

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this newsletter is for Probus members only

DIARY

GENERAL MEETINGS

9:30 am at a Venue to be Advised

Thursday

~~Dinner at the Hunters Hill Club~~

6pm in the week of the General Meeting

Wednesday 1st April

General Meeting

9:30

Cancelled due to Coronavirus

Further updates to be issued

in due course

Wed 15th - Sat 18th April

~~Harrington Waters~~

Cancelled due to Coronavirus

Thursday 16th April

Morning Coffee

10:00 Huntleys Café

Cancelled due to Coronavirus

Friday 17th April

Book Club

Cancelled due to Coronavirus

Monday 27th April

Good Old Days Concert

"Instrumental Extravaganza"

Cancelled due to Coronavirus

REMINDER

There remain 15 Members overdue with their subscriptions. Please make your payments as soon as possible.

From the President

Hello fellow Probians.

I hope you are all keeping healthy and are doing well with all that is happening around us with this dreadful virus .

I just wanted to update you on a few matters relating to the club going forward.

Future Meetings

With the current restrictions imposed by the authorities and the high risk of being infected, my and your committee's priority to you the members is to do everything we can to protect you from this virus.

Hence, we have made the decision to postpone any future meetings indefinitely and revisit this decision in August. We will be monitoring this situation on a daily basis and in the case that a change takes place we will let you know.

We don't feel good in making this decision, but it is the right one to make and I know that you will be understanding of this.

Premises

As previously reported the Hunters Hill Club indicated to us that we would be unlikely to return to the premises on completion of the renovation work. They cited several reasons revolving around the leasing arrangements with the new caterers.

A letter was sent to the Chairman and Secretary of the club stating our case as to why we should be using the HH Club as our meeting venue and the historical significance the two clubs have had in the past 20 years.

Following this, a meeting was arranged and Dean Letcher and I met with the Chairman and Manager of the Club last and week and discussed a number of issues. They include our meeting start and finish time, the cost, which is likely to increase significantly, storage space, a functional audio/visual system and a place to hang our Honour Boards.

As a result, the Club's response was a lot more favourable to our returning than we expected, given a few details still need to be resolved. We are quietly confident that we can reach an agreement.

Discussions are still underway, and a result is likely to be known next week.

Functions

Unfortunately, all functions currently planned will need to be cancelled. Of course any future ones planned will not be taking place until restrictions on social spacing and the Coronavirus is brought under control.

Jill Regnis is currently negotiating with the provider of the Harrington trip for all money paid by members be refunded or a credit be given to go on a later date. Jill will be contact with everyone involved as to what is to take place.

For other functions where deposits have been taken, these will be refunded by the club.

That is all for now. I will keep in touch with you via the Newsletter as the need arises.

Please look after yourselves, keep healthy and we will see you when our next meeting takes place if not before.

Jim Likidis

FOR YOR DIARY

Wednesday 6th May
Thirlmere Train/Tram Museum
Cancelled due to Coronavirus

Friday May 22nd
Cochlear Ear Facility
Cancelled due to Coronavirus

Wednesday 3rd June
Historical Tour of the Sydney Mint

Wednesday 24th June
President's Lunch
 Carmen's on the Park

Meet your New President

Jim was born in Suez, Egypt. His parents were also born there although his grandparents migrated to Egypt in the early 1900's from Greece. One grandfather was in the British army and duty took him there, the other migrated for a better life with many opportunities existing in Egypt. He had a Pub.

In 1954 after the overthrow of King Farouk and President Nasser took over the running of the country, he took exception to any non-Egyptians and made life very difficult and dangerous, especially if one had any involvement with the British. Since his father was employed by the British army as an electrician, he was threatened very seriously and had to get out. He came to Australia and Jim's mother, younger brother and Jim followed and arrived in Australia February 1955. His Dad rented a house that they shared with another family in Kensington.

He went to school at Kensington Primary, then went to South Sydney High where he finished high school and received his Leaving Certificate in 1963. For as long as he can remember during his whole school life, if anyone asked him what he wanted to do as a career, he would say Electrical Engineer. He doesn't think he knew what that entailed and he thinks this was due to his father encouraging him to follow this path. When he finished high school and had to decide what he was going to do as a career, he knew the last thing he was going to be was an Electrical Engineer. He hated Chemistry and Physics was not his favourite subject. He was good in maths and studied honours maths for the HS certificate, but later had to drop this to concentrate on Physics and Chemistry. Well he didn't do so well in Chemistry but did well in maths.

His father pressured him to decide on what he was going to do with his life but he had great difficulty doing so. He just didn't know.

To get his Dad off his back, he got a job as an Executive Trainee with the MBF which was a glorified clerical role. It took him two and a half years to find what he wanted to do, accountancy. Some people do not believe in fate, but he does. He was looking to buy a record player part and the shop that sold it was next to the Australian Accountancy College. He walked in there and asked the person there, Keith Yorston, a famous author in writing accounting books, not that he knew that at the time, what an accountant does and after he told him, he signed up for a 3-month accounting course which he loved. He went on to study accounting.

Jim said that his father was always a big influence on him, giving him a strong work ethic, a lot of pride, to respect his elders and to always do the right thing.

He has 3 children, 2 daughters and a son and 4 grandchildren. He has a number of hobbies namely called, Nicholas, Oliver, Luca and Anastacia. He loves being involved with sport, playing with the kids, where he can these days and going to watch them play. On most Saturdays, some of his day is taken up doing just that. He is the Age Manager U8-9 for the local soccer club, All Saints Hunters Hill Soccer Club. He also coaches his grandson's soccer team.

He professes not to live a very exciting life really. His involvement with the soccer club keeps him busy from late January to the start of April, as does being a member of Probus and participating on the committee.

Other than that, his wife Fay keeps him busy with household things, the usual being cleaning the pool and mowing the lawn etc, although he is slowly outsourcing this.

Seeing close friends and going to dinner is always enjoyable, as are the movies and theatre when the opportunity arises and travel when the kids sign an annual leave form for him and Fay to go..

The main reason he joined Probus was to get the "cheap travel insurance". Only kidding he says. He and Fay frequently spoke about getting involved with community groups in the area. A friend of theirs who they met at Play Group some years back mentioned he and his wife went to Probus at Drummoyne and encouraged him to join. He happened to notice, he thinks it was an article in the ITW or Villager, he can't remember, talking about Probus Hunters Hill and that the club met on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the HH Club of which he was a member.

So, he decided to come to a meeting and enjoyed the talk and met some of the members, the first being Gordon Sanson. The club came across as a very friendly club and the people seemed nice. He decided to join and at the next meeting he asked for an application form.

Fay followed shortly after and Jim says both he and Fay are so glad they did.

Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting

**PROBUS CLUB OF HUNTERS HILL AND DISTRICT
NOTICE OF THE 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 4th MARCH 2020
Villa Maria Hall, St Mary's Church, Mary Street, Hunters Hill**

Meeting opened at 10.45am

1. WELCOME

President Mike Allum welcomed all members to the 44th Annual General Meeting held at the Villa Maria Hall, Hunters Hill.

2. PRESENT & APOLOGIES

Names of those present will be taken from the attendance sheet together with apologies.

3. MINUTES OF THE 43RD AGM

The minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting held on March 5th, 2019 have been circulated and were approved.

Proposed: Mike Regnis Seconded: Vincie Wahlquist

4. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

5. REPORT FROM AUDITOR TABLED

Jim Likidis tabled the report from the Honorary Auditor Bruce Luscombe . President would send a letter of thanks to him.

PROPOSED: Barbara Gardner SECONDED: Mike Regnis

6. APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITOR FOR 2020/21

That Mr Anthony Alexandrou FCPA Reg. Auditor. Be appointed Honorary Auditor for 2020.

PROPOSED: Margaret Conley SECONDED: Mike Regnis

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Likidis gave a very detailed Power Point presentation on the Club's Financial performance for 12 months to 31-12-2019 stating that the club was in a very sound financial position.

PROPOSED: Barbara Banner SECONDED: Ashlyn Allum

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mike Allum gave a very enlightening and heartfelt report on his year as President and his report was received.

PROPOSED: Margaret Conley SECONDED: Ashlyn Allum

9. NOMINATION OF RETURNING OFFICER

That Mike Regnis be appointed Returning Office, noting that he is not a candidate for office.

PROPOSED: VINCIE WAHLQUIST SECONDED: DAVID LORSCHY

10. RETURNING OFFICER REPORT

Mike Regnis gave a very detailed Election of Office Bearers Report, the main details of which are shown below.

Statutory Officers

PRESIDENT:	Jim Likidis
VICE PRESIDENT	Dean Letcher
SECRETARY / PUBLIC OFFICER	Carolyn Jolly
TREASURER	Josephine McBride
ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR	Barbara Banner

Committee Members

MEMBERSHIP	Kevin Manie
SPEAKERS	Carol Pelham
WELFARE	Ashlyn Allum
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Mike Allum
Ex Officio	
NEWSLETTER	Mike Allum

11. INVESTMENT OF NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT

Mike Allum then proceeded to invest Jim Likidis as President of the Probus Club of Hunters Hill and presented him with his Chain of Office and President's badge. Jim responded with his pleasure to be in the Club, having made so many new friends, and looked forward to working with his new Committee. A special thanks to Garth Juster and Margaret Conley.

As a surprise, Mike then embarked on an informal Q&A with Jim who was quite willing to share his family history, including education and job experiences, together with his extremely busy home life.

New President Jim then declared the Meeting closed at 11.15 for a well-deserved refreshment.

The Temperamental Tram



Six excited Probians met at Circular Quay at 10am on a bright sunny Sydney morning. We were excited because we were about to experience our first ride on Sydney's Light Rail – the new tram to Kensington. We then learned that the line to Kensington was still under construction and the tram terminated at Randwick.

When we approached the tram stop we noticed that the people on the tram were getting off. Then the signs on the tram started to flash "Not in Service". From enquiries we learned that there had been an accident on the tram route and the service was temporarily suspended. So we did what all sensible people do, found a coffee shop for a cuppa.

After our coffee, we went back to the tram which was now back in service. We all climbed aboard and off we went. The journey up George Street was slow with many stops. However at the top of George we stopped for about 5/7 minutes. It seemed as if the traffic control was just not up to handling trams. But eventually we moved off. However, after a very short distance, at Central Station, we were then told that our service was terminating and would we please leave the tram, which, of course, we did.

On the platform we were then informed that another tram would be along in about 2 minutes. So we waited, and we waited, and we waited and then after about 20 minutes we were told to get back on the tram we had just got off. The rest of the journey from Central to Randwick was surprisingly without incident.

None of us were familiar with Randwick so we explored the main street and found a very nice old sandstone restaurant where we enjoyed a good lunch.

Once back on the tram the return journey was quite fast, uneventful and pleasant. Compared with the journey out to Randwick, the return was almost dull!

The infrastructure, stations, lines, signs and the tram itself are all exceedingly good (world class) but the operating systems seem to require a great deal of improvement to stop the trams from being "temperamental".

Ann & Garth Juster

Your New Committee



Left to right:

Ashlyn Allum - Welfare, Carol Pelham - Speakers, Carolyn Jolly - Secretary, Dean Letcher - Vice President, Jim Likidis -President, Josephine McBride - Treasurer, Mike Allum - IPP/Newsletter, Barbara Banner - Activities, Kevin Manie - Membership

Barbara's Thought for the Month

"It's a strange thing, you have said it thousands of times I am sure...you will never know what you can do until you try. However the sad truth is, that most people never try anything until they know they can do it."

Author: unknown

Editors Musings

If you answer the phone with, "Hello, you're on the air!" most telemarketers will quickly hang up.

The older I get the earlier it gets late.

My luck is like the bald guy who just won a comb!

To me "drink responsibly" means don't spill it

**PROBUS CLUB OF HUNTERS HILL AND DISTRICT
PO BOX 1041 HUNTERS HILL 2110**

President	-	Jim Likidis	0412 090 400
Vice President	-	Dean Letcher	9816 5357
Immediate Past President	-	Mike Allum	0417 596 300
Secretary	-	Carolyn Jolly	9437 6229
Treasurer	-	Josephine McBride	9817 5632
Activities Convenor	-	Barbara Banner	9427 0102
Speakers	-	Carol Pelham	9808 5020
Welfare Officer	-	Ashlyn Allum	9816 3269
Membership Officer	-	Kevin Manie	0412 349 270
Book Club Convenor	-	Joan Gai	9817 1301
Newsletter Editor	-	Mike Allum	0417 596 300
(email: mike.allum@bigpond.com)			
Honorary Auditor	-	Anthony Alexandrou	

President's Report to the 44th Annual General Meeting

I start my report by thanking myself for being here this year. As you may recall I was unable to make it last year and probably set a Probus record for not turning up to my own investiture as President.

My aims as the new President were somewhat selfish, to enjoy myself, attend as many activities as I could and bring some light-heartedness and levity to the proceedings. Did I achieve any of those, certainly the first two, the last; I'll let you be the judge.

I started the year with 3 new committee members, Carolyn Jolly, Barbara Banner and Judith Dunstan and was missing a Vice President. However, I think as your management committee we all worked well together.

Carolyn Jolly as Secretary fulfilled the requirements of her role extremely competently and without fuss. However, I must have overburdened her as she finished her year in office undergoing serious back surgery. **Judith Dunstan**, in her Treasurer role, suffered mid-term with some family issues putting undue stress on her such that she resigned from the committee. Fortunately, Jim Likidis stepped in to fill the breach for the remainder of the year. **Barbara Banner's** took on Activities.. She was, initially, I think, somewhat wary of taking it on but as you have seen she has thrived in the role and has organised some great activities and encouraged others to help out. **Carol Pelham**, what can I say? She keeps on keeping on. Never short of interesting speakers to keep us entertained. Long may she continue. **Ashlyn**, well, I'm biased but think she did a great job checking up on those not enjoying good health, sending get well cards and making visits. where appropriate. **Gordon Sanson** started the year as Membership officer but succumbed to a reaction from medication such that he had to discontinue. **Peter Kelly** helped out until **Kevin Manie** took on the role. **Jim Likidis**, a late entrant, nominated for Vice President without any undue pressure and was welcomed on-board. A bonus was that he has a finance background and responded to my call to review our financial processes. He has also introduced Credit Card payments and has streamlined and to some degree "automated" our financial reporting such that our incoming Treasurer will have a model to work from. Finally, **Margaret** and **Garth**, both of whom have stood down from the committee after several years of responsibility and hard work. Doubtless they will be available for help and advice if needed.

My heartfelt thanks go to them all for their teamwork and hard work.

We also have a strong team of volunteers that take on key roles. We have the Tea Committee comprising **Caye Higgs** and **John Malone**, ably led by **Dawn Saunders**. They do a wonderful job keeping us fed and watered each month. The irrepressible **Jim Judge**, our Raffle Raconteur and revenue source and his lovely assistant, **Judy Davey**. Our regular "meet and greet" team of **Pat Cox**, **Anne Juster** and **Greg Griffiths**. In the literary area we have Joan **Gai**, **Convenor** of the Book Club. And finally **Ian Adair**, who sets up the Audio Visual equipment for our Speakers and writes an article on each presentation for the Newsletter.

On the Activities front we've had a range of interesting things to do. Several Town Hall concerts, not oversubscribed by any means, rather attended by loyal few, Opal outings ranging from a trip on the Metro to Tallawong (near Rouse Hill) and a day trip for fish and chips or a curry to Kiama. The Welsh Choir was back in town and some members went to Melbourne for a Flower and Garden Show. Christmas in July was celebrated at Abercrombie House in Bathurst while High Tea was enjoyed at The Carrington. Many attended the resurrected Sausage Sizzle at Abbotsford while an absence of prawns somewhat diminished the enjoyment of the Seafood BBQ. We had the educational visits to the Art Gallery and the State Library while a Show Bag collecting expedition to the Reserve Bank did not meet expectations. The presentation was excellent though. The usual lunches, Birthday, President's and Christmas were enjoyed by many. Many thanks to **Barbara** and her able assistants.

Our speaker list was just as varied. A talk by Susi Prescott who spent some of her life with children in the slums of Arequipa, Chile: a talk on Ikebana and bonsai: a local talk about the Hunters Hill Theatre origins: an amazing talk about experiencing without seeing from Nick Gleeson. Ray McLintock told us about Sydney's living museums while Clive Small spoke about the dark side of crime. We then heard about the history of Honeysuckle Creek and its role in the Lunar space program. We had a trombone history lesson and demonstration before a family filmmaking affair with Richard Snashall, son of Norbert. Then we were off to almost the top of Everest with George Mallory before coming back down to earth to hear why the Parthenon Marbles should be returned. All in all an amazingly varied range of topics. Well done **Carol**.

We finished the year in a reasonable financial position as you just heard from Jim. We were successful in lowering some costs and have quarantined some funds for our 50th Anniversary in 2026.

So what else? During my term we averaged 99 members for the period and had an average monthly attendance of 70, with apologies accounting for a further 16. The other 13 were "no-shows". We had 5 resignations primarily due to health and family reasons and welcomed 7 new members. We currently have 96 active and 7 non-active members. We conducted a Members survey and several of the suggestions as they relate to Activities have been adopted, for example the regular coffee morning at Huntleys Cove and an increase in multi-night trips.. Some modifications to the meeting process may also be introduced soon. We've introduced a Policy Register which aims at streamlining many of the processes involved in the running of the Club and implemented changes to the Standing Orders to achieve the same goal. Following the sad passing of Alan James in Canberra, and with the help of Glenys, we have retrieved all his files, created a Membership database and brought the record keeping and reporting back in-house.

Finally, before you all nod off, I must express my thanks to **Mike Regnis**. My strengths do not include an in-depth knowledge of protocols and procedures and so on as they apply to Probus. Thankfully, on a number of occasions, Mike offered advice as to the correct process and methodology and I thank him for that.

Next year, I'll continue on the Committee as Immediate Past President and Newsletter Editor but warn you in advance, I'll not be Editor forever.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your President and I wish Jim and his team ongoing good health, happiness, friendship, fun and fellowship.

Mike Allum
4th March, 20

**Probus Club of
Hunters Hill**

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



April Birthdays

Neville Davey	6
Rod Stewart	7
Dellane Stewart	12
Nan Barbour	13
Les Osborne (101)	16
Beverly Grace	19
Anne Juster	25
Sandy Mower	27
Fran Williams	29

SPARE A MINUTE

Minutes of the 492nd Meeting of
Hunters Hill Probus Club at the
Villa Maria Hall on
Wednesday 4th March at 9:30am



With the indulgence of our book club chair, Joan Gai and in the absence of the poignant comments of my fellow book-clubbers, I offer up a commentary on our book of the month, Fahrenheit 451. (ignition point for paper) – by Ray Bradbury.

This is an apocalyptic story, surreal, disturbing and loaded with metaphors, written when the author was 24, later filmed and stoically retained in its original form by the author Ray Bradbury.

The scenario, plausible in its day, is now obsolete for reasons to be revealed (internet, iBook, Kindle).

Montag is a man torn; his society is complicit in the new order. Big brother (the happiness) has deemed that books are unhealthy; they implant bad thoughts in the minds of the plebs and could cause unpleasant happenings. So,

burn them.

Guy Montag is a fireman, armed with a kerosene torch. His role is hazard reduction, that is, burning books and houses when necessary (shades of Nazi book burnings).

But, shock horror, he likes books and unbeknown to himself, has committed to his subconscious memory, Ecclesiastes and other notable tomes (as have his friends: handy for future book resurrections).

However, things are not going well at home, his wife Millie overdoses and the stomach pump folk are on hand. Things with Millie and his boss Beatty don't improve and both will probably come to a sticky end.

So our hero meets Faber an alternative type of guy out on the distant rail tracks and he tutors Guy via ear plugs. Things turn bad and Guy uses his flame thrower inappropriately and ends up watching the apocalypse from a safe distance in the woods with other notable outcasts.

Reports of his death are fake news.

Richard Jones

OPENING

President Mike Allum opened the meeting at 9.30am and welcomed all members and visitors. Mike mentioned that the space at Hunters Hill Club was still in doubt and the Club's Manager would be in touch that afternoon advising of the club's decision on their intention to go forward with a new proposal. Mike then presented a 10-year badge to Barbara Gardner who thanked the Club.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minute accepted.
Proposed: Carol Pelham
Seconded: David Lorsch

MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Carolyn Jolly tabled letters incoming and outgoing which included the resignation of long standing member Adrian Niewenhuizen. Mike Regnis then rose to speak highly of Adrian Niewenhuizen and told of all the club positions held and efforts he had made over the years. He will be very much missed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The acting Treasurer Jim Likidis gave the following report:

Bank bal at end Feb 2020	\$15,270
Less cash held for oncoming Functions	\$ 3,380
Less Reserves 50th Birthday Celebration	\$ 1,000
Less Asset Replacement Reserve	\$ 2,064
Amount Free Cash available end Feb.2020	\$ 8,826
Budget	\$ 9,751

Jim commented that the shortfall on Budget was due to about 25 members not having paid their fees to date.

WELFARE

Ashlyn Allum presented her report on the ill and recovering.

ACTIVITIES

Barbara Banner reported as follows:

1. Asked for show of hands for Light Rail trip to Kensington.
2. Asked how well morning coffee went at Huntleys Cove. Not many shows of hands.
3. 11 people still needed for Temora Air Show. Unable to attain so cancelled. Perhaps later this year or next.
4. Numbers and money required at next meeting for Town Hall Concert April 17th

5. Cochlear Ear Facility & lunch planned for May 22nd. OPAL outing. Numbers required.
7. Ashlyn reported visit to Mint would be \$16pp and this required by May meeting. Numbers not required and she would find a nice eatery for after the tour.
8. Jill Regnis reported Harrington Trip was well under control and would commence at 8am sharp outside the HHPO. She would send email to all participants.

BOOK CLUB

Joan Gai announced next meeting at 2pm Friday this week and book would be quite a controversial one – Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury.

RAFFLE

Jim Judge announced that despite such a small turn-up 246 raffle tickets had been sold.

1. Margaret Timbs.
2. Darryl Tutton
3. Vincie Wahlquist

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.30, convening for 15 minutes prior to AGM and morning tea.

A FULL COPY OF THE MINUTES MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY