

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 4th June 2019

Guest Speaker

Chris Hamilton Mgr. Hunters Hill Theatre will talk about the history, how they stage a performance and the theatre's contribution to the community

Thursday 6th June

Walking Group

Valentia Street wharf 9:24
 Contact Margaret Conley
 9817 0123

Monday 17th June

Town Hall Concert

A Lady, a Man and a Baby Grand
 Featuring Marina Prior and Bernard Walz

Meet 10:45 for 11:00 start

Friday, 21st June

Book Club

Hunters Hill Museum - 14:00
 Book for the month is "Leaving Time" by Jodi Picoult

Afternoon Tea - Deirdre Walker

Tuesday 25th June

President's Lunch

Concord Golf Club

12:00 for 12:30

2 course meal and drink on arrival
 \$65 per head

Names, money and menu selections to Ann Day at Tuesday's meeting

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show

My wife, Diane and I were up, packed and dressed by 6:00am when I announced it was time to head off to the Hunters Hill Post Office. This was to ensure that we would be ready to board the bus in time to depart for the airport on our way to Melbourne. "You needn't think I'm leaving this early, everyone will think we are mad" she replied. "You don't understand Probusians like I do. They are always, I repeat always early for such journeys" was my clever response. On our arrival at the Post Office not long after 6:00am, you guessed it! There was no one else in sight! Needless to say it will be a long time before I live this down.

Despite this, not so little, setback we were about to head off on a wonderful trip to the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show for four nights and five days.

At the airport we welcomed a delightful group of ladies from Leichhardt Probus and Marrickville Probus. They were wonderful company on the whole trip and we hope to see more of them in future. Our flight was without incident if you discount a very interesting landing.

Our luxury coach captain was there waiting for us and it wasn't very long until we were off to



visit the historic port of Williamstown. Before departing on our cruise across the bay into the Yarra River we had been allocated time to wander the unique shops and cafes. So what did most of us do? We dived into the first attractive café and got stuck into brunch to help us get over the unique airline snacks we had consumed on our flight.

After a very enjoyable and interesting cruise, where we got a real taste of all the wonderful city of Melbourne has to offer, we were transferred to our accommodation at the Parkview hotel. After a very early start, and a full day we all headed to our

rooms to collapse before heading down to dinner in the hotel restaurant. Naturally, this was not before "happy hour"

Day Two

With breakfast being served at 7:00am all the early little Probusians were well into their cereal and fruit long before Diane and I arrived. "See what I told you!" I said. This only elicited a scowl from my lovely bride. Later we headed off to the Flower and Garden Show, which was held at The Royal Exhibition Building. This extraordinarily beautiful building had been turned into the Great Hall Of Flowers for the five days of the Show. The number of visitors well exceeded my expectations and the overall atmosphere was fascinating. Naturally, all our group split up and went their merry way. After taking in all the beauty of the Flower Show, some



went and visited the Melbourne Museum which was just opposite. Others strolled around the many food stalls. You guessed it, a number of this group got stuck right into the tucker and beverages as quick as was humanly possible.



A small number of us left the Show to wander down to Lygon St., (which is famous for it's never ending array of Italian restaurants) for lunch. To do this we had to approach Security and get a rubber stamp on our wrists to enable us to re-enter the Flower Show grounds. This was essential if we were to catch our bus back to our hotel where we could freshen up and race down to happy hour long before it was scheduled to start. Naturally, dinner followed, then off to bed.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Opal Outing

TBA

Sunday/Monday 28th/29th July.

'Christmas in July'

Accommodation at Rydges Mt. Panorama Resort Bathurst
3-course Christmas dinner at Abercrombie House. There is a \$20 non-refundable deposit payable with booking as deposit paid to hotel from our club funds.

Wednesday 14th August

Archibald Prize
Art Gallery of NSW 14:00
Cost \$20 includes Guide

TBA

Seafood BBQ

High Tea at the Carrington

Day Three

After brekkie we headed off to the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges. When we arrived in Belgrade to board the famous and incredibly impressive Puffing Billy Steam Engine Train we all couldn't believe how excellent the volunteer train guards etc. were. They were so helpful and friendly from the outset to the very last station at Lakeside where we disembarked at 11:30am. From there we travelled by coach to the quaint village of Sassafras. It was time to settle in for lunch at one of the local cafes and then off to explore the specialty shops such towns are renowned for.



Our luncheon, which we enjoyed on a small outdoor verandah, was dragged out when Jan Griffiths and Diane, together with many passers by, all fell in love with a retired guide dog named "Prudence"

Then it was on to the stunning Alwyn Gardens for a guided tour followed by afternoon tea in the courtyard.

Day Four



The coldest day in four years! Rain, hail and snow in some areas. Fortunately, we were spared all but a little light rain. Off we go, again after eating far too much for breakfast, for a guided walking tour of the Royal Botanical Gardens (not Botanic Gardens as we know them here in Sydney). The weather turned against us and we high-tailed it to The Terrace Café. You guessed it more food and drink! The view overlooking the Ornamental Lake to Government House was to die for.

to relax and recharge our batteries.

"All Aboard" was the call from the captain of The Lady Cutler Showboat for our Champagne & Seafood Brunch Cruise. In the afternoon we transferred back to our hotel

Day Five

After checkout we drove down to St. Kilda Esplanade Market where the ladies raced off to see who could spend the most. Cunningly, Greg Griffiths and I dawdled long enough to lose sight of "the addicted shoppers". We then took a leisurely stroll out along the St. Kilda Pier. On our return we found a comfortable and shady bench seat where we watched a marathon race.



The stunning century old "The Gables" was our next stop. It is considered one of the most prominent houses in the Gascoigne and Waverley Estates. Here we enjoyed what was unanimously declared the best high tea anyone of us had ever attended. We continued exploring this captivating city, this time, from the top of the Eureka Tower to Eureka Skydeck. This being the southern hemisphere's highest viewing platform. The 360-degree panoramic views of the city were wonderful.

Later in the afternoon we headed off to the Melbourne Domestic for our flight to Sydney.

However, this was not before the coach driver stopped on the way to enable Vincie's son, a local resident, to pick Vincie up in his flash red Ute and take her to his home so that she could spend a few days with him and his family. You won't believe it but initially Vincie would not get off the coach when her son arrived and waved to us all. "That's not my son she declared". Finally, when he boarded the coach and greeted us all Vincie relented and we were able to continue on our way. This all may sound strange, but apparently Vincie had never seen her son in his work uniform in the half-dark.

We all had a great laugh (with her, not at her expense) and it was a great way to end a wonderful visit South Of The Boarder. None of which would have been possible without all the organizing and hard work by Jill Regnis.

Peter Kelly (Always early, never late)

Visit to State Library of NSW

Eighteen members went on a tour of the State Library of NSW on Tuesday 23 April to see an exhibition of more than 300 paintings. These represent a fraction of the Library's vast collection.

Included here is a picture from an exhibition titled *Summer Days*, showing scenes around Sydney Harbour at the turn of the 20th Century.



From another exhibition, *Quick March! Children of World War I*, a painting is titled *Where Daddy Fell*, in which a little boy and his grandfather find on a map the place where their father and son died.

An interesting exhibition was the fifty-four diaries of Miles Franklin from 1909 to her death in September 1954. The last entry in the 1954 diary, discovered in 2018, was when she knew she was dying.

Book Club



The Book Club met recently to discuss "The 19th Wife" by David Ebershoff.

We welcomed back Dean, a long-time member of the club who added some balance to our polarised thoughts (and a bag of beautiful apples!).

The story is quite harrowing in many parts particularly the pilgrimage of the new wave of Latter Day Saints who trekked across the US to ultimately settle in Salt Lake City, Utah. Many died and starvation was rife, but they were believers and followed the Mormon Prophets, many women of whom became the victims of polygamous relationships. Some wives revolted and were either punished or joined the speaking circuit (Ann Eliza Young's faith is a mystery).

The novel is partly fact and mostly fiction and woven into the fabric is a tantalising murder mystery.

Richard Jones

Walking Group



Hunters Hill Probus Club walk (approx. 8 kms) Thursday 6th June, an easy walk for members and friends. After an exploratory walk last month we've decided to do it again, but with more of us,

We catch the 9.24 ferry from the Valentia St. Woolwich Wharf arriving at Circular Quay at 9.47. We then walk around the Opera House following the harbourside path fronting the Botanical Gardens to arrive at Mrs. Macquarie's Chair. We then follow the same harbour path to the Art Gallery and walk through Hyde Park to go around the Cenotaph and then return to the Art Gallery. We then walk into the Botanical Gardens and walk through the gardens going back past the Opera House to Quay No. 5 to catch the 1.45 ferry back to Woolwich arriving at 2.09pm. If time available before the ferry arrives takeaway coffee can be purchased opposite wharf 5.

The walk will not go ahead if raining. Contact Margaret Conley 0407 931 945 if not sure.

For those who may wish to do a shorter walk or spend more time within the Botanical gardens there is an earlier ferry leaving wharf 5 at Circular Quay at 12.45.

Members are welcome to bring a friend or friends.

Rick Collins

Welsh Choir



Sunday May 5th saw a number of Probians enjoy another performance of the Sydney Welsh Choir under the excellent leadership of Viv Llewellyn. David Short accompanied the choir on keyboards and Cheryl Priest provided a soloist performance as the choir caught it's collective breath.

The performance was organised by the Gladesville and District Probus and we were joined by a group of ladies from the recently formed Leichhardt Ladies Probus, some of whom attended the Melbourne Garden trip.

Following the concert several members remained to enjoy a range of refreshments provided by our friends from Gladesville.

There is something about a Welsh choir in full voice singing Men of Harlech and the Welsh National Anthem. They also made a pretty good fist of Advance Australia Fair.

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

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------|
| President | - | Mike Allum | 0417 596 300 |
| Vice President | | TBA | |
| Immediate Past President | - | Margaret Conley | 9817 0123 |
| Secretary | - | Carolyn Jolly | 9437 6229 |
| Treasurer | - | Judith Dunstan | 9460 7164 |
| Activities Convenor | - | Barbara Banner | 9427 0102 |
| Speakers | - | Carol Pelham | 9808 5020 |
| Welfare Officer | - | Ashlyn Allum | 9816 3269 |
| Membership Officer | - | Gordon Sanson | 0433 238 004 |
| Committee | - | Garth Juster | 9817 5434 |
| Book Club Convenor | - | Joan Gai | 9817 1301 |
| Newsletter Editor | - | Mike Allum | 0417 596 300 |
| | | (email: mike.allum@bigpond.com) | |
| Honorary Auditor | - | Bruce Luscombe | |

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

If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.

How do you get off a non-stop Flight?

Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?

Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?

**Probus Club of
Hunters Hill**

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



June Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Margaret Bowman | 1 |
| Lew Grace | 3 |
| Lyn Benson | 6 |
| Lorraine Kongats | 6 |
| Valerie Thomas | 18 |
| Terry Yew | 18 |
| Josephine McBride | 20 |
| Joan Gai | 24 |

SPARE A MINUTE

Minutes of the 481st Meeting of
Hunters Hill Probus Club at the
Hunters Hill Club on
Tuesday 7th May at 9:30am

Megumi

Peter Kelly introduced Mary Ann Napper, who spoke about her book *Nature's Child*. Mary Ann first visited us in January 2016, when she spoke about her first book *Born to Fly*, the story of her autistic twin brother. Since then she has published several books, *Nature's Child* being the latest.

Mary Ann began her talk with a DVD from the ABC Gardening Show.

Nature's Child is the story of Yoko Ugai (Megumi Bennett), who was born as Tokyo was being ravaged by World War Two. In the book she gives an account of growing up in a traditional Japanese family. At the age of twenty, she became an ikebana (flower arrangement) teacher. Having developed a fascination for Australian native flora, she turned down two marriage proposals to travel to Australia at a time when Japanese/Australian relations were far from cordial.

Facing the challenges of a new language and culture, Megumi's life in Australia has encompassed marriage, motherhood, horticultural studies, setting up a bonsai studio and nursery and organising annual cul-



tural exhibitions.

She has provided leadership to a growing bonsai community in Australia and is recognised by the Japanese and Australian governments for her promotion of friendship, goodwill and peace between the two countries and is internationally acclaimed as a bonsai artist, teacher and demonstrator.



Dressed in traditional Japanese costume, Megumi showed examples of her bonsai craft and constructed a plant from scratch, using a piece of an Australian fig tree.

Megumi runs the Bonsai Art Nursery in Belrose with her son Alex.

OPENING

Following the National Anthem, the President Mike Allum announced that Alan James had passed away in mid-April. Alan was a Life Member of the club and will be sadly missed.

On a lighter note, Mike announced that Les Osborne had turned 100 three weeks ago and we would be celebrating this event at morning tea time.

Visitors were then welcomed. Fran Williams, Fay Likidis, Kerry Tuck and John & Anita Hanshaw. Mike then presented new member Kathy O'Sullivan with her membership badge and card.

CORRESPONDENCE

Carolyn Jolly received correspondence from the Mayor of Hunters Hill and Hunters Hill Historical Society. These matters to be dealt with at Management Committee Meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT

Judith Dunstan presented the report. A printed copy was not available at the meeting. Judith advised that some yearly subs are still due.

WELFARE

Ashlyn Allum presented her welfare report. Mike Regnis is recovering well after his recent surgery. Wendell Watt is recovering well after knee accident and is receiving physiotherapy. John Watt is also getting better and they thanked the Club for their best wishes. Gary Trill's wife is unwell but will be home soon. Lydia Bayer is also not well and unable to attend today's meeting.

ACTIVITIES

Barbara Banner gave us the Activity Report for the next 6 months. Ladies Club advised of some future activities. Further discussion to be had at Management Committee Meeting as extra activities of interest have been received. Ashlyn Allum advised still vacancies for Christmas in July and that final cheques are due at June meeting.

RAFFLE

Jim Judge advised that he had sold an all-time record number of tickets - 385. Tickets were won by Gary Trill, Dellane Stewart and Ann Day. First prize of Hunters Hill voucher will be repeated every 2nd meeting.

NEW WALKING GROUP

The first walk of the revitalized Hunters Hill Walkers Club was introduced by Rick Collins, with Margaret Conley as co-ordinator, commencing this Thursday, May 9th. Those interested in joining this Group should contact them. It is proposed the walks will be on the Thursday following our regular Monthly Meeting with the details being announced at this Meeting.

After the formalities of the meeting closed, Mike Allum took the opportunity of wishing Les Osborne a very Happy Birthday and before morning tea commenced with his magnificent cake, a very heartfelt tribute was paid to Les by his fellow Life Members - Ross McBride, Pat Cox and Vincie Wahlquist - calling him a "legend" and "hero".

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