



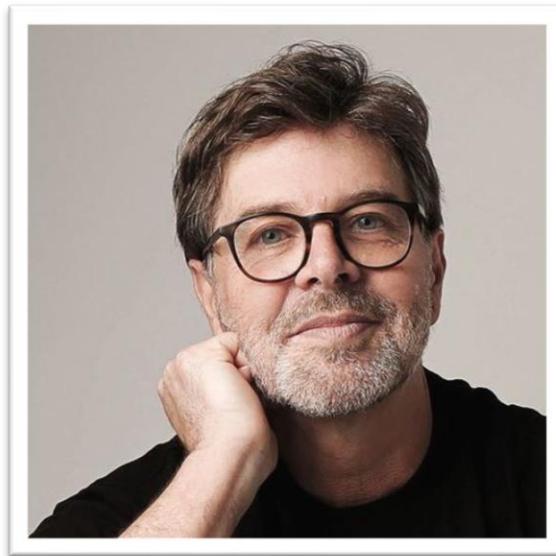
### **'Australia and the Pacific: A history'**

**A presentation by Ian Hoskins, 22 March 2023**

**Report by David Henry**

A small but enthusiastic group of twenty-eight members and guests met in the Shell Cove Room to hear Ian Hoskins' talk on Australia's special relationship with the Pacific.

The many aspects of this relationship are the subjects of Ian's recently published book on this topic. Ian is a very engaging speaker and always held the interest and attention of the audience.



He explained how Australia's deep past and its modern history are both intrinsically linked to the Pacific. He covered the history of Australia's relationship and ties with Papua New Guinea and New Zealand and our complex connections with China, Japan and the United States.

He told how this history begins millions of years ago with the shifting of the continents, to the coming across the ice-age land bridges of the first Australians and, thousands of years later, the Europeans.

He spoke of the European colonists' attempts to exploit the riches of the region while keeping 'white Australia' separate from neighbouring Asians, Melanesians and Polynesians. And then how the advent of modern human rights and the creation of the United Nations after World War Two changed Australia and our increasing regional engagement following the rise of China.

He also spoke about current topical matters such as the offshore detention of asylum seekers on Pacific islands and the current debates over climate change and the risk of rising sea levels in some Pacific nations.

An informative and discussion-provoking evening.