

# 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 General Meeting  
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**Tuesday 3rd July - Guest Speaker**  
**Graham Simms**

Subject: Arthur Stace "The Eternity Man"  
Graham will recount the story of the person behind the mysterious appearance around the streets of Sydney of the word "eternity"  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Wednesday July 4th

#### OPAL Outing

Leaving Drummoyne Oval, Bayswater Street, Drummoyne 10:04am  
M50 bus to Coogee leaving 10:04am or hop on at Park Street opposite Woolworths at 10:23am  
Coogee Bay Hotel lunch  
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### Friday 20th July Book Club

Hunters Hill Museum - 14:00  
'And the Mountains Echoed' by Kahled Housseine.  
Afternoon Tea - Joan Gai  
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### Tuesday 24th July

#### President's Lunch

Lane Cove Country Club, River Road, Lane Cove.  
Pre lunch drink, 2 course buffet lunch  
\$60 - Bookings and payment at July meeting  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Friday 27th July

#### Café Club

Carmen's on the Park  
Barnwell Park Golf Club  
Contact Ellen  
0404 004 117

Note: This is the last Café Club event. To be replaced by "Opal Outings"

## Cartier Exhibition - Canberra

Have you seen a photo of Eskimos emerging from their igloos swathed in furs with only the slits of their eyes showing? This was how our party looked arriving at 8.15 am to board our bus to Canberra. Obviously, everyone had checked the Canberra weather report showing a low of 1 degree C!

After a morning tea break for hot drinks to revitalise our system and then a pizza lunch we drove to the exhibition with great expectation. The ladies' eyes sparkling now with lust, not so for the several men accompanying them.

The exhibition included incredible diamonds, emeralds and other precious stones with loans from royalty, aristocrats, celebrities and the astonishing Cartier Collection itself, in exquisite settings, such as royal tiaras, necklaces, brooches and earrings.

Highlights included selections from Cartier's international clientele, Dame Nellie Melba, the Queen's "Halo" tiara, Daisy Fellowes, Barbara Hutton, Princess Grace, Dame Elizabeth Taylor, a selection of the NGA's exceptional Ballets Russes costumes and an insight into the history of Cartier.

Our second day included a very interesting tour of the Arboretum where many trees are still being planted. We were also given some insights into the lives of the cadets at Duntroon when we were driven around the campus by our bus driver who had been a cadet for one year in the 1970s. We were then able to separate to our own areas of special interest; Old Parliament House, National Museum, War Memorial and the High Court where all seven judges were in session.

A yummy quiche lunch followed and then back home warm and contented having enjoyed our trip which Jill had organised so well for us.

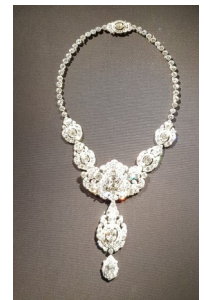


Rugged up and ready to go

Greg Griffiths



Nibbles at dusk



A very small sample

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My thanks to Ellen McKeown for the number of photos she sent me. My problem was simply, which do I choose.

**WHAT'S COMING UP**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July**  
**President's Lunch**

Lane Cove Country Club, River Road, Lane Cove.  
Pre lunch drink, 2 course buffet lunch  
\$60 - Bookings and payment  
at July Meeting

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**General Meeting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August**  
**Guest Speaker**

No details at time of going to press

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**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August**  
**"Changi" Lunch**

Hunters Hill Club 12:00 - 12:30

To commemorate the signing of the peace declaration by the Japanese at the end of the war in the Pacific. A special 3-course menu has been drawn up - Wendell Watt's father was a P.O.W. and released soon after that time. Wendell has prepared a talk accompanied by photographic slides and other material. We have invited members of the RSL to join us for this function.

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**Sun/Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Simon Taylor Bus Tour**

Dubbo and Siding Springs

See Jill for brochure and expressions of interest

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**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Port Hacking luncheon cruise**

3 hour cruise including morning tea  
and 2-course lunch.

Departs 9:30am returns 4:30pm  
\$77 pp. Jill to provide more detail

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**Next Year**  
**25<sup>th</sup> 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

**Goat Island**

Wendy, our NP&WS guide, met our group of 20 odd at the Harbourmaster's Steps and travelled with us to Goat island on a sunny and bright Sunday.

Goat Island has long been a significant place in Port Jackson. The island, known as Me-mel by the local Cadigal people, was once inhabited by Bennelong and his lady, Barangaroo. Since European settlement, it played an important and fascinating role in the development of Sydney's cityscape.

It was once the fledgling colony's gunpowder store and the source of the sandstone used in some of Sydney's finest buildings. Quarried by convict labour, the stone was also used in the island's own structures, including the superb magazine with walls so thick the temperature inside remains steady, whatever the season. The island was also the headquarters for the Sydney Water Police who kept an eye out for smugglers and escaped convicts.

In 1900 all explosives were removed from Goat Island. By 1901 the island had become the depot for the Sydney Harbour Trust, responsible for the maintenance of that body's significant fleet of tugs, dredgers and other floating plant. Over the following years until the mid-1920s, the island saw the construction of a harbour master's house on the highest point of the island, together with four cottages for married members of the fireboat crew stationed on the island, and a barracks for the unmarried members of the same crew.[9]

In more recent years it has been a location for filming, including the television series *Water Rats*, and rock concerts from Midnight Oil in 1985 and Green Day in 2000.

On 14 October 2016, it was announced by the then NSW Premier Mike Baird that Goat Island was to be returned to Aboriginal people of NSW and that the island had enormous cultural heritage significance for Aboriginal people. His government was committed to ensuring Aboriginal leadership in management and decision-making for the sustainable use of Goat Island. Apparently, this is still work in progress.

Our thanks to Jill for another well organised, including the weather, outing.



Enjoying the trip



Cooperage



Harbourmaster's House



and the view



Time to leave



Inside the Gunpowder Magazine

<b>Wendell's Column</b>	<b>Book Club</b>
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Ross McBride tells us that when the Bank of England issued a new five pound note last November, vegans complained to the Queen that the plastic notes contained tallow, an animal byproduct. The Queen wisely referred the problem back to the bank, who made the positive suggestion that the vegans use gloves when handling them. The plastic notes are made of polymer, which contains less than 0.05% of animal fat, and are difficult to counterfeit. The only other alternative is to use palm oil, whose production is responsible for deforestation in tropical regions and causes loss of habitat to many animals and to human populations. Our own banknotes have been made of polymer for over twenty years. Aussie vegans have responded by saying that our world is not vegan and compromises are necessary.

Sandy Mower has returned from the rainforest in Brunei, a small state on the island of Borneo. She stayed in an ecolodge on the forest edge by the Temburong River. A cruise down the river revealed many wild creatures coming out of the jungle to the river on the hot 35degrees C day: orang-utans, proboscis monkeys, hornbill birds, crocodiles, and pigmy elephants enjoying a swim. The Borneo pygmies, about two metres high, are an endangered species and the world's smallest elephants. Sandy also visited the war memorial in Sandakan, a city in Sabah near Brunei. The memorial commemorates the Australian and British POWs imprisoned in Sandakan, who were sent on a march inland when the Japanese were losing the war. Of two thousand prisoners, only six survived the march.

Barbara is another tripper returned from Europe after cruising down the Danube from Amsterdam to Budapest. A highlight of the cruise was a visit to a Viennese castle. There Barbara and her group were entertained by a chamber music group, a ten-piece orchestra and two opera singers with magnificent voices, in an elegant room all gold and white, antique chairs, elegant chandeliers. Above the haunting music, she could almost hear the rustling of crinolines. Outside in the gardens among flourishing trees, they witnessed a rivetting display of falconry, carried by a falconer seated on a white horse, and dressed in colourful medieval gear. Before the cruise, she attended a concert with can-can dancers at the Moulin Rouge in Paris. The dancers, she was told, are mostly Australian girls, chosen for their beauty. Take a bow, ladies, and gentlemen, count your blessings.



"Gilead" was a most unusual read from the highly acclaimed author Marilynne Robinson; a letter written by a Protestant minister to his six year old son in the knowledge of his own impending death. The narration was slow moving , and though initially many of us were not sure what to make of it, after an hour of debate around the discussion questions most of us agreed that we were pleased to have read Gilead.

Marilynne Robinson has an elegant gentle style, a wry humour, and covered many significant events from the perspective of a small protestant rural town; the American Civil War, WWI, WWII and the stirrings of the Civil Rights Movement. She touched on many significant issues such as familial love, ageing, racism, pacifism, religiosity and atheism. The musings of Pastor John Ames as he wrote to his son were told through the prism of religious philosophy, providing an interesting view of a microcosm of American rural society at a time when almost all of the population of the USA professed to be Christians.

Next month's book is 'And the Mountains Echoed' by Kahled Housseine. This is the third book by the author of The Kite Runner.

Annette Kent

**Barbara's Thought for the Month**

"The reason some people don't recognise opportunity is because it often comes disguised as hard work".

Author unknown.

**Editor's Musings**

- Why isn't phonetic spelt the way it sounds?
- There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.
- All generalisations are false, including this one.
- Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.
- Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

**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                | 98163269   |
| 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



**July Birthdays**

<b>Gus Green</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>John Johnson</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Ross McBride</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Ellen McKeown</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Judy Davey</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Jennifer Lea-Tutton</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Barbara Grant</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Margaret Conley</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Lydia Bayer</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Carol Pelham</b>	<b>31</b>

**SPARE A MINUTE**

Minutes of the 470<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
Hunters Hill Probus Club at the  
Hunters Hill Club on  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 at 9:30

**OPENING**

Following the opening of the meeting with the national anthem, the president, Margaret Conley, presented name badges to our new members, Chris Coulter and Richard Jones. She then welcomed a visitor to the meeting. The president informed members that one of our women members had suggested the idea of an informal men's group, which maybe could meet for lunch every so often, or whatever else they may decide. A sign-up sheet has therefore been placed on the back table for those who might be interested. Neville Davey has kindly agreed to be the convener of this group.

The president informed members of a change our club could adopt in that there is no need to have items like the minutes proposed and seconded, except at AGMs or if a motion is amended. Unless advised otherwise this

**State Library - History and Collections**



Garth Juster introduced the guest speaker, Patrick Dodd, who spoke on the history and collections of the State Library of New South Wales and the Mitchell Library.

The State Library of New South Wales was opened in its present position in Macquarie Street in 1845. It was previously located in several other areas around Sydney, and was known as the Australian Subscription Library, the Sydney Free Public Library and the Public Library of New South Wales, before being given its present name in 1975.

In 1898 David Scott Mitchell, a reclusive member of a coal mining family, donated his extensive collection of books and manuscripts on Australia, the Pacific and Antarctica to the colony of New South Wales, provided a suitable building was acquired. Work was finally begun in 1906 and the building, next to the State Library, was named after Mitchell.

Twenty years after the completion of the Mitchell Wing, the Dixon Wing, completed in 1929, was to provide storage and gallery space for the extensive collection of historical paintings presented to the library by Sir Wil-

liam Dixon, a prominent businessman. The galleries were refurbished in 1987 in preparation for the bicentennial exhibition held in 1988.

Amongst its treasures, the Mitchell Library holds journals kept by Joseph Banks on board HMS Endeavour and William Bligh's log and journal kept on board HMS Bounty, and documenting the 1789 mutiny, as well as a hand-written copy of *My Country* by Dorothea Mackellar and a draft copy of *The Man from Snowy River* by Banjo Paterson.

The State Reference Library contains over 5 million items including more than 2 million books, 1.2 million microforms, 1.1 million photographs, as well as newspapers, maps, architectural plans, manuscripts and other items, as well as family history and restoration sections.

If, like many in the audience, you are inspired to visit our State Library, open the link below to access some useful information.

[www.sl.nsw.gov.au/plan-your-visit](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/plan-your-visit)

change will be implemented at the next meeting. The president reminded members that there will be a collection of non-perishable foods and toiletries for Community Aid at the July meeting when items will be collected. If anyone has questions about this collection, please speak with Vincie Wahlquist.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**IN:** Letter with membership cheque enclosed. Letter from Ezy Engraving with membership badges enclosed. Letter from PSPL reminding members they can share Probus stories with the Probus community by featuring in the Active Retirees Magazine.

**OUT:** Email sent to editor of The Village Observer listing 2018 Office Bearers.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Judith Butt presented her May report.

C/b bal 1 May 2018	\$5,915.99
Total receipts	\$12,533.20
Total expenses	\$14,700.04
C/b bal 31 May 2018	\$3,749.15

**WELFARE REPORT**

Peter Kelly presented his report.

**ACTIVITIES**

Jill Regnis spoke to the Activities Report.

**CAFÉ CLUB**

Ellen McKeown - nil to report

**BOOK CLUB**

Annette Kent reported the last book read was "Brideshead Revisited". At the time of the TV series it was reported that at universities in Sydney some students were seen to be copying Sebastian by carrying a teddy. Annette suggested to read the book rather than TV series, as book is "better". Also, a DVD of film "Atonement" can be shared in club.

**RAFFLE**

Jim Judge sold 288 raffle tickets.

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