

Probus Neutral Bay Guest Speaker – Tues. 11th JULY 2023

Assoc. Professor JIM FORREST



“What Happens to Migrants When they Arrive in Australia”

Introduction:

In Australia, more than half the population is born overseas or has a parent born overseas. Senior economists state that in Australia migrants are essential, contributing \$330 billion to GDP.... increase immigration. Well-known adventurer, businessman, entrepreneur and philanthropist, Dick Smith, campaigns to severely restrict immigration levels to enable a “sustainable” population.... don’t increase immigration.

Either way, there are problems.

Guest Speaker: Assoc. Prof. Jim Forrest MA, PhD, Discipline. of Geography and Planning, Macquarie University.



Dr. Forrest has a 50-year career in social geography and, for the past two decades, in the integration of Australia’s immigrants and in studies of racism in Australia. He has had a long-standing concern with comparing Australian attitudes in these areas with other major immigrant-receiving countries of the ‘New World’ – USA, Canada and New Zealand. Until COVID, he regularly attended conferences on immigrant studies and racism in both the UK and the US. During these past two decades, he has worked in both of these two broad areas with colleagues at Macquarie

University, Western Sydney University and the University of Bristol (UK)

He lives in North Epping, has been married for nearly 60 years and has three children and two granddaughters. He enjoys travelling, classical music, politics and soccer football.

Presentation:

For many, the process of adjustment – for both migrants and the receiving society – is not always easy. Racist behaviour is not uncommon: obtaining employment can be difficult; the language shift to English is difficult for the elderly; obtaining suitable housing, if available, is costly these are all issues.

Above all, Australia's migrants, both past and present, are integrating well when compared to the standards of many overseas immigrant-receiving countries..... though problems remain.

But just how valid is this picture?


