

# 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

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Next Meeting Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup>

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#### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Guest Speaker - Julian Leatherdale  
History researcher with an extensive  
bio including photo editor "Time Life"  
magazine, film writer and PR  
manager and author

Topic: Palace of Tears A fictional story set  
in the historical Hydro Majestic Hotel

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#### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January

#### Opal Outing - NSW Art Gallery

Art from "The Hermitage"

Please meet at the Art Gallery at 2pm The  
441 bus from Park Street will take you to  
the gallery- the bus stop is adjacent to the  
stop from the '5' series buses. Names  
please to Jill at the meeting. (or by phone).

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#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January

#### Book Club

Hunters Hill Museum - 14:00

Discuss structure, new convenor,  
books members have read and recom-  
mend

Afternoon Tea - Vincie

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#### Reminder

Annual subscriptions are due at the  
January meeting and Judith would be de-  
lighted to receive your cheques or cash

## Standing Resolutions

On 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 the members approved changes to the Standing Resolutions to increase the membership fee to \$50 per person per year and to raise the non-active membership fee to \$25. The \$10 joining fee remains unchanged. In addition, the process of offering membership of our club to prospective members was clarified and approved. The number of members for the Probus Club of Hunters Hill remains at 100.

On the day there was considerable discussion about the number of members, a majority opting to retain the *status quo*. A minority were disappointed, seeing an increase in numbers as an opportunity to increase the talent pool for positions, including on the Management Committee, and to raise more income for the club. That said, we do have a number of newer and talented members, and I feel sure that some of them will step forward to fill volunteer roles.

Your Management Committee is currently looking at our budget to identify potential savings. Increasing costs are something we all must contend with, including for our Club. In order to have sufficient reserves to cover fixed expenses for a year in advance (a standard and recommended practice for clubs and organisations like ours), I need to foreshadow the likelihood of a further increase in membership fees during 2019.

I hope everyone had a happy and healthy Christmas, and I look forward to being with you in 2019.

Margaret Conley

## Meet New(er) Members



Chris Coulter



Richard Jones



Bronwyn Ellens



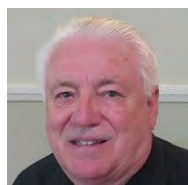
Jean Clinch



Richard Collins



David Ward



Bambi Michael



Chris Schofield

My apologies, I'm just catching up with new member photos.

Ed.

**WHAT'S COMING UP**

**Monday 4th February 2019**

Good Old Days Concert  
David Hobson with Claire Lyon  
2pm start at the Sydney Town Hall  
- please be there by 1.45.

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**Tuesday 12th February**

43rd Birthday dinner 5.30pm  
Onwards at the Hunters Hill Club - \$60 - menu to be advised at meeting.  
Names and payment at January and February Meetings - in envelope with name, etc. on front

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**25th February March**

Probus Group Cruise  
Southern Barrier Reef Discovery Cruise  
Contact Tony Saunders - 9817 1432

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**Wed 27th March - Sun 31st March**

Melbourne Flower and Garden Show  
5 days/4 nights  
FULL PAYMENTS due today - please see Jill and Mike with cheques made out to Hunters Hill Probus Club.

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**Monday 15th April**

Town Hall Concert - VIENNA NIGHTS  
Bookings and payment \$45 at Jan./Feb. meetings. This concert features Tenor Daniel Belle and Soprano Georgia Wilkinson singing our favourites from Strauss, Franz Lehar, Mozart etc.

**Record Attendance at Xmas Lunch**

Seventy-four members attended our club's Christmas lunch on Wednesday 12th December. This is believed to be a record.

After members and guests collected their pre-lunch drinks and took their seats, President Margaret Conley welcomed everyone and wished them compliments of the season. Jill passed on a message from Pat Cox who was unable to attend but relayed her best wishes for the lunch and the festive season.

Once again, the Hunters Hill Club put on a beautiful presentation, with Christmas decorations, excellent food and their usual first-class service.

During lunch Margaret Conley and Jill Regnis conducted the lucky door prize draw, with great prizes being won. It was a very happy occasion, and our thanks go to Jill for all the hard work she put into the organisation.



**Wendell's Column**

January is summer holidays, a long break from school, heat, swimming and fun with friends. I grew up in Oatley, a bushy suburb on the Georges River. We used to swim in Oatley Bay on the river. The water was always thick with brown silt and when you waded in for a swim, you pushed your way through oily brown mud, a delicious way for a kid to start the day. The mud would wash off as you reached deeper water, then would paste your legs all over again as you came out. The bay was protected by shark-proof netting as the river was notorious for sharks. Now they never seem to be a problem in the rivers.

Summer too is the sound of cicadas and the thrill of collecting. Finding samples of each species was another holiday occupation. Ellen McKeown saw a group of our handsome Australians Green Grocers, Yellow Mondays, Floury Bakers, Black Princes in a display on a recent visit to Eden Gardens. Others in the display, the largest ones, were collected in Malaysia. What our Australians lack in size is made up for by the noise they make. Can be deafening. They are a noisy lot and can be shameless too, shedding their waste fluids on innocent passers-by. Walking in the bush once, I was showered by fine droplets falling from the myriads of cicadas in the trees above. The droplets are waste fluid expelled by the insects, so-called cicada urine and spit. Sounds disgusting but it was just like fine rain and not at all unpleasant.

We had thickets of blackberries growing in all the vacant blocks along our street. Just weeds, but in summer they produced crops of the most luscious shiny dark berries you could imagine. We used to force our way through the thorny canes to reach the ripest ones, in spite of my mother's warning, 'Be careful of snakes.' Snakes however were forgotten when we took pails of the berries (we did not eat all of them) back home and Mum set about cooking another of her famous blackberry pies. Now you pay an exorbitant sum of money to buy a small punnet in the supermarket. I hate to pay good dollars for a weed, but well, when the mouth starts watering, what can you do?

**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

**Xmas Lunch cont.**



**Book Club**



December's meeting discussed reports of some good recommended books we have read.

The next Book Club meeting will be on the Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January when each member will talk about a book they have enjoyed. Also up for discussion will be the appointment of a new convener as Annette has stood down and how to organise the club.

Vincie will be providing afternoon tea.

**Barbara's Thought for the Month**

*"Never does a man portray his character more vividly than his proclaiming the character of another."*

*Author: Winston Churchill - former British Prime Minister*

**Editor's Musings**

Whose idea was it to put an 'S' in the word 'lisp'?

If you lend someone \$20, and never see that person again; it was probably worth it.

The statistics on sanity is that one out of every four persons are suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends – if they're okay, then it's you.

**Probus Club of  
Hunters Hill**

PO BOX 1041



**January Birthdays**

<b>Jill Regnis</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Margaret Timbs</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Darryl Tutton</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Ian Adair</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Barbara Jago</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Bill Patterson</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Judith Love</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Josef Stockreiter</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Gary Trill</b>	<b>28</b>

**SPARE A MINUTE**

Minutes of the 476<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
Hunters Hill Probus Club at the  
Hunters Hill Club on  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am

**OPENING**

Following the opening of the meeting with the National Anthem, the President, Margaret Conley, welcomed the following visitors to the meeting: Bambi Michael, Fay and Jim Likidis, Barbara Enright, Flora Deverall, Ross Dive, Kevin Manie and Kathy O'Sullivan

The president introduced a new member, Bambi Michael.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The president informed that a condensed version of the minutes for the November meeting is contained in the newsletter. The detail from the minutes about the discussion around the change in Standing Orders did not make it into the abbreviated minutes for which she apologised.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

The president introduced the proposed changes to our Standing Resolutions for voting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Margaret Timbs informed:  
**IN:** Letter from PSPL re the resignation of PSPL Director Dr. John Carson.

**Macarthur, Visionary of Villain**

Chris Schofield introduced Patrick Dodd, whose subject was *John Macarthur, Visionary or Villain?* John Macarthur (1767-1834) is remembered by most people for laying the foundations of the great Australian wool industry. But was he a great patriot of the colony of New South Wales, or was he just a chancer who would use any situation for his own benefit?, and ruin other people to do so? From a humble childhood spent in Rural Devon, John Macarthur became a soldier, entrepreneur, pastoralist, rebel, duelist and one of the founding fathers of Australia.

Although his family had no military background, at the age of 15 Macarthur joined the army as an ensign. When his regiment was disbanded in 1783, he retired on half-pay to a farm in Devon, where he remained for five years while trying to secure another military placement. During that time he married Elizabeth Veale. In June 1789 he joined the New South Wales Corps, then being raised for duty at Botany Bay, as a lieutenant. In October 1789 Macarthur and his wife and baby son Edward sailed for New South Wales in the infamous Second Fleet. He was involved in a series of disputes with the second master of the Neptune, Thomas Gilbert, which resulted in a bloodless duel, the first of a series of duels during Macarthur's life. Macarthur had hopes of a quick promotion and return to England. Owing to his belligerent character, he was involved in a series of hostilities which resulted in a reprimand from Governor Arthur Phillip.

After Phillip returned to England in 1792, Macarthur's fortunes improved with the arrival of Major Francis Grose, the new commanding officer of the New South Wales Corps, and acting governor. Being a military man, Grose was more sympathetic to the New South Wales officers than Phillip and allowed them to pursue commercial activities. They were given land grants, gifts of stock and large numbers of convicts to work their properties. Macarthur used these advantages to establish Elizabeth Farm on 100 acres at Parramatta. He soon became one of the largest landowners in the colony, and in 1795 Grose promoted him to captain.

Grose was replaced by John Hunter, like Phillip a naval man. Macarthur resented having his favoured position taken away. Hunter described

him as 'restless, ambitious and litigious.' Macarthur went over Hunter's head to his superiors in England, and Hunter was recalled. Macarthur decided to return to England. He offered the next governor, Philip Gidley King his entire holdings for £4,000, and then began a campaign to discredit him. This resulted in Macarthur alienating his superior officer, William Paterson, who challenged Macarthur to a duel. Paterson was wounded, and Macarthur was placed under arrest and sent to England for court martial. The military hierarchy in London ruled it was impossible to investigate Macarthur's case in England and returned him to New South Wales, recommending that the matter be dropped.

Macarthur resigned his commission and stayed in England. He decided to take the opportunity to promote the colony's wool industry. He obtained Spanish (merino) sheep from the Royal flock and was granted 5,000 acres, with a further 5,000 if results warranted. When he returned to Sydney, Governor King accepted this situation despite his feud with Macarthur. But Macarthur wasn't finished making enemies. In March 1805 William Bligh succeeded King as governor. Bligh was unimpressed by Macarthur's influence and demands, and their mutual hostility resulted in the rebellion that deposed Bligh.

Macarthur and Major George Johnston went to England to defend their actions against William Bligh. Johnston was cashiered, but Macarthur, being a civilian, escaped a charge of treason. He remained in England to escape prosecution in New South Wales.

In 1817 Governor Macquarie allowed him to return provided he didn't take part in public affairs. On his return he continued his quarrels with Governors Macquarie and Darling. His health deteriorated, and he died at Camden Park in April 1834.

Macarthur spent so much time fighting governors and facing a court martial in England, his practical achievements owe a great deal to the persistence and loyalty of his wife and sons.

An invitation from Probus Club of Gladesville, inviting us to a concert by Sydney Welsh Choir.

Letter from PSPL advising of increase of Capitation

**OUT:** Emails to 5 local Primary schools confirming dates of Presentation Ceremonies and the names of students receiving the awards.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Judith Butt presented her report.	
C/b bal 1 November 2018	\$2,976.65
Total Receipts	\$5,952.00
Total Expenses	\$ 768.28
C/b bal 30 November 2018	\$8,160.37

**WELFARE**

Peter Kelly presented his report.

**ACTIVITIES**

Jill Regnis presented her report.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Gordon Sanson. Nil to report.  
Ashlyn Allum addressed the members and congratulated the Tea Committee volunteer members on the wonderful job they perform each month: John Johnson, Caye Higgs, Dawn Saunders and John Malone.

**BOOK CLUB**

Annette Kent unable to be at the meeting.

**RAFFLE**

Bob Mostyn sold 295 raffle tickets.

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