

Probus Neutral Bay Guest Speaker – Tues. 8th MARCH. 2022

RICHARD BROINOWSKI AO – Former Aust. Diplomat



“The Wisdom of Acquiring Nuclear-Powered Submarines..... or Not.”

Introduction - In 2016, France struck a \$66 billion deal to provide Australia with a dozen conventional attack submarines. A contract was signed in February 2019.

Then, on 15 September 2021 it was announced that AUKUS, a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States would be formed to increase security for the Indo-Pacific region. Under the pact, the US and the UK would help Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines. The French contract was immediately scrapped. Naturally the French were upset as were some of the Sth. Pacific neighbours, who thought the concept might compromise the Sth. Pacific Nuclear Free Zone.

The announcement generated an enormous amount of over-heated commentary at diplomatic levels.....and initiated an on-going debate about which is better for Australia – modern conventional attack submarines or nuclear - powered submarines?

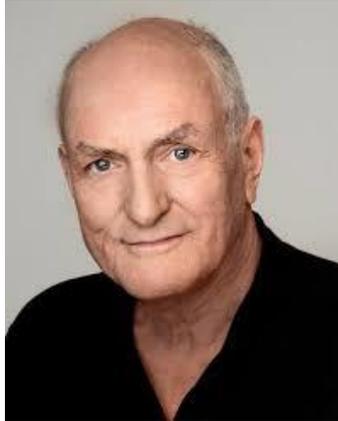
Our Guest Speaker - Richard Broinowski AO A former Aust. Diplomat.

Richard has an extraordinary work CV so I have elected to outline it on a separate page. **Please refer to Page 2.** On a more personal basis

Richard Broinowski was schooled in Melbourne and Adelaide. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree at Adelaide University in 1961 and was admitted to the Bar in Adelaide in 1963. He later earned a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School at Harvard (1978). Richard lives with his wife, Dr Alison Broinowski, also a former diplomat, in Paddington.

His PresentationRichard will discuss the Introduction and several other questions not addressed, at least publicly, by the Morrison government. Will the acquisition inhibit the operational independence of the RAN? Will a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines cause environmental damage in Australian ports or where spent nuclear fuel reactor cells from the submarines are to be stored? Will the parties to the deal continue to pursue the project through an expected 20-30 year construction and delivery period, as governments change as rapidly and unexpectedly as the strategic environment? Is it all part of a stunt dreamed up by the Defence Minister or his minions as part of a forthcoming khaki election, as suggested by some cynics?

Work Curriculum Vitae - **RICHARD BROINOWSKI AO**



- 1963** **Joined the Department of External Affairs as a junior diplomat
[Studied Japanese at the ANU]**
- 1964** **Early postings were to Tokyo, Rangoon, Tehran**
- 1975** **Sent to Manila**
- 1983** **Australian Ambassador to Vietnam**
- 1987-1989** **Australian Ambassador to South Korea**
- 1990 -1993** **Joined the ABC, as managing director of Radio Australia**
- 1993** **Returned to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**
- 1994** **Australian Ambassador to Mexico, before his retirement in 1997.**

In retirement.....

He became an Adjunct Professor in Media and Communications

Worked initially at the University of Canberra before moving to the University of Sydney.

He was President of Australian Institute of International Affairs NSW. [retired 2018]

2019 Queen's Honours awarded an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

BOOKS PUBLISHED.....

- **2000** **A Witness to History: The Life and Times of Robert Broinowski.**
- **2003** **Fact or Fission? : The Truth about Australia's Nuclear Ambitions.**
- **2009** **A Diplomat's Autobiography.**
- **2012** **Fallout from Fukushima.**
- **2020** **Under the Rainbow: The Life and Times of E.W. Cole.**

It will be a pleasure to meet this very impressive man in his own right.