney.com) and [visitsw.com](http://visitsw.com) will help you plan your special Sydney sojourn in our inclusive and comfortable Club.

Stay in the heart of our beautiful, culture-rich and easily accessible harbourside city. Just contact Reception to lock in your great sojourn:  
phone: **+61 (2) 9232 8266** or  
email: **[reception@uusc.com.au](mailto:reception@uusc.com.au)**

# **RUGBY ROYALTY**

## *in the Members' Bar*

### **Lions Tour 2025**

For the first time in 12 years, the British & Irish Lions Tour will return to Australia for a festival of rugby across the country, and the Club will stage a lunch for members and their guests to celebrate the return of the best of rugby from the British Isles.

Club members John Eales AM, Nick Farr-Jones AM, and Wayne Erickson met in the bar to share their experiences with the British and Irish Lions and to plan a Lions Lunch as part of an exciting calendar of sporting-themed events in 2025.

Nick Farr Jones captained the Wallabies in the series against the Lions in 1989. Nick recalled that although we lost a closely fought series of two-tests-to-one to a Lions team that relied upon a brutally efficient forward pack, the experience hardened the Wallabies and was an important preparation for the Australians in the lead up to our victory in the Rugby World Cup two years later in 1991.

1999 Rugby World Cup-winning captain John Eales remembers the challenge presented by the Martin Johnson-led Lions of 2001, and how the world-champion Wallabies were made to fight every

step of the way in a two-tests-to-one victory, the first series win by the Wallabies over the Lions in a hundred years.

Wayne Erickson refereed the Lions in Tests in South Africa in 1997 and in other touring matches in New Zealand and Australia and remembers the enormous support for the touring team from ex-pats and visitors alike – a support that filled the stadiums and the streets in celebration of rugby at its best.

The English, Irish, Scottish, and Welsh teams from which the Lions are drawn are all enjoying historically high rankings in world rugby's pecking order, giving us hope that this might well be one of the finest touring teams in Lions history – a very good reason, if one is needed, to gather together for lunch – and the Club looks forward to presenting this glittering centrepiece of our sporting celebrations in 2025.







## 2025 BRITISH & IRISH LIONS

*are roaring back*

A feast of international rugby from 28 June to 2 August. Catch every match live on the Club's big screen. Join the experts for this once in every 12 years encounter. Add to the clubby atmosphere. Enjoy finer game time refreshments. Following post-game celebrations, retire upstairs to the comfort of the Club's accommodation.

Move fast. 120 reciprocal clubs will also be looking to score a room.



## SCORE A ROOM AT THE CLUB!

### **Book early for 2025 Sydney Dates**

Saturday 5 July 2025 and  
Saturday 2 August 2025





# WHAT'S ON IN SYDNEY

## SYDNEY FESTIVAL

JANUARY

## CRICKET – PINK TEST BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN AND INDIA

JANUARY

## WESTPAC CINEMA ON THE HARBOUR

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

## SYDNEY CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

## SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

APRIL

## OPERA ON THE HARBOUR

A WONDERFUL, QUINTESSENTIALLY SYDNEY  
EVENING

## SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

MAY

## VIVID SYDNEY

MAY/JUNE

## SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

JUNE

## BRITISH & IRISH LIONS TOUR

## NSW WARRATAHS V THE LIONS

JULY

## WALLABIES V THE LIONS

AUGUST

## SYDNEY OPERA SEASON

## AUSTRALIAN BALLET SYDNEY SEASON

## FROM MONIVAE

# *to our Sydney Oasis*

Article by Jayne Bentivoglio

Driving to Sydney from Monivae, in the New South Wales Central Tablelands has been a picturesque experience for us for over 25 years. Whether we travel over the Blue Mountains via the Bells Line of Road or the Great Western Highway, viewing the sandstone cliffs and the green or parched valleys has been a wonderful driving ritual for us, writes co-owner of Rylstone Olive Press, Bentivoglio Olives, and UUSC member Jayne Bentivoglio.

We bought land at Monivae, 14 km from Rylstone and 40 km from Mudgee, in 1997 and called our property, 'Tarmons', after the first St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney (est. 1857). My husband Peter, past Chairman of Neurosurgery, and myself, a Consultant Nurse Specialist in Operating Room Nursing and Medical Practice Management, have worked within St Vincent's Hospital and the St Vincent's Clinic Campus since 1975 and 1978, respectively, and we both have three generations of our families associated with St Vincent's Hospital Sydney.

We built our home in Monivae, NSW, in 1997 and planted 6,000 olive trees in 1998. We planted Italian, Spanish, and Israeli cultivars and built a large dam to irrigate our trees. In 2000 we added another 2,000 Italian olive cultivars and decided to be vertically integrated, building a cellar door and olive oil processing facility and establishing our brand Rylstone Olive Press and Bentivoglio Olives.

We have a grove of 8,000 olive trees, 4,000 supplementary irrigated, and 4,000 dryland, which will be here for the next 300+ years to produce some of Australia's most awarded extra virgin olive oil. They may have been growing here for centuries, as the olive trees found today in the Garden of Gethsemane, in Jerusalem, are the same trees in the grove where Jesus was arrested the night before his crucifixion some 2,000+ years ago.

April is the time of the year we look forward to harvesting our trees, bringing the fruit into the olive press, and processing it into our beautiful extra virgin olive oil within 24 hours of harvesting.

We pick and process the fruit by cultivar so we can keep the individual qualities of each cultivar separate for later when we blend the oil. We then store the extra virgin olive oil (EVOO) in stainless steel tanks and let the oil settle, covering the oil with a blanket of nitrogen to keep the EVOO from oxidising in the tank. About a month later, we 'rack' off the oil to remove any sediment at the bottom of the tank and put the oil through a 75-micron cotton filter. The oil is then settled again and finally runs through a 5-micron cotton filter before bottling. At this stage, before the final bottling and labelling of the EVOO, I taste my oils to blend for balance and harmony.



Once I have decided on my blends, I send the oils to the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Wagga Wagga for Extra Virgin Olive Oil certification. Extra virgin olive oil is a sacred oil; it is actually a juice as there are no additives allowed in the process. It is the only oil where there is a requirement to be processed below a temperature of 27 degrees centigrade and then it must be Internationally Certified as extra virgin olive oil according to Codex Alimentarius. It must be chemically tested and have a Free Fatty Acid (FFA) of 0.8% or below and an organoleptic assessment without any faults. Our EVOO FFA is usually between 0.05% and 0.2%. The organoleptic assessment must be undertaken by a group of eight Australian qualified and certified National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited laboratory sensory olive oil tasters, and this is provided by the NSW DPI Oil Laboratory in Wagga Wagga.

Over the years we have received many accolades for our beautiful Rylstone extra virgin olive oils, including Best Olive Oils in the World in New York, and Los Angeles, Grand Champion of the Southern Hemisphere and the Australian International EVOO Show, and Gold medals from the Adelaide Show, the Sydney, Canberra, and Perth Royal Agricultural Shows, and Italian EVOO shows.

The comfort and quiet of UUSC in Sydney is the oasis for country members that James Macarthur described when first President of the Union Club in 1857. The Club provides our accommodation with a lounge area in our room to work in, and we are met by Nasr at reception, who is extremely helpful in providing members with ease of booking and hosting guests.

We relax after work with tea or a drink in the Members' Bar or the Dangar Room. Alex and Elliott provide a terrific wine list, and the dinners and luncheons are delicious – a credit to Chef Dean and his kitchen team. I thoroughly enjoy the Australian Women Writers Book Club each month, and I love to sit in the Library or the Dangar Room and contemplate Australia's historical figures that have walked through the UUSC doors over the past 167 years.

The Union University and Schools Club has such a warm, appealing atmosphere to country members and their guests who wish to make the most of their work week for stay-overs, to join in the activities the Club offers, or simply to enjoy a workday lunch or breakfast meeting.



Andrew Kaldor AM and Renata Kaldor AO

# Refugees

Renata Kaldor AO

**For much of Australia's history, refugees were not only welcomed, but they were encouraged to see Australia as home and to take up citizenship as soon as possible. It was nation-building.**

It is 20 years since the Norwegian freighter MV Tampa rescued 433 refugees – mostly Hazara people fleeing Afghanistan – and became the catalyst for a dramatic shift in Australia's approach to people seeking asylum. In late August 2001, Captain Arne Rinnan sought permission to enter Australian waters, but the Howard Government refused.

This response has marked Australia's policies towards refugees ever since, writes UUSC member and member of the Advisory Board of the Andrew and Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law (UNSW), Renata Kaldor AO.

This hardline stance was a striking pivot from the post-World War II years. It was Australia's signature in January 1954 that brought into force the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention that was designed to help the millions of Europeans displaced by Nazism. Post-war, the Australian government actively brought ships of displaced persons from Europe. Between 1947 and 1954 alone, Australia resettled almost 171,000 refugees – about six times more per capita than we do today.

The Refugee Convention defines a refugee as someone with a 'well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion who is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country'. In ratifying the Convention, Australia agreed to provide protection to people in its territory meeting these criteria.

For much of Australia's history, refugees were not only welcomed, but they were encouraged to see Australia as home and to take up citizenship as soon as possible. It was nation-building. It was bipartisan, and social cohesion was the priority.

Post-Vietnam, the Fraser government rejected options, which were offered by the public service even then, to turn back boats of people fleeing Communism or to warehouse refugees in remote places.

'We will not risk action against genuine refugees just to get a message across. That would be an utterly inhuman course of action', the then Minister for Immigration, Michael MacKellar, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Andrew Peacock, said publicly in 1977.

Instead, Fraser's ministers shared with the Australian public the personal stories of people seeking protection – 'a chemical engineer, an accountant, a bank clerk, typists, and students' – according to one official media release and details of their heroic survival – 'only 30 kilogrammes of rice' – on 'harrowing' sea journeys. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) noted 'a high degree of compassion, interest, and preparedness to help' the boat arrivals in Australia.

In the 1990s, Labor Prime Minister Bob Hawke famously welcomed Chinese to Australia at the time of the Tiananmen Square massacre. But that welcome soon started to fray. In 1992, under Prime Minister Paul Keating, Australia became the first country in the world to put mandatory detention of asylum seekers into law. In 1994, the time limit was removed to permit indefinite detention in Australia. In the 2001 federal election campaign, Prime Minister John Howard turned refugees into a political issue and a public debate.

Australian leaders promoted the idea of people 'jumping the queue'. There is no queue. Australia sets its own annual refugee quota. Of the total places, about half are set aside for refugees from overseas who have been recognised by UNHCR as needing protection. The other half is reduced by the number of refugees who arrive in Australia spontaneously, by boat or plane. Australia is the only country to process refugees in this way.

By 2013, a popular 'stop the boats' campaign helped to carry the Liberal-National Coalition into Government. The Labor Party succumbed to the political pressure. Now, Australia's draconian system of managing people seeking asylum is not only harsh and arbitrary, it is also largely bipartisan. By 2019, then US President Trump was tweeting his admiration of Australia's innovative manoeuvres to keep out people fleeing for their lives.

As recently as May 2021, Australia passed a bill that increases the risk of indefinite detention for refugees, despite the exorbitant human and financial costs. This year, Australia's offshore detention system will cost \$3.4 million per detainee, not including the increasing costs of detention within Australia.

At last count, there were nearly 80 million displaced people in the world, including 26 million refugees. As well, the impacts of climate change and disasters are driving more internal displacement than conflict. I invite you to further investigate these and other issues by going to [www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au](http://www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au) and to look at the facts about the displacement of people.

*As Edmund Burke said in 1770,  
The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil  
is for good men to do nothing.'*

2023 – 2024

# General **COMMITTEE**



*Top (L-R): Peter Pengilley, Wayne Erickson (Vice-President), Giles Craig, Adrian Morris*

*Middle (L-R): Quentin Amos, Michelle Guthrie*

*Bottom (L-R): Dr Wendy Michaels OAM, Howard Tanner AM (President), Maryanne Maher (Senior Vice-President)*



*'Thank you'*

## **TO THE CLUB'S COMMITTEES FOR A STANDOUT YEAR**

As 2024 draws to a close, it is time to reflect on the vibrant calendar of events that have made this year so special. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our dedicated committees, whose tireless efforts have ensured that our members have had a memorable year filled with diverse and engaging activities.

The Events Committee is committed to ensuring a broad range of experiences – from cultural and social gatherings to educational and recreational events that has enriched our Club and fostered a strong sense of community. It meets monthly to review suggestions from members and plans a varied mix of events to cater to everyone's tastes.

In curating this annual program, the Events Committee liaises with the Wine, Cuisine, Reciprocal Clubs and Membership and Marketing Committees.

Each event, whether large or small, owes its success to the dedication and vision of our Club's committees, along with the support of all our convenors who have truly made this a standout year.

If you have an idea for a Club Event, please reach out to our Functions Department, who will forward your proposal to the Events Committee for consideration.

Here's to more wonderful moments in 2025!

# WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

**We extend a warm welcome to all**

Our members are the heart of the Club, and it's been truly gratifying to see our membership grow this year. While there are many reasons for this, it's clear that we're simply getting things right.

As valued members, we encourage you to invite your worthy friends to join our Club, helping us continue to grow and strengthen our role in 21st-century Sydney.

Mr Richard Charles Howard Allen  
Mr Robert Bacci  
Dr Matthias Michael Bekier  
Ms Melinda Louise Bekier  
Mr Thomas William Bevington  
Mr William Edmond Burkitt  
Dr Caroline Rose Butler-Bowdon  
Ms Louise Clegg  
Mr Nicholas Coleman  
Mr John Gerald Coyle  
Mr Luke Anthony Day  
Mr James Dutailis  
Ms Shannon Finch  
Mr Andres Galbraith  
Mr Jagadish Gorrepati  
Mr Stephen Wayne Graham  
Professor Jason Harris  
Mr Joseph Peter Hartley  
Mrs Louise Haslehurst  
Mrs Jennifer Eve Hudson  
Mr David Llewellyn Hughes  
Dr Rebecca Sophia James  
Ms Helen Liane Newman Jones  
Ms Christine Dawson Kibble

Mr Angus James Knoblanche  
Mr Jacob Joshua Lerner  
Ms Ashley Aleta Low  
Dr Richard Bryan Malpass  
Mr Michael McKerlie  
Mr Simon Miller  
Mr John Maxwell Morgan  
Mr Anton Alexander Murray  
Ms Pamela Mary O'Grady  
Ms Anabel Elizabeth Parbury  
Mr Michael Stephen Parker  
Ms Catherine Joelle Anne Perry  
Mrs Ana Pisano-Ashton  
Ms Katrina Ratcliffe  
Ms Karen Robinson  
Mr Kokulaan Santhakumar  
Mr Xavier Shea  
Mr Gregory Geoffrey Sherington  
Mr David Thomas  
Dr Christopher Scott Ward  
Mr Joshua Ian Wisken  
Mr Quincy King Sau Wong  
Mr Felix Xuyu Zhang



**IN-COMING  
CLUB SECRETARY**

*Alex Bourdon*

**taking the reigns**

Alex Bourdon is a much-appreciated presence at the Club, initially as Food and Beverage Manager, and latterly as Deputy Club Secretary.

Alex is French and trained in hospitality in Paris, before coming to Sydney and becoming a restaurateur in Potts Point. He becomes Club Secretary at the end of 2024, and we look forward to his role in the years ahead.



## DES OVEREND

### *Down the Rabbit Hole*

#### 22 years at the Club

As I reflect on my many years as Club Secretary – a journey that has been deeply rewarding, occasionally challenging, but never dull – I know the time has come to bid farewell to the Club and embrace a new chapter.

My journey into this private world began in 2002, with directions that were as cryptic as they were intriguing: “Find this coffee shop, walk another 100 yards, and look for the oak door on the left.” There were no signs pointing the way – one simply had to know where to go.

From the start, I’ve viewed my role more as a coach than a commander. My goal has always been to empower our staff to foster an inclusive, welcoming atmosphere, while ensuring the Club stays relevant in a rapidly changing world.

A club is more than just a place to gather; it’s a community of mostly like-minded individuals where I’ve had the privilege of working alongside many dedicated staff and remarkable members. Together, we’ve nurtured an environment where friendships flourish, ideas are exchanged, and traditions are honoured.

I hope I’ve succeeded in guiding the Club to adapt to the challenges of today’s society, embracing innovation without compromising our standards of service and excellence. Every event, meeting, and gathering has reaffirmed our shared mission to connect and inspire.

As I pass the baton to Alex, I leave with many fond memories and invaluable lessons. I’m excited for the future and confident that the Club will continue to thrive under the guidance of those dedicated to its success.

# King's Birthday

## HONOURS

Congratulations to The Honourable Robert Webster AM and Professor Talal Yassine AM, who have achieved a King's honour. The membership of the Club is enriched by your achievements.



The Honourable Robert Webster AM - for significant service to the people and parliament of NSW, and to business



Professor Talal Yassine AM - for significant service to business, and to the community

# OUR CLUB IS BUILT ON THE *Generosity of its members*

The various Club Houses have been built and maintained with members funds, and their wellbeing continues to be an important responsibility of the members.

The support of individual members and small groups of members has ensured various recent improvements at the Bent Street Club House. Thanks to them, we enjoy:

- The refurbished lifts
- The grand new doors onto the Garden Terrace
- The revitalised Third Floor
- Some exceptional art throughout the Club
- Some exceptional furniture throughout the Club
- Even...weekly provision of the Financial Times weekend edition and the London Review of Books, and some funding of Music in the Club...

A number of members have committed funds for:

- The provision of contemporary furniture for the revitalised Third Floor
- The provision of wheelchair access from Bent Street into the Club

Such financial assistance is wonderful, as it shows a love of and commitment to the Club and lessens the pressure to raise funds by other means.

Do consider being generous to your Club and providing funds that ensure improved street access into the Club and the full realisation of the Terrace Room on the Third Floor. Or you can propose other relevant works of your own choosing.

Another alternative way that some members have helped the Club is by making a Bequest in your Will. Such generosity will greatly assist the Club as it faces the future.

The Club Secretary or the President will be pleased to speak to you about making a contribution that will make a difference.

Disclaimer: The 2024 Omnibus is a publication of The Union, University & Schools Club of Sydney. Every effort is made to ensure that the information in Omnibus 2024 is accurate and correct. Opinions expressed are in the main those of the Club through our elected officers, Committee members, Convenors and senior staff. Contributions from people and organisations outside of the Club have been reproduced in good faith. The Club, the Editor (Club Secretary, Des Overend) and the Printer accept no responsibility for inaccuracies or errors or any consequences arising from them.

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'ARALUEN VALLEY'

Elioth Gruner - 1882-1939 Hanging in the Club's Foyer, Ground Floor



## **North Head Manly Sydney, Australia**

North Head is one of Sydney's seven headlands and an imposing presence at the entrance of Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour).

The Humpback Superhighway Northern migration occurs off Sydney in June-July. Estimated upwards of 35,000. The Southern migration, including new arrivals, occurs September-October.