

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this
newsletter is for
Probus members only

DIARY

GENERAL MEETINGS

9:30 am, first Tuesday of the month

The Hunters Hill Club

12 Madeline St Hunters Hill

Thursday

Dinner at the Hunters Hill Club

6pm in the week of the Meeting

Tuesday 7th August - Guest Speaker

Retired Lieutenant Colonel

Peter Sweeney RFD

Subject: "The Japanese Attack on Sydney Harbour"

Peter is a military historian, a battlefield Guide and an enrichment speaker on cruises to the South Pacific. He has just completed a Master of Military History degree through the Australian Defence Force Academy Canberra.

Wednesday 15th August

"Changi" Lunch

Hunters Hill Club 12:00 - 12:30

MONEY AND NAMES TODAY PLEASE

\$60 ea. Includes pre lunch drink and 3-course lunch plus informative talk from Wendell Watt whose father was a P.O.W. in Changi.

Cash or cheque IN ENVELOPE PLEASE,
With your name and activity on front.

Friday 17th August

Book Club

Hunters Hill Museum - 14:00

The book for the month is 'The Forgotten Garden' by Kate Morton, an Australian author

Afternoon Tea - Judith Dewsnap

Wednesday 22nd August

Opal Outing

Dendy Circular Quay film "The Book Club"
Movie commences at 10am. \$7 each including Morning Tea.

Meet at Theatre 9.30-9.45am.

Contact Ellen: 0404 004 117

President's Lunch

On a perfect winter's day on July 24th, Lane Cove Country Club was the venue for our President's Lunch. With the restaurant alongside the 9th fairway and the sun streaming in the windows it was a great setting for a presidential bash.

The tables were beautifully arranged and decorated thanks to a team of volunteers setting up earlier in the morning.

Some 53 members and guests joined in the celebrations, several being rewarded with lucky door prizes kindly donated by a number of generous benefactors.

Special thanks to Jill and her team for her organising skills, a good time was had by all.



WHAT'S COMING UP

General Meeting Tuesday 4th September

Guest Speaker

No details at time of going to press

Sun/Thurs 23rd/27th September

Simon Taylor Bus Tour

DUBBO AND SIDING SPRINGS

Please register today for this interesting
Coach trip to Dubbo and surrounding areas

With Taylor Made Tours. \$1025 pp t/s
Names and/or money today please in envelope
with name and details on the front.

Tuesday 30th OCTOBER

PORT HACKING LUNCHEON CRUISE

Come join us on this delightful
3-hour cruise on Port Hacking which includes
morning tea and a 2-course lunch.
Tour departs 9.30am return approx.. 4.30pm.

\$77 each.

Booking and or payment today please. Same
way – Envelope with money or cheque and de-
tails on front.

Next Year

25th February March 2019

Probus Group Cruise

8 days / 7 nights

Southern Barrier Reef Discovery Cruise

Onboard P & O Pacific Explorer

Contact Tony Saunders on 9817-1432

President's Lunch (cont'd)



Final Café Club

The final Café Club event attracted a very good response of 24 members to Carmen's on the Park, a popular venue previously visited several times. Everyone had fun as entertainment was provided by a singer and dancers from nearby Breakfast Point.

Carmen managed a variety of dishes for all those who attended. Dessert being a Chef's special of "Sticky Date pudding".

Ellen offered a big "thank you" to all her loyal friends for your support.



Finally I found a book that nobody had read before, and for most of us it proved rewarding, written as it was by Kahled Housseini, author of the better known 'The Kite Runner'. The book, 'And The Mountains Echoed' opens in Afghanistan with Baba telling his two children Abdullah and Pari the folk tale of a child stolen by a 'Div' or ogre, and the desperate search by the father of the missing child, to find him. When eventually he does he sees his child happy in a world for more beautiful than the world he can offer. Recognising the child's advantage, he leaves, but not before the Div gives him a potion that removes all memory of the lost child,

The next day Baba heads to Kabul with his daughter Pari whom he has arranged to sell to a rich couple, in order to provide for his other children. Abdullah, who has a huge bond with Pari as her mother died in child birth, and her step mother is diverted by her own son, refuses his father's instruction not to follow, and is forced to confront a new life when his little sister is left behind. Baba receives no potion to enable him to forget Pari.

The saga that follows is extensive and detailed spreading across continents as modern families do, to Pakistan, California, Paris, Greece and back to the village outside Kabul where it all started. As the synopsis says, 'it explores the ways in which the many generations love, wound, betray, honour and sacrifice for each other.' The tension is provided by the ever present question, will Abdullah and Pari meet again, and to what extent is the story of the 'Div' relevant?

Most of us found the plethora of characters absorbing, but for some in the group it was confusing, and we agreed a 'family tree' at the beginning could have helped. We all enjoyed the fact that Kahled Housseini did not dot every 'i' and cross every 't', but left something for us to ponder and to question. It was a book of reality, but optimism, not romance.

Annette Kent

Wendell's Column

As an introduction to our Changi dinner, here is the story of a friend Carole's family in the days before Singapore surrendered to the Japanese in World War II. The family were British expats and Carole's father worked on the Harbour Board as the Assistant Dockyard Manager.

Her mother's story:

Life in Singapore before the war was very pleasant, especially for a woman. We had a lot of parties and dinners, sport and dancing.

Rumours started flowing round in 1941 "The Japs are coming," but personally I never believed it. But, of course, they did.

We got about four hours' notice from the Governor on the 31st January 1942 saying that all women and children had to leave. We were only allowed to take one small suitcase and a scuttle bag each and some bonnets for the girls. Moyra was 4 the day we left, and Carole was not 3 yet. We got aboard the Empress of Japan on 31st January. Ironically, the Empress of Japan! We sailed out of Singapore on the 1st February. It was hell on board, a filthy ship. Food was very scarce. However, we survived. We were machine-gunned and bombed from planes and were battered down, confined to the lower decks for about 3 days.

We were all worried about our husbands as nobody knew where they were. At Durban the captain decided women and children had to get off. Most of the children by that time were ill because of a lack of vegetables and fruit, most of them had dysentery and had come out in sores.

I finished up by getting myself a job in Naval Headquarters. One day the commander I worked for, who used to meet all the ships that came into Durban, phoned from the docks and said, "Go and powder your nose, I am bringing a surprise for you in half an hour".

Barbara's Thought for the Month

If you are depressed, you are living in the past.

If you are anxious, you are living in the future.

If you are at peace, you are living in the present.

The author was a famous Chinese philosopher, Lan Tzu who was born in 604BC and it is very relevant today.

Editor's Musings

Why do you have to 'put your two cents in', but it's only a 'penny for your thoughts'?

Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up like every two hours?

Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they know there is not enough money?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

He arrived with my husband. He'd found Jack on board.

A human being can endure a lot of hardships without it really affecting your health or your mental health, if you have to.

Her father's story.

The official view was that Singapore "must not, shall not fall".

Until Tuesday, 10th February I had heard no hint of a possible evacuation from Singapore.

During the evening and night, heavy guns fired continuously westward over the dockyard, apparently onto the western beaches. At 8.15 p.m. the sound of the beach defense machine guns was heard, and machine gun fire was heard throughout the night from the direction of the beach at Labrador.

By Wednesday morning the battle front had reached the area of the docks, and troops, in great disorder, were seen retreating though Keppel Harbour village from dawn onwards.

Military lorries were being sabotaged and there was a fear that the Japanese would be in Keppel Harbour before the day was over. Trench mortar shells were dropping near the dockyard gates, Japanese bombers were very active, flying low with no apparent air opposition. Troop concentrations at the railway station were being bombed and dive bombing could be seen going on, presumably directed against forward troops.

As the situation appeared to be getting out of hand, the "Bagan" was victualled and baggage put on board. By 1p.m. Harbour Board officers began embarking. The "Bagan", with 144 people on board including six women and children, left without further delay, and though Japanese bombers passed overhead before the vessel cleared the harbour, they did not attack.

Carole's father eventually reached Durban where the family were unexpectedly reunited.

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

President - Margaret Conley	9817 0123
Immediate Past President - Garth Juster	9817 5434
Vice President - Mike Allum	9816 3269
Secretary - Margaret Timbs	9816 2374
Treasurer - Judith Butt	9879 3228
Activities Director - Jill Regnis	9808 2482
(outings only)	0467322244
Speakers - Carol Pelham	9808 5020
Welfare Officer - Peter Kelly	0411696583
Membership Officer - Gordon Sanson	0433238004
Ashlyn Allum - Committee	9816 3269
Book Club - Annette Kent	9816 3485
Newsletter Editor - Mike Allum	9816 3269
(email: mike.allum@bigpond.com)	
Honorary Auditor - Charles Kent	9816 3485

Probus Club of Hunters Hill

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



August Birthdays

Robyn Hogan	6
Peter Jackson	14
John Sorensen	14
Bruce Hattersley	24
Mike Allum	29

SPARE A MINUTE

Minutes of the 471st Meeting of
Hunters Hill Probus Club at the
Hunters Hill Club on
Tuesday 3rd July, 2018 at 9:30

OPENING

Following the opening of the meeting with the national anthem, the President, Margaret Conley, welcomed to the meeting a visitor, Bambi Michael. The president reminded members that Probus offers to members, Probus Travel Insurance, and there is a flyer with information on the back table. The president asked for those who have not yet signed in, could they please do so at morning tea. The president reminded members that today is collection day for non-perishables etc. for Hunters Hill/Ryde Community Aid, and could items please be placed in boxes at back of the hall. The president informed members that the seville oranges and jars are available today, and for those wanting same, please see Bob Mostyn.

CORRESPONDENCE

IN: Nomination Forms for North Sydney Community Awards from Trent Zimmerman – Federal Member for North Sydney. Emails from AON re General Property Insurance.

OUT: Email to AON confirming the acceptance of quote for General Property

Arthur Stace - The Eternity Man

Margaret Conley introduced Graham Sim, who spoke on Arthur Stace, who became famous in the first half of the 20th century for writing the word 'Eternity' in chalk on the streets of inner Sydney. Graham has previously spoken on Bea Miles, another famous Sydney street character.

Arthur Malcolm Stace was born in 1885 at Redfern, the fifth child of William Stace, a labourer from Mauritius, and his Australian wife Laura. Both his parents were drunkards, and he found himself on the streets by age 12. His two brothers ended up derelict drunkards and his sisters went into prostitution. He survived by wandering the streets and stealing, and by the age of 15 he was also an alcoholic.

When WWI broke out, he tried to enlist, but was refused because the Army was only taking the fittest recruits. After Gallipoli and the slaughter on the Western Front, the Army dropped the standard, and he enlisted, probably as a stretcher bearer. He was discharged medically unfit in 1919 and returned to his drunken ways, descending to drinking methylated spirits.

In 1930 Stace walked into St Barnabas Church, Broadway where he found many other men in the same condition as himself. He decided to change his ways and found steady work.

In the 1930s Stace heard the evangelist John Ridley tell a congregation in Burton Street Baptist Tabernacle that he wished he



could 'shout eternity through the streets of Sydney'. Stace was inspired! 'I felt a powerful call from the Lord to write "Eternity". I had a piece of chalk in my pocket, and I bent down right there and wrote it'; I've been writing it at least 50 times a day ever since.'

In 1942 Stace married Ellen

('Pearl') Dawson at St Barnabas Church, describing himself as a missionary. Stace became known as 'the Eternity Man', one of the characters of Sydney. For a while he tried writing 'Obey God', but 'it wasn't as good. Eternity makes 'em think'. His cryptic message in yellow waterproof chalk, written in copperplate, was inscribed on pavements from Martin Place to Parramatta, although he preferred the black surface of the pavements at King's Cross. 'Some of them concrete paths won't take it', he complained. 'Too light to show up.' It cost him 'six bob a day in chalk' when he was 'running hot'. His one-word message could weather three to six months; one in Surry Hills, he was told, lasted twelve.

Pearl died in 1961 and in 1965 Stace moved from Bulwara St Pyrmont into Hammondville Homes for the Aged. He died there on 30 July 1967, having bequeathed his body to the University of Sydney medical school and his savings to Baptist missions. He was buried with his wife Pearl in Botany cemetery. In 1977 a brass inscription was unveiled in a paving stone near the Sydney Square waterfall. In the familiar copperplate hand, it reads:

Eternity

payment of fees.

CAFÉ CLUB

Ellen McKeown asked members to see her at morning tea re a menu to be filled out for the lunch on 27th July.

The president informed members that this will be the last Café Club lunch and will be replaced by Opal Outings instead, with the possibility of an outing to Kiama.

BOOK CLUB

As Annette Kent was not at meeting, The president reminded that the next Book Club is on Friday 20th July. The book being read is "And the Mountains Echoed" by Khaled Hosseini.

MEN'S GROUP

Neville Davey is working on ideas. Please talk to Neville with your suggestions.

RAFFLE

Jim Judge sold 246 tickets.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Judith Butt presented her June report.

C/b bal 1 June 2018	\$3,781.22
Total receipts	\$1,527.00
Total expenses	\$1,550.96
C/b bal 30 June 2018	\$3,757.26

WELFARE REPORT

Peter Kelly presented his report.

ACTIVITIES

Jill Regnis spoke to the Activities Report..

MEMBERSHIP

Gordon Sanson informed members that we attain a high attendance at meetings, approximately 70 each month. He asked that if a member is unable to attend, please ask a friend to mark your absence on the sign-in sheet. It is expected that members will attend at least 50% of meetings. One member has been retired from the Club for non-

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