

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

Tuesday 6th February - Guest Speaker

Ret'd Chief Inspector Gary Raymond

APM OAM

"Life on the Front Line"

Gary recounts some of his many experiences working in the Police Force, the Police Rescue Squad and CID. His post-retirement activities are as impressive as his "working" career

42nd BIRTHDAY LUNCH

Tuesday, 13th February, 2018

North Ryde Golf Club

Last day for payment at meeting on 6th February, 2018. Please place your payment of \$55 each in an envelope with your name, correct money, and outing written on front and hand to Mike or Jill at meeting.

A pre-lunch drink will be served from 12 o'clock, seating will be at 12.30pm.

Book Club

Friday February 16th 14:00

Hunters Hill Museum

Afternoon Tea - Deidre Walker

HERON ISLAND

18TH - 23RD FEBRUARY, 2018

We look forward to joining our fellow travellers at HH Post Office for 5.30am departure to domestic airport for 6am check-in. Please be there by 5.20 am. Emails have been sent to all with the relevant departure and tour details.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Your annual membership subscription of \$45 is now overdue from the 1st January.

Please pay your subscription direct to
Judith Butt

Meet Your Next President

Margaret spent her early years on a sheep, wheat & lucerne farm between Dubbo and Narromine. It was a great place to grow up. She was her Dad's offside and number one helper. Because they did not have money to regularly call a vet, he showed her how to identify and help sick farm animals and he had lots of veterinary-type books which she devoured. Her schooling was initially in Dubbo, a 13-mile bus ride each way from home and for the last 5 years at PLC Orange. A bit later she spent some years studying at Macquarie University.

She wanted to be a country veterinarian, but her father strongly discouraged her as, at that time, most farmers would not even consider having a woman vet on their property. Interested in anatomy, she studied radiography, and worked in public hospitals in Sydney and country NSW.

Her biggest influences were initially her Dad who loved fixing things, farming in all its aspects and reading and reciting the poetry of Banjo Patterson & Henry Lawson. Then her Mum who inspired her to be brave and do whatever she wanted to do as well as she possibly could. Then her second husband Allan who ran hospitals - Mona Vale, Royal Canberra and ultimately Royal Brisbane, the then biggest hospital in this hemisphere. They had a lively and mutual interest in health politics and loved to talk about it.

Marriage to her first husband, Peter was an adventure: they ran hotels in the country, the first at Barmedman, and then managed the Astra Hotel at Bondi (opposite Icebergs). After the marriage failed, she spent 6 months travelling overland from England through Europe, into Asia Minor to Nepal: the only country she did not get to visit was Lebanon.

Sometime later, she and Allan got together, and she happily gained an interest in his children and now four grandchildren, two of whom are at university and the other two are completing their schooling. Allan died just over two years ago, and she really enjoys being able to spend time with his children and grandchildren.

She later changed careers, after completing some university studies in politics, history, management and comparative religion. She got a great job in Canberra working for the Health Minister in the Hawke Government as his public health policy advisor - this was the time of HIV aids and the grim reaper, the better health commission, no smoking on aeroplanes and much more. She would not have missed those years for anything, so much public health progress, long hours, dramas and fun too. After that, she began 20 years in CEO positions in the not-for-profit area. The organisations included the Public Health Association of Australia, Australian Business Volunteers that operated in the Pacific and SE Asia, and finally the Australian Veterinary Association. There was a lot of travel in those years around the Pacific and SE Asia, to Geneva, South Africa, the UK and the Americas. She was very fortunate to see so much of the world. In all these jobs she had the great good fortune to work with people passionate about their area and with big hearts. That was not always easy, but the tough times made her stronger.

Among her hobbies she lists bush walking, meditation, yoga, travel and poetry. She goes to exercise classes as well as hatha yoga and tries to make time to meditate every day. Mondays are for bushwalking. She takes classes about Japanese poetic forms including haiku and tanka, and sometimes gets stuff published in journals which is gratifying.

Apart from hobbies she now spends her time on a few boards which she continues to enjoy - one is Delta Society which trains people and their dogs to visit nursing homes, workplaces etc and another is a cemetery trust which looks after a range of public cemeteries including Macquarie Park. And after many years, she recently stepped down from the Board of PRASAD Australia which she helped to get started: this organisation works with some very poor village people near Mumbai in India. Aside from all this she wants to have time to keep travelling, especially in Australia which is such a magic country.

She moved from Lane Cove to Hunters Hill more than 3 years ago and wanted to get to know local people. There are lots of Probus members where she lives at the Heritage and they clearly have fun participating, travelling and doing their best to make sure the Probus Club of Hunters Hill continues to flourish. She wanted to sign on to that project to ensure that this Probus Club does continue to flourish and to expand her circle of friends.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 6th March
No Guest speaker

ANNUAL BBQ (This time a Spit Roast)
Wednesday 21st March
QUARANTINE STATION AT ABBOTSFORD

\$30 all inclusive cost for spit roast with salad accompaniments, dessert and drinks.

Please bring plates, cutlery and glass.

See Newsletter insert for further detail. Names and money February and March meetings.

NEWCASTLE TRIP IN MAY

Brochures available – see Jill or Mike

Whales Ahoy

Some people win the lottery. We thought we had when we holidayed in Airlie Beach.

A friend of ours son arranged a private day out on the Whitsundays on a luxury catamaran from Hamilton Island. It turned out to be a magic day in glorious sunshine and on a turquoise sea.

As we departed the harbour, Jan said to our skipper, “I would dearly love to see a whale for the first time”. She had no longer asked the question when 2 pods of 8 animals surrounded us and frolicked for half an hour, you could distinctly hear their “singing”. The whole time our cameras were clicking madly.

The final sighting being a mother watching proudly as her new born calf jumped out of the water just beside us! Sensational! As the day progressed they eventually disappeared and we finished up extremely pleased having watched 13 whales in total.

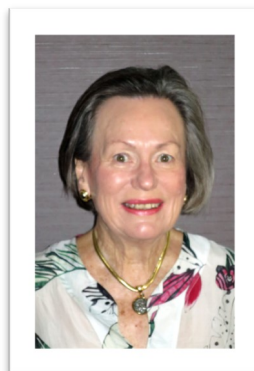
On our way back to the marina a school of dolphins appeared as a swirling mass having found a school of fish and were in a feeding frenzy. We spotted two Sea Eagle nests on one of the islands.

Overall, a whale of a day!

Greg Griffiths



Meet New Members



Anne Day



Robyn Hogan



Olena Holubinskyj

Wendell's Column

I have just made my first visit to Tasmania and have stood on The Edge of the World. True, although I'm no believer in any flat earth theory. The name is merely a name, although official, and yet it did seem as if I was on the edge of something special. The whole area is called Gardiner Point, a rocky cape in NW Tasmania facing west across the Great Southern Ocean. We stand on The Edge and are looking straight towards South America, across the world's longest stretch of ocean uninterrupted by land. The sea is swept along thousands of kilometres by the winds of the Roaring Forties, and reaches its landfall here. The scene is mind blowing (as also is the wind!). Rows of breakers advance steadily in long lines towards the wide beach and roll over. The roar of the surf is loud and continuous. The clean air clears all the cobwebs away and the sea spray coats lips with salt.

Here too is the mouth of the Arthur River after a meandering journey through the Tarkine rainforest. Migratory birds gather on the beach near huge piles of driftwood carried down by the river from the forest. Their nesting sites are near.

We stayed for a few days in the small township in this very 'happening' place and even Sydney now seems tame by comparison.

A cruise up the Arthur River was capped by a walk through the rainforest towards the lunch site. After a good Aussie barbie, Rob our guide introduced us the magnificent rainforest trees, stringy bark, myrtle, sassafras, tree ferns, leatherwood. The leatherwoods were coming into flower and dropping tiny white petals on the river surface and the rainforest floor. The blossom produces honey treasured by both bees and humans. Try it and compare it with the honey from Kangaroo Island which we collected on our last Probus trip.

At the end of the Lake St Clair National Park walk (we drove there) we saw bushwalkers just finishing their hard trek. They bounded past, looking satisfied and happy, but after one look at the huge packs they carried, I felt very tired. How time moves on!

January Café Club

Twenty five members came along to Carmen's, Barnwell Park Golf Club.

Unfortunately we only have the one photo. Here's Barbara and Les Banner with Dierdre Walker.



Barbara's Thoughts for the Month

'Some people are old at eighteen and some are young at ninety. Time is a concept that humans created.'

Author unknown

'If a cluttered desk is a sign on of cluttered mind, of what is an empty desk a sign?'

Albert Einstein

Editor's Musings

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?

Before you criticise someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you do criticise them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.

A Bit of Probus History

Probus has its origins in the United Kingdom, with the development of two community-based social clubs in the 1960s.

In 1965, the Campus Club was formed by the Rotary Club of Welwyn, Garden City, just north of London. In 1966, the first Probus club was established by the Rotary Club of Caterham.

Both clubs were formed to meet the social and intellectual needs of retired businessmen. When it became clear that the clubs were servicing the same need, the Campus club changed its name.

The first Probus club in the South Pacific region was the Probus Club of Kapiti Coast, New Zealand. The club was formed in 1974 and was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Paraparaumu. This was soon followed by the formation of the Probus Club of Hunters Hill, NSW in 1976.

The first Probus club for women in the region was the Ladies Club of St Heliers, New Zealand in 1982. This was closely followed by Bateau Bay, NSW later that year. Following the advent of single gender clubs, the concept of combined gender clubs was developed. Today, there are men's, ladies' and combined clubs.

Since the first clubs were established in New Zealand and Australia, Probus has grown at an astonishing rate, and is administered by Probus South Pacific Limited, based in Parramatta NSW.

Probus is a worldwide movement in 23 countries. The success of the organisation is seen through the commitment of members and the wide recognition of Probus as a community service program. The Probus philosophy - friendship, fellowship and fun - lives on.

Book Club News

The Book Club is a group of Probus men and women who share a love of literature. We have eclectic taste and read a wide variety of genres, classic, thriller, fiction, non-fiction, history and biography. Every body has an input into the book selected each month, though ultimately the choice is limited to a list of 99 books available from the Gladesville Library. We have four weeks to read the book. but no demerit if a busy month precludes achieving this. We assemble at the Museum at the west end of the Hunters Hill Town Hall at 2pm, on the third Friday of every month. and then the fun starts. Each person is asked for a brief opinion of the book, and this can vary wildly. A selection of questions is provided by the library, but often passions are such about a book that these prove unnecessary. There is feisty discussion and differing opinions are normal. The meeting ends with a simple afternoon tea and the year ends with a special lunch, usually at Ottimo in Hunters Hill. Last year all eleven of us attended. The group has a great feeling of shared experience.

Annette Kent

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

- President - Garth Juster 9817 5434
- Vice President - Margaret Conley 9817 0123
- Immediate Past President - Peter Kelly 0411696583
- Secretary - Ann Juster 9817 5434
- Treasurer - Judith Butt 9879 3228
- Activities Director - Jill Regnin 9808 2482
- Speakers - Carol Pelham 9808 5020
- Welfare Officer - Barbara Gardner 9816 4639
- Membership Officer - Ian Adair 0407018071
(email: ian.r.adair@hotmail.com)
- Honorary Auditor - Charles Kent 9816 3485
- Book Club - Annette Kent 9816 3485
- Newsletter Editor - Mike Allum 9816 3269
(email: mike.allum@bigpond.com)

**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
- David Brown** 10
- Mearle Denton** 13
- Alison O'Neill** 16
- David Bowman** 19
- Deirdre Page** 19
- Dawn Saunders** 19
- Greg Griffiths** 22
- Nancy Hattersley** 23
- Gwen Macree** 25
- Charles Kent** 26
- Doreen Carter** 28

SPARE A MINUTE

Minutes of the 465h Meeting of
Hunters Hill Probus Club at the
Hunters Hill Club on
Tuesday 2nd January, 2018 at 9:30

OPENING

Following the opening of the meeting with the national anthem, the President Garth Juster inducted new members Olena Holubinskyj, Anne Day and Robyn Hogan and welcomed visitor Kathie O'Sullivan.

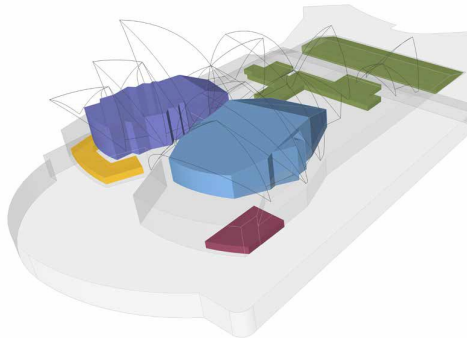
At present the management committee is planning the 2018/19 committee. The meeting was urged to think about each member's involvement in being on the committee. The meeting was advised that nomination forms for any proposed new committee member are available from the president.

Membership subscriptions are now due and members were urged to pay their subscription direct to Judith Butt.

A Makeover for the Opera House

Garth Juster introduced Tim Graham, who is the *Coordinator of the Opera House Renewal Project*.

Since opening its doors in 1973, the Opera House has become the symbol of modern Australia and the country's premier tourist destination. It has been home to thousands of inspiring performances over more than 40 years. But the star turn remains the building itself, with a national-identity value estimated at \$4.6 billion. Now, this wonder of 20th century architecture needs to be renewed for the 21st century.



and stage and backstage areas. A specially designed acoustic ceiling and reflectors will better distribute sound to performers on stage and to audiences in all parts of the hall. Automated draping will allow it to quickly adapt to different types of performances.

Wheel chair accessibility will be greatly improved.

In 2015 the Opera House announced it would self-fund a \$45 million Renewal project to replace equipment that had reached the end of its operational life in the Joan Sutherland Theatre. The NSW Government contributed a further \$26 million and the theatre was

closed between May and December 2017.

In 2016 the Vehicle Access and Pedestrian Safety project was completed, removing more than 1,000 heavy-vehicle movements a week from the Forecourt and diverting them to a new tunnel and underground loading dock. The project has improved the safety of pedestrians and returned this magnificent space to the tens of thousands of people who approach the Opera House every day.

This will allow the Entry & Foyers project to transform the way the outside of the Opera House connects with the inside. The newly paved and vehicle-free Forecourt has helped realise this vision. This project will continue all the way under the Monumental Steps, turning the 3000 square-metre area that has become the Opera House's second front door into a car-free entrance and meeting place. The Concert Hall is the heart of the Opera House. The biggest upgrade since the Opera House opened will replace outdated theatre systems and improve acoustics, accessibility,

Finally, the new Function Centre will replace the existing events marquee on the Northern Broadwalk. This flexible, all-weather event space will offer direct access to the Northern Broadwalk and will be available year-round, with capacity for up to 500 people at a cocktail event or 190 people seated. From the inside, floor-to-ceiling windows will provide dramatic views of Sydney Harbour. Total cost is budgeted at \$200 million and work is scheduled to be finished in 2023.

Ed: There is a summary of the overall project at the following Web address.

<https://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/our-story/Renewal.html>

(no hyphen after "our")

CORRESPONDENCE

OUT: An email was sent to Adrian Nieuwenhuizen thanking him for his assistance in purchasing and installing our new sound system.

IN: A thank you reply was received from Adrian.

TREASURERS REPORT

Judith Butt presented the treasury report for December 2017

C/b bal 1 December 2017	\$12,104
Total receipts	\$46,708
Total payments	\$56,340
C/b bal 31 December 2017	\$2,472

WELFARE REPORT

Barbara presented her report and 2 "Thoughts for the Month"

BOOK CLUB

Nil input as no meeting in January.

ACTIVITIES

Jill Regnis tabled an Activities Report to the

general meeting which is attached to last month's Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP

Ian Adair advised the meeting that the Café Club lunch will be held on Friday 19 January at 1pm at Carmen's on the Park, Barnwell Park Golf Club, 551 Lyons Road West, Five Dock. Cost is \$20 for the lunch special.

There were 62 members present and 17 apologies including 1 member on leave of absence as listed on the attendance register.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Judge sold 224 raffle tickets.

Interview - Mike Allum conducted a question and answer interview with Margaret Conley. This 'get to know you' item was very well received.

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