

# PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this newsletter is for Probus members only

## DIARY

### GENERAL MEETINGS

**9:30 am at The Hunters Hill Club 12 Made-line St Hunters Hill**

Discussions still taking place with the Club with an announcement is expected soon

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**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June**  
Morning Coffee Huntleys Cafe  
Huntleys Cove 10:00 am  
**Back on**

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**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**  
President's Lunch  
**To be rescheduled**

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**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July**  
Coolangatta Winter Yulefest  
**Cancelled**

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**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August**  
Nepean Belle Cruise  
**Cancelled**

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**September**  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Sausage Sizzle  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> MacArthur Region Tour

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> RAN Museum

**At this stage still active**

Please advise  
Barbara Banner  
0405 427 259

if you are interested

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## From the President

Hello fellow Probians.

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and enjoying the relaxation of social distancing rules. I expect that in the next few months, we will be back to normal and we will be able to meet again at our monthly meeting.

Here is an update of decisions and actions taken as well as matters we are considering at the last Probus management Committee meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> May.

### Hold a Zoom members meeting

We would like to hold a members virtual meeting using the application Zoom. I am sure that a number of you would have used this application to communicate with your families. It is reasonably easy and works as follows. A link will be sent to you by email with the time and day the meeting will be held. You join the meeting by simply clicking on the link. We do need to discuss amongst the committee and plan for some finer details. Once it is finally decided that we will do so, you will be advised of the details. Expected date of the meeting will be the first Tuesday in July.

### Premises

It is time that we recommence our discussions with HH Club to finalise our club using the club for our monthly meetings. To this end, I have asked Dean Letcher, the Club's Vice President to take up this matter with the club. Dean has sent a letter last week, requesting finalisation and we have not heard back. We will give it this week and if we don't hear, I will contact the HH Club Chairman.

### Grant Application

We received an invitation by Trent Zimmerman the Federal MP for our area to apply for a Volunteer Grant which we did. We applied on the basis of obtaining a computer and other accessories such as hands free microphones etc. The amount of the grant we applied for was \$3000.

The good news is that we were successful, and the money as advised will be in our bank account by end of June. Mike Allum and I together with Ian Adair will form a task force to identify and specify what we will apply this money to.

### Publicity Officer

In last months Newsletter we placed an advertisement for the above position. Unfortunately, we had zero response, which quite frankly was very disappointing. This is an important role that we wish to fill and a very interesting one.

The value of this role is to lift the profile of the club by writing or sending on, articles to be included in newspapers like TWT promoting the club, making prospective new members aware of the wonderful club that we have.

### Development of our own website

At our last meeting we discussed the development of our own website by engaging a developer to do this.

Currently our club's website is co-hosted under the umbrella of Probus HO. I don't know if any of you have visited our site recently by googling "Probus Hunters Hill" but if you have I think you will agree with me that it is ugly, not informative and does not represent our club well.

A website today often acts as the first impression to people discovering a club like ours for the first time. If anyone wishes to find out more about our club or is a potential new member looking for a Probus club to join, chances are they'll head straight online and search for our website. A professionally designed site will leave a lasting impression on new visitors and a potential new member and will reflect our club as a modern, well organised and a great place to come and join.

For our existing members, the club website is a place to go for the latest news, regarding activities, Speakers, announcements, newsletters and telling the story of Probus and history of the club and other valuable information on the club.

A decision to proceed has not been taken and further discussion needs to take place at our next Management Committee.

That is all for now. Continue to stay safe and happy and we will all soon meet again.

Jim

## Garth's Travels

### Once Upon a Time in New York

We had called a taxi in New York and as we climbed into the cab the driver asked where we would like to go. After giving the address, the driver then asked "Are you from Australia". Of course we answered "yes".

The driver then said in a angry voice "GET OUT OF MY CAB"!

He then followed with : "NOW GET BACK IN AND SAY 'G DAY MATE'

This was at a time when Paul Hogan was almost saturating American TV advertising Australia. - so much for the power of promotions.



### Twice Upon a Time in New York

My wife and I were in New York with a group of work colleagues. Someone suggested that we go to Church on Sunday. After some searching we found that there was a Gospel service in Harlem on the next Sunday and we decided to go.

We caught the underground from New York Central out to Harlem and when we came up from the station the surrounding area looked like London after the blitz - burnt out buildings and a lot of debris, this was in the early 80's. Undeterred we carried on to find the Church.

As we approached the Church we had to ascend some steps. Standing at the top was a wall of black Americans. "What do you want?" they demanded and of course we answered "We have come to Church". After some discussion among themselves they allowed us into the building. After we were seated we then noticed that all the surrounding seats were taken up by the black men.



The service began. Well, what an experience. When the Pastor began the whole congregation got involved. There was dancing in the aisles, "Praise the Lord", "hallelujahs" being cried out continuously. Soon some of our friends started to join in. A very happy, joyous experience.

After the service when we arose to leave, some of the ladies approached us with "Would you like to stay for lunch?" We accepted. Entering a hall at the rear of the Church there were tables loaded with food and for the next several hours we enjoyed an atmosphere of camaraderie and friendship. Something I have never forgotten.

When we left to go home on the train, we were then told that it was too dangerous to do this as white people in a black area. So the same black men who met us at the top of the stairs chaperoned us and looked after us until we got on the train. A memorable and very different experience of New York.

*Garth Juster*

## Activities

As you can see from Page 1, some more scheduled activities have been cancelled. You can imagine the situation is very fluid at the moment but things are easing.

As mentioned on Page 1, discussions are still underway with the Hunters Hill Club as to our return. Understandably, their priority has been to ensure the operability and viability of the club but the situation is easing. I know our Vice President, Dean Letcher, is in correspondence with the Club and is pushing for a speedy resolution. Watch this space.

The President's Lunch will be rescheduled until a little later in the year but as yet not details are to hand.

I am advised that the Coffee mornings are back on at Huntleys Café, Huntleys Cove. 10:00 am, on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The next being June 18<sup>th</sup>. It's an informal gathering, no bookings, just turn up and see who else is there. You may be on your own but fear not, the coffee is excellent.

## Member Landmarks

On June 7<sup>th</sup> Caye Higgs reaches **15** years of membership.

I'm sure public recognition of this event will occur when next we hold a General Meeting. Hopefully, before too long.

## What Are We Doing in Isolation - 4

### Smelling the Roses

Ten years ago, when Jill and I took the decision to downsize because of health and other reasons, we knew we had struck the jackpot in finding our little cottage in Top Ryde. It was compact, had no stairs or steps, was easy care and, as an added bonus for me, it had the bones of a small, but distinctive, group of garden beds at the front which I had visions of developing as a low-maintenance cottage garden (and there's an oxymoron if ever there was one). My gardening pursuits did prosper for a time, aided by the cottage being on a corner and without a traditional front fence, so the plantings could be shown off to their best. However, as the garden and I grew older my involvement changed from gardener to more that of potterer. But, oh, the roses, lavenders, salvias, bulbs and sundry other showy plants did gladden my heart.



Living on a corner and being out in the garden as much as possible did carry some rewards. The stop signs on opposite corners would cause all sorts of vehicular mayhem. There were ignorers, runners, hesitators, road ragers, fist-shakers, sometimes minor collisions, and the occasional police-car lurking. And my vocabulary increased exponentially. It all changed, of course, when we were all restricted to the social-distancing etiquettes of COVID19. The cars at the intersection suddenly became a rarity, to be replaced by people. It is wondrous to behold. Safely ensconced at a more than necessary distance behind one or another garden bed I can observe the passing parade, and somewhat surprisingly my local social life has expanded.

Seemingly out of nowhere now there are walkers, strollers, joggers, power-walkers, bike-riders, parents pushing prams or herding kids on skate-boards, grandmas with kids in tow, and dads showing their fitness by walking metres ahead of mums and children of varying ages. Then there are the dogs – big,

little, in between, aggressive, docile, inquisitive, bored or reluctant to bypass the large New Zealand Christmas bush out on the grass verge (and I very nervously check to see their owners are carrying the obligatory plastic bags!).

The dogs come in all imaginable breeds, from the Husky-type giants which speed past with distressed looking owners pretending it is them and not the dogs who are deciding the direction and pace of “the walk”, to the elegant prancers which presumably have an ancestry of Poodle there somewhere, to the big and somewhat boofy but always friendly Labradors, to the tiny bite-sized balls of fluff which are more often carried rather than walked.



People on their own, in pairs, with families, or with dogs, do react to my presence and always hearty “Hello, how are you”. Sometimes it is a smile or wave. More often it is a pause in the walk past, to respond and ask how I am. There are kind souls who go a bit further, and ask if there is anything they can do for Jill and me, presumably because we are the “Oldies” who live on the corner. Many make comment about the roses, or salvias, or whatever else may be at their best just then. And Jill and I do love to see the passers-by of all backgrounds,

given this is a very multi-cultural area, who stop and take photos of parts of the garden. There is the Chinese lady and her delightful, but very shy grand-daughter who venture past each day, and if I happen to be out the front she and I exchange pleasantries as best possible, given our respective lack of knowledge of the other's language. The highlight, though, is for me to momentarily break the social-distancing requirement to present a single flower to the tiny tot. Then, with smiles, we go our separate ways.



As to the roses, one husband and wife team make a point of walking past our home each day. If they spot me they always stop and yarn over the side garden bed. Invariably, too, one or other will say, “We just love stopping here and smelling the roses”. I take the praise in my stride, laugh, and remind them that they are lucky, because Jill is always hovering, waiting to pick the best of the blooms for display in one or another of our rooms, or for gifting to friends. Jill, bless her, also delights in smelling the roses. “Just smell this” she will say, “the perfume is divine”.

Which is all wasted on me. I have no sense of smell.



### What We Are Doing in Isolation - 5

I hope no brickbats for my last story so here goes -

What's next I asked myself.— I didn't know, but the old girl (Rolls) has never looked so pristine, all the broken toilets are fixed and I can't paint the house. Behold!! A suitcase appeared, full of 19th century and later family photos ( some printed on tin) that I've been coveting since the family fell off the perch in chronological order (bless them all) and bequeathed them to me. Now I am the possessor of a case full of jumbled old photos, many unidentifiable.

The daughter to whom I was about to gift them said "Dad, they're no good to me unless they are labelled! So I've spent the last three weeks identifying more than 100 photos, labelling them and photographing them with the iPad . Now all I need to do is find a way to transfer them to the Mac and then to a memory stick. This could take till Christmas.

With your indulgence I share some of these photos with you



UNCLE WILL EDWARDS WITH JACKO THE STALLION

There is Uncle Will with "Jacko" the stallion about the turn of the 19th century



UNCLE WILL UNCLE FRED ARCHWAY 1914 JENOLAN CAVES

Later in 1914 in a veteran car under the grand arch of Jenolan Caves (can anyone tell me the make of car?)



In 1931 great uncle Reg landed his "Moth" on Palm Beach only to be incinerated in a crash at Mascot airport in July 1937

Now they are all identified (sort of ) and that's a bit of an anticlimax, may have to read a book now!

Can't wait till we get together again.

*Richard Jones*

#### Welfare Report

Just a few words to catch up and wish that everyone is managing OK with the lockdown. Needless to say like you all, we miss our friends & family along with all the Probus activities that are now put on hold.

Slowly our social distancing and lives will start to get back to some kind of normal in the not to distant future!! Let's cross our fingers it won't be too long !!

I have heard and spoken to many members with information of people that have not been very well, been to hospital etc. and I've managed to have chats with some of them. But because of this lockdown I know there are some that I've not heard about or spoken to. So those lovely people I send my love & best wishes and hope next time we all meet up, all will be well.

I've decided to just pick out one person that I need to mention. Our dear friend David Bowman is now living in a Care Home. Margaret has been keeping me up on his new life. She assures me that David is being well looked after and is content. Margaret especially asked that I pass on her sincere thanks to all the members who have rung and offered her support. She is very grateful.

The management committee have been meeting on Zoom and I can tell you absolutely nothing has stopped, only put on hold with our wonderful Club. Let's hope it will be bigger, better, lots of outings, laughter and good fun very soon.

Keep well, keep safe, look after one another and be HAPPY.

*Ashlyn*

**Memories of the Past**

Former factory manager Les Osborne remembers when Banjo Paterson Park was filled with the hustle and bustle of the pioneers of manufacturing in Australia.

Les ran Harold Meggitt's vegetable oil operation from 1950 until 1972, shortly before it closed. Only now, however, has the site which was so important to the evolution of the area been recognised with the unveiling of a plaque by Ryde Council Mayor Ivan Petch.

The site was once covered in grain silos, a mill and storage tanks for the edible linseed oil it produced. There was constant movement of about 12 semi-trailers a day, delivering about 120 tonnes of seed to the mill. The oil would be extracted and then shipped out on tanker-trucks and barges. Farmers bought the remaining oilcake meal to fatten up their dairy herds. Before Australia grew its own linseed, the company bought grain from India, Argentina and Canada, off-loading it on its own wharf on the Parramatta River.



The founder, Harold Meggitt, pioneered a generous profit-sharing scheme, dubbed by newspapers in the 1940s "The Crackpot Plan that Works". Shareholders were paid a 4.5 per cent dividend, then all remaining profits were shared 50-50 between the shareholders and the employees. From the cleaner to the foreman, every employee would receive the same annual share of the profits.

When Harold Meggitt died in 1949, his son, Clive continued the scheme. In a tribute in a Sydney newspaper, the shareholders wrote: "We are aware of the benefits resulting from maximum efficiency, no waste, no go-slow and no strikes in 21 years". The employees also paid tribute to their "Chief" who had twice turned down generous offers to sell his business, "because the deal would have meant selling his workmen". Harold Meggitt's ethos was carried on by his son, Clive. "It was a friendly and co-operative place to work," Mr Osborne said.

"Everyone in Gladesville knew Meggitt's," Mr Osborne said. "When we got a big shipment, we would go around to get extra hands to off-load it."

Les at Banjo Paterson Park circa 2007,

Ryde Council acquired the site and with State Government financial aid developed the area for passive recreation.

*Reprinted Courtesy of the Hunters Hill Historical Society Inc.*

**21<sup>st</sup> Century English Polymer Banknotes**

Early in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century the Bank of England decided that the UK would introduce polymer banknotes that would be used in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, and the Isle of Man, as well as the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar.

The first note, the £5 was released in 2016. It featured Winston Churchill whom many regard as the greatest Englishman.

The second note, the £10, issued in 2018. It featured Jane Austen, again thought by many to be England's greatest female writer. Most Australians, especially Seniors as in Probus, have studied "Pride and Prejudice" as part of their Leaving Certificate or HSC Studies.



The third note just released on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the £20 note, features the most popular and arguably the greatest artist - Joseph Turner, (1775-1851) who is credited with 550 oil paintings, and 2,000 water colours. This note features the painting, voted in 2005, as the most popular English painting, "The Fighting Temeraire"!!!

The final polymer note will be the £50 note, which will be issued in 2021. The Bank of England held a poll to determine the most popular Englishman of Science and the winner and person to be featured on the note is the Mathematician and Cryptanalyst, Alan Turing (1912-1954).

This will then complete a beautiful set of polymer banknotes. They are much smaller than previous English notes and Queen Elizabeth II is featured on the reverse side with a new striking portrait.

**Ross McBride**

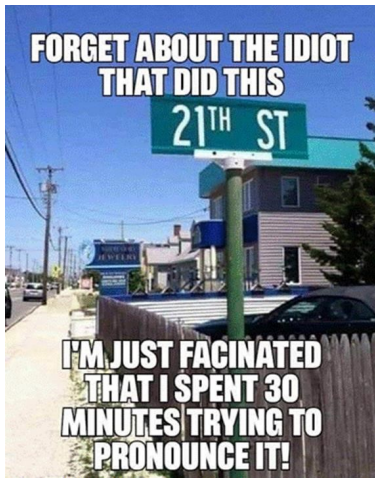
**Probus Club of  
Hunters Hill**

PO BOX 1041  
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



**June Birthdays**

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Margaret Bowman</b>   | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>Lew Grace</b>         | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Lorraine Kongats</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Lyn Benson</b>        | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Terry Yew</b>         | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Josephine McBride</b> | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Joan Gai</b>          | <b>24</b> |



**Gordon's Kitchen** (apologies to \*\*#@%\* Ramsay)

I guess our memories of our favourite things gets a little distorted over the years. Like the sweets my grandmother cooked, trifle, sponge cakes and bread and butter puddings for example have never been equalled by anyone. So with these fond memories of my grandmothers great cooking and not having a copy of any of her recipes, I have endeavoured to find for myself a recipe as good as hers.

There are many variations but this is nearest to grandmas.

**Step 1**

First you can use 10 to 12 slices (cut off the crusts) of white bread, or raisin bread or best of all is the Traditional Italian Pantone, thinly sliced.  
Allow the Butter to soften, and then butter the slices, and cover with Strawberry Jam, cut into triangles.

Arrange them in the bottom of a large buttered baking dish.

Slice fresh strawberries and cover this, then scatter half a cup of sultanas over this.

Repeat above with another layer of the bread and jam and strawberries and sultanas.

**Step 2**

Lightly beat six eggs with half a cup of sugar, and half a cup of Dry or Sweet Sherry (Bourbon or Whisky can also be used).

Add half a teaspoonful of ground nutmeg.

Add 5 cups of milk into this mixture, mixing well.

Pour this over the bread and allow to soak in for 10 to 15 minutes.

As the bread soaks up the mixture you can add more.

**Step 3**

Sprinkle with one teaspoonful of cinnamon before placing in the oven on a tray containing some hot water.

Bake in a preheated oven at 190°C until the pudding has risen and is golden and a knife inserted comes out clean.

Should take 45 minutes to one hour.

You can dust with icing sugar, or whip some egg whites and place on top and return to oven to brown or you can simply serve immediately on its own, with whipped cream and or ice cream.

Serves 6 to 8 people.

Enjoy

*Gordon Sanson.*

**Barbara's Thought for the Month**

*'You can tell more about a person by what he says about others than you can by what others say about him.'*

Author: Leo Aikman  
(writer & newspaper ed.)

**Editor's Musings**

Sign on a maternity room door

*"Push Push Push"*

In a Podiatrist's office:

*"Time wounds all heels"*

In Vets office:

*"Back in 5 minutes. Sit, Stay"*

**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 |              |