

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this newsletter is for Probus members only

DIARY

GENERAL MEETINGS

~~9:30 am at The Hunters Hill Club~~
~~12 Madeline St Hunters Hill~~

Thursday

Dinner at the Hunters Hill Club

6pm in the week of the General Meeting

Deferred until March

General Meeting

Wednesday 5th February
Villa Maria Hall St Mary's Church
Mary Street Hunters Hill

General Meeting

Guest Speaker

Emanuel Comino AM

Subject: The Greek Marbles and Why They Should Be Returned

Monday 17th February

Town Hall Concert

"Bravo Broadway"

Meet on Town Hall steps

13:45 for 14:00 start

Wednesday 19th February

44th Birthday Lunch

"Ambassador" Restaurant

Ryde TAFE

Entry in Parkes Street opposite Bowden St and Griffiths Ave

[See Map](#)

11:45 for 12:00 sit down

Fully Booked and waitlisted

Friday 21st February

Book Club

Hunters Hill Museum - 14:00

Book: "The Dry" by Jane Harper

Afternoon Tea: Vincie Wahlquist

Glamping on Cockatoo Island

As the result of good luck (Christmas raffle 2018) and generosity (Probus and Sydney Harbour Federation Trust) Mikki and I won a night of camping in a tent on the harbour foreshore—fulfilled 14 January, 2020 (we had upgraded—wisely—to a waterfront "suite")

The weather was kind as we ferried from Woolwich to the island. Peter Kelly had kindly advised on what to do, so we picked up our kit and key (to a tent!), braved the ducks and seagulls to our abode. We smiled in Chinese at other campers and laughed with Aussies, sharing our chagrin at the terrible bushfire toll.

Then feeling the need for a little liquid refreshment, I bought a beer (can only, served in plastics) and a bottle of red (only one per day and can't give you the cap). That's OK Mikki and I can cope with that.

Unpacked, we headed off on our audio tour. And what an experience, ship building docks, terrible convict quarters and tales of the excesses of the superintendent .

The island was used as a quarry and little remains of the grassy knoll that was once Cockatoo Island, a happy fishing haunt for the indigenous folk. A photographic history of the many ships that were built or repaired on the island caught my attention. There was particularly the Shackleton square rigger and the Vampire (built on the island). Pictures of the ferries unbalanced with workers perched precariously on the railings anticipating a quick landing at Circular Quay.

We didn't quite complete the tour but were amazed at the large number of now derelict buildings where ships were designed and plans laid out.

Back to our deckchairs in time to watch a very exciting yacht race with the Rivercats weaving inside the tangled throng. Didn't worry us, as we sipped a red and watched the smoky red sun descend to the horizon.

Barbecue sausages were on the menu and so I headed for the well equipped amenities where I shared the electric hotplate and watched as the snags reluctantly gave up their innocence. Three quarters of an hour later cut them longways and continued to turn.

Mikki had brought a can of baked beans, a suitable gourmet accompaniment to the bangers. When I said how would I open the can, she said "don't worry, there is a ring pull ." When the ring pull separated from the lid, a new challenge arose, so I placed the can on the hotplate, turning it end for end and warned my barbecue companion that if it bulged we should head for high ground. The trusty Swiss knife completed the task admirably and we completed our riparian repast in the pleasant haze of a harbour at nightfall and the successful completion of the bottle of red.

The evening passed without adverse events, the beds were cosy, and I shan't involve you in the intricacies!

Harbour traffic intruded a little and the next morning we made coffee and headed back to Woolwich.

Such fun and thoroughly enjoyed.

Thank you

Richard Jones

Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge 2019

Bob Mostyn's grandson Cameron's boat "Rowed Less Travelled" completed the World's Toughest Row. They have just rowed 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean and finished second in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge 2019.

They also became the fastest Australian team to row across the Atlantic Ocean in 34 days, 10 hours, 46 minutes.

CONGRATULATIONS Ryan, Cameron, Nicholas and Martin

FOR YOR DIARY

Tuesday 3rd March
 Annual General Meeting
 No Guest Speaker

Wednesday 11th March
 Opal Day - Light Rail to
 Kensington

Thursday 19th March
 Morning Coffee
 10:00 Huntleys Café
 Huntleys Cove

Friday 20th March
 Book Club
 Hunters Hill Museum 14:00
 Book to be advised

Thurs 19th - Sun 22nd March
 Temora Air Show
 OnCourse 4day trip \$880
 Barbara Banner

Wed 15th - Sat 18th April
 Harrington Waters OnCourse
 \$880
 Jill Regnis

Deposit \$200 required February meeting. Balance - March meeting

Thursday 16th April
 Morning Coffee
 10:00 Huntleys Café
 Huntleys Cove

Monday 27th April
 Good Old Days Concert
 Details - TBA

Ain't That the Truth

To commemorate her birthday, Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the American Association of Retired Persons. One of the numbers she performed was "My Favourite Things", albeit with amended lyrics.

Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
 Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
 Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
 These are a few of my favourite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
 Polident, Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
 Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings
 These are a few of my favourite things.

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak,
 When the knees go bad,
 I simply remember my favourite things,
 And then I don't feel - so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets, corn pads for bunions,
 No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
 Bathrobes and heating pads, hot meals they bring
 These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinning,
 Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinning,
 And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
 When we remember our favourite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break,
 When the eyes grow dim,
 Then I remember the great life I've had,
 And then I don't feel - so bad.

Ed: I bet you tried to sing along

Book Club



The book club met on 17th January discussing different books read recently by members – the range was from Ruth Park to Muslim sex to death on Lord Howe Island and a good conversational time was had by all. One opinion follows.....

Dean Letcher was particularly impressed by the clear and sensitive style of Margaret Atwood's "The Handmaid's Tale" published first in 1986 but re-launched recently after the successful TV series of the same name. A young mother is trapped in a new hostile

society which has overthrown the American state. It purports to be puritan Christian but has all the faults of a fascist misogynist system with old men forcing young women into sex slavery and the older women colluding and enforcing a brutal regime.

The author shows exceptional sensitivity to the plight of the 'Handmaid' and delicacy in descriptions that echo the vulnerability of this fertile exploited young woman: "I walk along the gravel path that divides the back lawn, neatly, like a hair parting...the grass to either side is damp...Here and there are worms, evidence of the fertility of the soil, caught by the sun, half dead, flexible and pink, like lips".

Unfortunately, [SPOILER WARNING] the handmaid is rescued and spirited to safety by a tall dark stranger and she lives happily ever after. This is not an ending that arises from the dire circumstances described but is yet another Prince Charming rescuing Cinderella. Up until then I greatly admired the story's themes and writing.

Apparently at the urging of her publisher the author wrote a follow-up in 2019 "The Testaments" which has little of the grace of style or moral feeling of the original. Like a lot of sequels cashing in on the success of the first book, this is clunky plotting and it uses hackneyed old devices like witness statements to a judicial inquiry and speeches at a university seminar – dreadful potboiler!

Dean Letcher

A Poetic Tribute

I love a Sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains. But I've gotta tell ya mate, I like it better when it rains. The countryside is dying and there's just no end in sight, and just to rub salt in the wounds, the bush has caught alight.



The landscape's on fire from Brisbane to the Gong And everybody's asking "where the hell did we go wrong"? But we can get through this one if we help each other out, take care of your neighbour, that's what Aussies are about.

The rain is going to fall again, the good times will return. But living in Australia means at times it's going to burn. So if you need a helping hand, just give a mate a call. We're all here to help you out and catch you when you fall.

The RFS, the SES, the firey's, and police, all put their lives upon the line to help



to beat this beast. So hats off to these heroes and thanks for all you do and I hope when this is over, we can make it up to you!

Barbara's Thought for the Month

There are little eyes upon you and they're watching night and day. There are little ears that quickly take in every word you say. There are little hands all eager to do anything you do; and a little boy who's dreaming of the day he'll be like you.

You're the little fellow's idol, you're the wisest of the wise. In his little mind about you, no suspicions ever rise. He believes in you devoutly, holds all you say and do. He will say and do in your way when he's grown up, just like you.

There's a wide-eyed little fellow who believes you're always right; and his eyes are always open and he watches day and night. You are setting an example every day in all you do. For the little boy who's waiting to grow up to be like you.

Author: Unknown

Editor's Musings

Good judgment comes from bad experience and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

Exits are on the way out.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.

Knowledge is power, and power corrupts. So study hard and be evil.

New Membership Officer

Meet our new Membership Officer, Kevin Manie.

Kevin celebrates his first year as a member of Hunters Hill Probus on February 5th, 2019. Several committee members set their sights on having him join the committee and during December he



responded to our President's call and put his hand up to take on the role of Membership Officer.

As you will recall, Gordon Sampson had the role but had to withdraw early last year after suffering from the side effects of some medication he was taking.

Peter Kelly then ably stood in for Gordon in an acting capacity until Kevin finally

succumbed to Presidential pressure and willingly accepted the role.

Take the time to catch up with Kevin, he has an interesting background and I'm sure will be a great asset in the role.

Activities

Your Management Committee has put together the Activities Program for 2020 through to February 2021.

To fully finalise and implement this program we need some members to assist in organising one or two of the planned activities. Details of the activities are outlined in the attachment to the Newsletter.

This is a great opportunity to be more involved in your club and to make more social friends while having a good time.

If you can assist your committee in implementing the program please contact Barbara Banner or one of the Committee.

Mike Allum

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

President	-	Mike Allum	0417 596 300
Vice President	-	Jim Likidis	0412 090 400
Immediate Past President	-	Margaret Conley	9817 0123
Secretary	-	Carolyn Jolly	9437 6229
A/Treasurer	-	Jim Likidis	0412 090 400
Activities Convenor	-	Barbara Banner	9427 0102
Speakers	-	Carol Pelham	9808 5020
Welfare Officer	-	Ashlyn Allum	9816 3269
Membership Officer	-	Kevin Manie	0412 349 270
Committee	-	Garth Juster	9817 5434
Book Club Convenor	-	Joan Gai	9817 1301
Newsletter Editor	-	Mike Allum	0417 596 300
		(email: mike.allum@bigpond.com)	
Honorary Auditor	-	Bruce Luscombe	

**Probus Club of
Hunters Hill**

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



February Birthdays

Norbett Snashall	7
Ashlyn Allum	8
Ruth Cronk	8
Jean Fong	9
John Malone	9
Mearle Denton	13
Alison O'Neill	16
David Bowman	19
Dawn Saunders	19
Deirdre Page	19
Greg Griffiths	22
Bruce Hattersley	23
Gwen Macree	25
Charles Kent	26

SPARE A MINUTE

Minutes of the 489th Meeting of
Hunters Hill Probus Club at the
Villa Maria Hall on
Tuesday 7th January at 9:30am

OPENING

Mike Allum welcomed the Meeting to the temporary venue and pointed out the facilities available. Mike also reminded the Meeting that the February Meeting would be held at the same venue and that it would be held on WEDNESDAY February 5th. The March meeting which is the AGM would be held back at the Hunters Hill Club. The Committee is seeking nominations for Treasurer, Vice President, and committee member.

Mike then welcomed David Lorsch as a new member and Carolyn Burke as a visitor. David thanked the Club for their welcome.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Accepted: Carol Pelham
Seconded: Lorraine Kongats

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

New Signatories have been registered with the CBA. Increase in fees passed. To be paid today. Standing Orders passed. Copy on table for perusal.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Activities for 20/21 to be discussed

Thre Ghosts of Everest

Our guest speaker for January was Tony McCurdy, whose talk was entitled *Ghosts of Everest 1921-1924*.



When we think of the conquest of Mt Everest, the names that come to mind are Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, who conquered the great mountain in May 1953. But there was another man who is inextricably linked with Everest – the legendary George Mallory.

George Herbert Leigh Mallory was born in Cheshire in 1886. At age 13 he won a scholarship to Winchester College, where he was introduced to rock climbing and mountain climbing by one of the masters. Commencing in 1910 he climbed several European mountains before serving in WWI.

After the devastation of WWI, to regain national pride, a British campaign was commenced in 1921 to conquer the world's highest mountain. Mallory was part of a group that made an exploratory climb, and in 1922 he returned, intent on making a serious attempt on the summit. They achieved an elevation of 27,300 ft (8321 m) before the climb was abandoned due to an avalanche which killed seven Sherpas. In an article in *The New York Times* in 1923, Mallory was asked 'Why climb Everest?' His answer became the most famous three words in mountaineering: 'Because it's there.'

Mallory joined his last Everest expedition in

1924. At 37, he believed this would be his last opportunity. On 4 June 1924 Mallory and co-climber Andrew Irvine set out from their base camp at 21,330 ft (6,500 m). On 8 June the pair was observed by a support climber, Noel Odell around 26,000 ft (7,925 m). They were never seen alive again.

In 1999 an expedition led by Conrad Anker, based on information discovered after their disappearance, found a body at 26,760 ft (8,157 m). Name tags on the clothing bore Mallory's name. The expedition conducted a burial service and covered the body with rocks to form a cairn. There was also a service at his alma mater, Magdalene College. Irvine's body has never been found. The puzzle of whether Mallory and Irvine had not reached the summit or had reached it and were on the way down again was never solved. The answer would have been in the camera Irvine carried.

Mallory carried a photograph of his wife Ruth and had promised her that if he reached the summit, he would leave it there. It wasn't found on his body but wasn't found by any subsequent climber.

As part of his talk, Tony showed scenes from the documentary "*The Wildest Dream*", about George Mallory and his attempts on Mt Everest.

and finalised at Committee Meeting .
To be included in the February Newsletter.
Results of the Members Survey to be included in February Newsletter.

One matter that came up quite frequently in Survey was whether to continue with The National Anthem at the beginning of the meeting. After a show of hands it was agreed to continue the custom.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No correspondence.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Likidis Acting Treasurer thanked Judith Dunstan for her contribution. Books are in good shape and will be going to the Auditor next week. We have \$6000 in bank with a surplus of \$3800 which was a surprise. Jim will explain the reasons at the next meeting.

WELFARE

Ashlyn Allum advised that Lyn Benson has now returned after shoulder surgery. And welcome back to Barbara Gardner after weeks away with her broken foot. John Sorenson is home from hospital today after breaking his leg. Ashlyn asked that anyone who knows of a member who is not well to let her know.

ACTIVITIES

Barbara Banner advised that she, Ashlyn Allum and Garth Juster had met to put together a schedule for 20/21. A little more work is now needed and a more comprehensive list will be

available in the February Newsletter.
Jill Regnis has organised a coach trip to Harrington Waters on 15-18 April with 17 places still available. Money to be taken at next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Kevin Manie has very kindly agreed to take over as Membership Officer. Many thanks to Kevin.

Present: 65 Apologies: 16
Absent 16
1 Visitor: Carolyn Burke

BOOK CLUB

Richard Jones reported there was no book this month.

THURSDAY NIGHT DINNER

Cancelled due to HHC renovations.

RAFFLE

Jim Judge announced 331 tickets sold today.
1st Bambi Michael (car wash voucher),
2nd Jean Fong, 3rd Barbara Banner

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mike Allum questioned why he had 40 hard copies printed.
Bob Mostyn gave rundown of his grandson's rowing race progress.

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