

Probus Neutral Bay Guest Speaker – Tues. 11th March 2025

EVAN PENN – ON COURSE TOURS



“The Work of the Australian ‘New Hope Charity’ in Cambodia”

An Introduction: With a current population of just over 17 million, Cambodia is at peace after decades of conflict, although important challenges remain. Cambodia relies heavily on foreign assistance—between 30 and 40 percent of the central government's budget depends on donor aid. The country suffers from high corruption, political risks and low financial transparency.

However, Cambodia has recently made considerable strides by improving community welfare in rural areas, where most of the population reside. The New Hope Charity is dedicated to delivering the goals of transforming the lives of impoverished pre-school aged children and youth by providing free education, health care, and both community and crisis care support. It has contributed significantly to this improvement.



Our Guest Speaker: Evan Penn – On Course Tours are a friend of ours. You may recall in 2024 On Course Tours ran 2 wonderful outings for us a 1-day enthralling visit to the ANSTO facility at Lucas Heights and a very successful 3-day tour of the Blue Mountains & Zig Zag Railway. In 2025 plans are yet to be announced for two more exciting outings with them. Evan is one of their directors and his family has had a long and meaningful connection with Cambodia, where his late father, Issy, established numerous schools and charities, including working closely with ‘The New Hope Charity’, dedicating himself to uplifting local communities through education, charity, and vocational training. A few years ago, Evan and his family also moved to Cambodia to support these efforts. Evan has a vast, first hand understanding of how the Not-for-Profit sector works in Cambodia and how to get effective results with limited resources.

Evan lives between Clovelly Sydney and Bellingen NSW, but spends many months a year abroad, including in Cambodia. Evan is married and a father of 2 kids in their 20's. His daughter Indigo is the managing director of On Course Tours. Evan is a lifelong entrepreneur having built numerous businesses in the technology and packaging sectors. Evan now spends a lot of his time working for the not-for-profit sector, where his passion to give children and teenagers the opportunity to get an education is paramount.

His Presentation ... Evan is extremely keen to share his experiences with us.

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He is a remarkable man.....It will be an enthralling presentation.

