

# PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this  
newsletter is for  
Probus members only

## From the President

Hello fellow Probians, I hope that you are all staying safe, healthy and settling into these unprecedented times we are all going through caused from this horrible COVID-19.

We just need to be patient and look forward to when this will end, and we go back to our normal living.

From a personal perspective, having my daughter, son in law and the two kids who are living with us until the renovation of their house is completed, working out of home and home schooling for the kids, takes a lot of getting used to. I no longer have an office, dining room and games room. I have been allocated an area in the parent's retreat working on a small desk and putting up with all the noise.

I am sure that some of you can relate to this. The things that we do for our kids as parents.....

Like you, I together with your other committee members miss our monthly meetings and various functions that take place each month and the general camaraderie that takes place amongst the members. However, as a committee we have not been idle and have had a number of discussions, using email at the moment, on some of the club things we want to do during this time of social distancing.

One important thing we need to do is hold a committee meeting. A decision was made that we should do this by teleconferencing using an application that many corporations, clubs etc are using called Zoom. An issue we faced immediately was how we get everyone on the committee to download this application on their computer. No mere feat let me tell you.

To this end, I together with Mike Allum and Kevin Manie worked and assisted the other members to do this and have been successful in getting 7 of the 9 going, with the remaining 2 to go on it soon. It has been fun.

On other matters I wanted to bring you up to date with are:

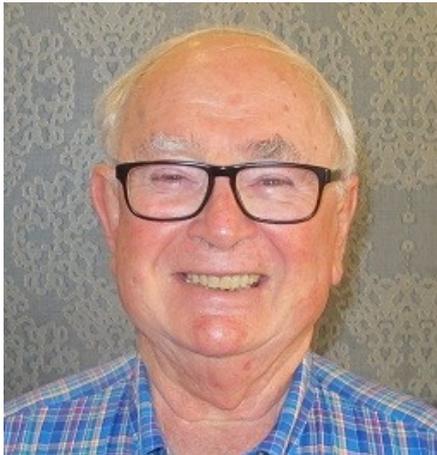
- Premises - We have not finalised discussions with the HH Club regarding the terms we will be using the club for our meeting. HH Club has asked that we delay this in view of all that is going on with this virus and the effect on the business this will have on the club. We have agreed to re visit this in due course. We remain confident that we will be successful in going back to our home club.
- The club's financial position is excellent with having \$11,900 in the bank with free cash flow of \$8,800.
- We have been advised by Probus South Pacific that they will be reducing the Capitation fee for 2020-21 from \$15 to \$12 a member, resulting in a saving for our club of \$288. They also advised that in the absence of ongoing advertising support, the Active Retirement magazine will be suspended with the last printed edition being the April/May issue. The good news, however, is that production of the magazine will continue in digital form and this will be sent out bi-monthly to you with our Newsletter.
- Our Newsletter that is edited and put together so capably by Mike Allum each month with such quality and content will be longer and not published in the normal format. Mike hopes to include feedback from you, the members, as to how you're coping with the current "stay at home" limitations and how you are passing your time and so on. Feel free to tell us of any amusing stories you may have to share with other members. Doubtless there will also be a bit of humour introduced to lighten the times. We hope you find this interesting and always welcome your feedback.
- It was decided by the committee to commence a program called "Stay in Contact" with our members. To do this, the membership of the club was split among the committee members to make contact phone calls, check that members were ok and catch up. I am sure by now you would have received calls and I am happy to report, with a few exceptions everyone is doing ok. We loved doing these calls and we hope you all feel the same.

That is all for now from me. Please stay well, stay safe and be happy.

Until next Month.

*Jim*

## Vale



Gary Traill passed away on the night of Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> after suffering from a serious illness in recent months.

He was born and brought up in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. He graduated in law from Sydney University and worked as a corporate lawyer, including General Counsel for AMP. He and Suzanne married in 1980 and had six children, four boys and two girls. The boys went to St Joseph's College and the girls to Loreto Kirribilli.

Gary and Suzanne were actively involved in the life of the College particularly while their sons, Julian, Chris, Paul and Mark were students there.

He was also an active member of the Hunters Hill community being involved in the local Catholic parish in Hunters Hill and the broader catholic community. For many years he was an acolyte in Villa Maria Catholic Church and was Hunters Hill Citizen of the Year in 2016. In addition he was a tireless worker for Hunters Hill Community Services and instigated the establishment of the Hunters Hill Men's Shed.

He was named Citizen of the Year in recognition of his work in the community and for his contribution to St Joseph's College in Hunters Hill.

Gary was a member of our Probus club from December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 until his passing.

His funeral mass was held in the college chapel on Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> presided by his brother in law.

Our thoughts are within Suzanne and family at this sad time.

### A Community Announcement - Woolwich Wharf Upgrade

Anthony Robert's office has recently issue advice that work to deliver an accessibility upgrade at Woolwich Wharf will start this month. The upgrade is part of the NSW Government's Transport Access Program, an initiative to provide safe, modern and accessible public transport infrastructure across the state. The work is expected to take about five months to complete.

To allow ferries to continue to operate while Woolwich Wharf is closed for construction a temporary wharf will be established at Clarke Road Wharf, next to the Deckhouse. Minor work is required to ensure the temporary wharf is operational. This work will begin on 27 April and take about four weeks to complete. A temporary bus route will also be put in place to operate between Hunters Hill and Clarkes Point to service the temporary wharf. This bus service will be in addition to the existing bus services in the area.

Please note this is completely unrelated to the issues involved in the recent Transdev proposal to change the timetable.

For more information on the upgrade, go to [rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/woolwich-wharf](https://rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/woolwich-wharf).

*Courtesy Ross & Josephine McBride*



## In Time for Anzac Day - French Raise Money for Bushfires

Villers-Bretonneux has never forgotten Australia. In April 1918, against the odds, two Australian brigades helped liberate the French town from the Germans at a cost of 1,200 killed.

The Australian flag still flies over Villers-Bretonneux. A plaque outside the Town Hall tells the story of the events of 1918 and kangaroos feature over the building's entrance. The main street is named Rue de Melbourne. The children of Villers-Bretonneux are especially indebted to Australia. After the war, it was money collected by schoolchildren in Victoria that paid for the rebuilding of the town's school. It was named Victoria School and a permanent plaque on the school façade recalls the diggers sacrifice. That is why the town launched a fund raiser in February to raise money for the bushfire relief. An online fundraising page has received donations from more than 800 people. The town also organised a solidarity march on 2 February. Almost 1000 people braved the winter weather and walked from the town centre to the Australian National Memorial and Sir John Monash Centre. There the local school choir sang a song specially written for the appeal, entitled "Australia Stop Burning".

"Everyone here was talking about the fires and we were all appalled," Mayor Patrick Simon told a Newscorp reporter.

By late February, some \$37,000 had been collected by the town. Mayor Simon said some of the funds raised would be donated to the firefighters in Robinvale, an Australian town that has been twinned with Villers-Bretonneux since the First World War when the son of Robinvale's founding family was killed in air combat near Villers-Bretonneux. The rest of the funds will be donated to the Bega Valley Shire, identified as an area particularly devastated by the bushfires.

The children in the local school drew pictures of the fires, which will be displayed in the town's Franco-Australian Museum. Some of the pictures were sent to fire brigades across Australia.

Many other fundraisers have taken place elsewhere in Northern France, including a solidarity run in Vignacourt, which raised more than \$8,000. A number of small villages, the town of Amiens and the Hauts-de-France region have all committed different donation amounts directed at either wildlife or replanting associations. Various concerts have been held throughout the region and local associations have knitted and sewn blankets and pouches for the affected wildlife.

The remarkable acts of generosity further reinforce the strong bonds between and this region for more than a century.



Residents of Villers- Bretonneux taking part in a solidarity march to show their support of Australian communities affected by the bushfires.

Article supplied by Rod Stewart