

Probus Neutral Bay Guest Speaker – Tues. 10th MAY 2022

THE HONOURABLE ROGER DIVE – Former Snr. Judge of the NSW Drug Court.



“CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH REHABILITATION”

Why spend public funds on rehabilitating criminals who just use drugs and then break into our houses and steal our cars?

Three good reasons: It is a more effective way to reduce crime; it costs a lot less than just sending them to gaol; it can restore whole families to lawful life in our community.

Roger Dive sat on the benches of our courts for over 30 years, firstly as a Magistrate, and then as a Judge. As a Magistrate he sat in both city and country circuits.... where he learnt a great deal more than just law before heading the Children’s Court as a Magistrate and then the Drug Court as a District Court Judge.

As the Senior Judge of the Drug Court for 17 years, Roger oversaw the expansion of the Drug Court from a pilot program at Parramatta to now include programs in central Sydney, the Hunter region, and the soon to open Dubbo Drug Court. The four locations will manage approximately 250 adult drug offenders who would otherwise be in gaol.

Our Guest SpeakerThe Honourable Roger Dive. He fully expected to be a vet or a carpenter but as a penniless 19 y.o. he joined the Justice Dept., writing receipts out by hand all day for fines imposed by Petty Sessions. Then he knuckled down to hard study. The result? *“Without doubt, my 17 years as a District Court judge and as the Senior Judge of the Drug Court have been the most exciting and interesting part of my working life.”* *“And, from all walks of life, a love of meeting people and their human stories”.*

Somehow, Roger Dive and his wife Linda found the time to raise two children and foster 60 more, during a 47 year marriage. They are now grandparents of six.

He retired in August last year at the age of 68.

His Presentation Roger will tell us about the Drug Court program – how it works and why it is expanding. And there are some stories to tell which put paid to any assumptions that courts are dry and humourless work places.

PTO



This says it all ...

NSW Nominee Senior Australian of the Year.

Judge Dive was awarded the 2011 Prime Minister’s Award for outstanding contribution to Drug and Alcohol endeavours.

Attorney-General Mark Speakman said Judge Dive’s “compassion for, understanding of, and dedication to the people who appeared before him is well known in the legal sphere. His work has changed an extraordinary number of lives across NSW.”

SMH ‘Humanity, Humility and Intelligence’: Judge Roger Dive to retire after 50 years in law.

“I plan to do some volunteer work with those who have ended up homeless, spend more time with Linda and my gorgeous family, perhaps some bushwalking and at last become that carpenter and build a kayak with beautiful Australian timbers.”

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This is a rare opportunity to meet with this inspiring, extraordinary man