

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 1st May - Guest Speaker
 Don Eyb.

Mounted Police Commissioner rtd.
 The oldest Mounted Police Force in the world, founded 1825.

Their history, preparation and duties. The Australian Mounted Police have appeared at major events all over the world. They were also privileged to appear at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 with horses from the Queens Household Cavalry.

Wednesday 16th May

Biennale Exhibition Cockatoo Island
 \$2.50 outing plus lunch or pack a picnic.
 We plan to catch the V.S ferry at 11:09 to cross to Cockatoo Island in time for a **FREE** guided tour of the exhibition, about 45 mins. Then we can purchase lunch from the many food outlets before returning home. Bookings at morning tea - nothing to pay.

Friday 18th May

Book Club
 Hunters Hill Museum - 14:00
 "Brideshead Revisited"
 Afternoon Tea - Vincie Wahlquist

Friday 25th May

Café Club - Kokoda Café
 Rhodes Park, Killoola Street,
 Concord West
 Start of Kokoda Track
 Beer & soft drink available BYO Wine
 Contact Ellen McKeown
 0404 004 117

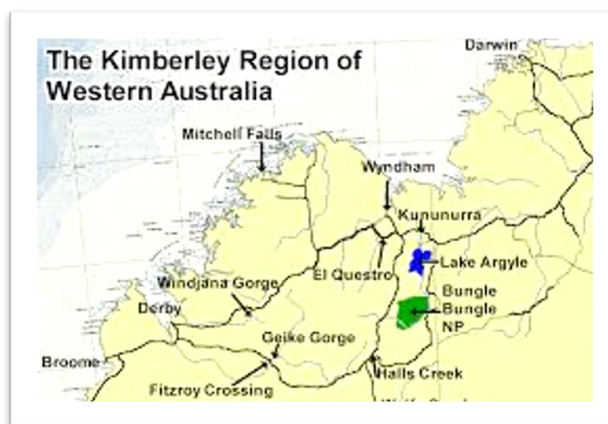
A Kimberley Experience

Everyone told me that the Kimberleys were amazing. They were wrong. There are not enough adjectives to describe the wonder that is the Kimberley.

Rocks, birds, boabs, waterfalls, crocodiles, dingos, gorges, rock art, water lilies and rock pools and so much more.

The red dust clears for a moment and a white cloud of corellas take flight. A little later, four jabirus spread their grey wings to reposition themselves away from the road train.

A wildlife conservancy has constructed fences and cleared non-natives from huge tracts of land, discovering that one of the greatest threats to native wildlife is the feral cat. And has now involved neighbouring stations in a program of prescribed 'green' burns, that is burning early in the season while the undergrowth is damp so that lightning-induced wildfires that can happen late in the season do not have sufficient fuel to be devastating. 'Green' fires also mean grass can grow quickly and small native animals can hide from predators like feral cats.



Rock pools, fed by waterfalls, overseen by boabs and Wandjina faces painted on the rock, eons ago. We jump into that pool, splash about and then become quiet, content.

The Bungles, layered delicate coated sand, like the beehives of story-books and so many tracks to explore between the rocks. Before our eyes, lots of aged tourists are transformed into excited kids.

A creek that runs through a mountain of rock and has been used by Aboriginal people; most especially by Jandamarra who led a resistance fight against settlers. Ancestors of those freshwater crocodiles that today inhabit Tunnel Creek were his food. Today as we walk through that creek, the red eyes of the crocodiles are picked up by our torches.

At Drysdale River Station campers line-up next to a fridge that now functions as a phone box. At El Questro there is a community event to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, a saver of life in these parts.

A couple of kilometres of rock hopping brings us through Emma Gorge and a chilly rock pool fed by a very tall waterfall: the rocks keep changing colour throughout the day, as if infused with some kind of magic.

Argyle diamonds feature in Kununurra alongside the IGA. Treasures and ordinariness side by side. And so much more. What an extraordinary country we have. Truly, a treasure to be treasured.

Margaret Conley

WHAT'S COMING UP	Wendell's Column	Book Club
<p>Tuesday 5th June - Guest Speaker Patrick Dodd</p> <p>An accomplished speaker and a volunteer at the State Library of NSW</p> <p>Subject: "History and Collections"</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Tues/Wed 12/13th June Cartier Exhibition - Canberra</p> <p>Overnight coach trip with "On Course Tours" - brochures available today. Staying at Rydges, Capital Hill - \$405 pp/ts +\$70 s/s.</p> <p>Final bookings and final payment due at May meeting. Correct money or cheque and booking form in envelope with name and activity on front</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Monday 25th June Town Hall Concert</p> <p>Simon Tedeschi and Bernard Walz - twin pianos. Jill will book for 2pm and needs numbers today.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Sunday 24th June Heritage Tour - Goat Island</p> <p>Meet at Harbour Master's Steps, Circular Quay 10:15am for ferry ride to island for Tour finishing at 1:15pm. Back to Quay/Rocks for lunch \$32 pp + lunch at own cost.</p> <p>Bookings and or payment at May and June meetings</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Next Year 25 February March 2019</p> <p>Probus Group Cruise 8 days / 7 nights</p> <p>Southern Barrier Reef Discovery Cruise Onboard P & O Pacific Explorer See attached "flyer"</p> <p>Contact Tony Saunders on 9817-1432</p> <p>*****</p>	<p>A good movie now showing is <i>The Other Side of Hope</i>. It is billed as 'effortlessly funny' but although we didn't find much in it to laugh about, we found much to think about. It tells the story of a Syrian refugee who ends up in Finland and is refused political asylum. He escapes deportation and is befriended by a café owner and his staff. It is sad and bitter sweet with an ambiguous ending. Worth seeing!</p> <p>Thinking about good films, who remembers the 'golden oldies' like <i>Gone with the Wind</i>, <i>Roman Holiday</i>, <i>Mrs Miniver</i>, <i>Goodbye Mr Chips</i>, <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>? Once you start, memories keep coming. <i>Crocodile Dundee</i> and that wonderful scene of 'Call that a knife?' Picnic at Hanging Rock with beautiful girls floating around in beautiful clothes on a hot and sinister summer day. <i>The Deer Hunter</i> with the young Meryl Street, haunting music, and its sad indictment of war. What about recent films? Perhaps <i>The Other Side of Hope</i> may be one of the enduring ones.</p> <p>Annette Kent has enjoyed a recent 'art' exhibition. She says; 'The pressures of modern life on our children mean that many Probus members with school age grandchildren find themselves involved in care in the holidays. Sometimes this can bring great advantage. In Melbourne last week, we were surprised to discover that the NGV had a triennial exhibition of modern art. Like our Biennale the works presented fall outside the category of conventional art. The exhibition was vast with 120 items from 32 international artists. We did not see all by any means but were enthralled for over two hours. One room was darkened and dominated by noise and a large round sculpture, identified quickly by our ten-year-old as constructed of hundreds of microphones which echoed the shrieks of delight from those passing by. We stood in a room of mirrors, with patterns swirling on the floor, uncertain where the walls were, until we touched our reflections, quite disorientated. My younger grand-daughter was mesmerised by a room full of chairs that had been drawn from Manga cartoons; they were shiny chrome and wrought in such a way that the joins were invisible; quirky, fun. It came as no surprise to discover today that this was the best attended ever exhibition at the NGV.</p> <p>Lucky us, hanging out with two granddaughters and seeing a wonderful exhibition two days before it closed.'</p>	<div data-bbox="1077 246 1460 504" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Our choice of 'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak quite divided the book group. The construct of the novel was complex and artificial, but most of us found the story important.</p> <p>It is unusual to read of a German family harbouring a Jew in secret and at huge personal risk, and of the privations of the German people in the latter part of the war. We should have known that the Germans were heavily bombed by the Allies, but several of us were surprised by the stories of sirens and bomb shelters.</p> <p>At times events were chilling, as when the Jews were marched down the street towards Dachau, others highly amusing as the youngsters competed at street football, and at some risk raided nearby orchards. The main characters are vividly revealed, the author an Australian, and more than half the group found it a worthy read.</p> <p>Our next meeting is Friday May 18 at 2pm. Vincie is on afternoon tea duties</p> <p>The book for review is Book "<i>Brideshead Revisited</i>" by Evelyn Waugh</p> <div data-bbox="1093 1456 1428 1926" data-label="Image"> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">Annette Kent</p>

Meet Your Newsletter Editor

Back in January I interviewed Margaret Conley as part of a 'get to know you' program. We published a summary in the following Newsletter. In February, Margaret returned the favour and I was the interviewee. Due to several interesting and noteworthy activities and events since then we haven't had sufficient space in the Newsletter to print my summary. Until now!

I was born in East London and brought up in Woodford. My earliest memories are lining up with my mother in the rations queue and playing on a bombsite three doors down the street where a house took a direct hit in an air-raid. I was one of a family of four, mum, dad and brother, no grandparents or aunts and uncles. This made Xmas very cheap. My schooling was at a local secondary modern school in Woodford. I was one of the many that didn't believe school days were the best days of your life. I couldn't wait to leave. I enjoyed the sports, soccer, cricket and athletics. I also started playing lacrosse at the tender age of 8, when my brother joined a team with some of his scouting mates.

Leaving school at 15, my career choices were limited to working for the council or a bit of skulduggery. Fortunately my parents had a friend who worked at Esso and he gave me an introduction to their employment section. My first job was delivering the internal office mail. I soon got to know my way around fairly quickly and soon discovered this big area sealed off from the rest of the place. Turned out it was the Computer room. My challenge therefore was to a) get in there and b) to get a job there as "data processing", as it was known as then, sounded pretty cool. I ended up working for Esso for some 9 years in the computer department. I used to get a kick out of telling my mates I was in computing in the oil industry.

My dad, an office worker, was a bit of a handyman and taught my brother and I to be handy around the home, DIY projects, repairs and making things. My Mum taught both of us to be independent and go for what we believed in. This backfired for her in a sense because I had this desire to emigrate to Australia, which in 1972, six months after getting married, I did. This desire stemmed from several things, not the least being the climate and very short days in the winter. It was overcrowded and for me there was little or no prospect of buying a house or even getting a mortgage. Fortunately, I managed to engineer a "quasi" transfer to Esso Australia, based in Sydney. I was basically guaranteed a job but it could have been anything from pumping gas in a service station to delivering the internal mail again. As it turned out I started in Accounts and in a couple of weeks found my way back into the Computer arena.

On leaving the UK, apart from family and friends, I missed the traditional English pub, many countries have tried to replicate them but not very successfully, and playing lacrosse and all that went with it, a large part of my social life.

The girl I married in the UK, like me, didn't want children. How lucky was I, childless by choice. Many years later and after a second marriage to Ashlyn, I now have 2, 40 "something" daughters and 4, (14 down to 4 year old) granddaughters. Totally outnumbered!

I continued my career in the IT industry, but changed companies. Again, timing helped me. I had an interview with Qantas a few months after arriving in Sydney joining in late 1972. I had several years experience on a system in England to which Qantas was in the process of migrating. That gave me a great head start and I scored several promotions that served me very well. Shortly after joining I managed to extend my lacrosse career by playing in Melbourne every 3rd Saturday for 3 seasons, courtesy of QF discounted fares. I even played an 'away' game in Adelaide! I enjoyed a great deal of vacation and business travel over the years and visited many different countries. I also reached a level where all travel came with an upgrade to Business or First class given seats being available.

I had several interesting experiences including being evacuated to the roof of a hotel in Maui due to the forecast of an incoming tsunami, which incidentally didn't eventuate, several take-offs and landings on the Flight deck, the highlight probably being a night time arrival in the old Kai Tek airport in Hong Kong.

I left Qantas in '97 and started working for myself consulting in IT Infrastructure at IBM, Vodafone and Compaq, a short contract at a winery in Hunter Valley and many IT audits of TAFE colleges around the State. In 2006 I decided the local golf course needed my patronage

For several years now I've driven a bus for Ryde/Hunters Hill Community Transport, now rebadged as "Stryder", twice a week, play golf twice a week and do many home handyman projects and repairs, and of course Ashlyn and I love to travel.

Ashlyn and I joined Probus in July 2016. She bowls here at the club and we thought it a good idea to come along as visitors. We applied to join after our first visit.

We've both had a great time meeting new people, enjoyed the speakers and have been on several trips, both one and multiday.

At one of the Thursday night dinners shortly after joining, I made the huge mistake of talking to Garth, the incoming president at that time, about my old lacrosse days and mentioned in passing that I had edited a very low key newsletter.

The rest is history.

**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
- Speakers - Carol Pelham 9808 5020
- Welfare Officer - Peter Kelly 0411696583
- Membership Officer - Gordon Sanson 0433238004
- Ashlyn Allum - Committee 98163269
- Honorary Auditor - Charles Kent 9816 3485
- Book Club - Annette Kent 9816 3485
- Newsletter Editor - Mike Allum 9816 3269

(email: mike.allum@bigpond.com)

Barbara's Thought for the Month

"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself".

Ralph Emerson

Editor's Musings

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

What's the speed of dark?

Why is abbreviation such a long word?

**Probus Club of
Hunters Hill**

**PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110**



May Birthdays

Kay Holt	8
Nina Stockreiter	11
John Watt	14
John Saalfeld	15
Harry Swain	15
Veronica McManus	21
Stan Cooper	22
James Judge	26
Judith Butt	27

SPARE A MINUTE

**Minutes of the 468th Meeting of
Hunters Hill Probus Club at the
Hunters Hill Club on
Tuesday 3rd April , 2018 at 9:30**

OPENING

Following the opening of the meeting with the national anthem, the President, Margaret Conley, welcomed our visitors, Kathy O'Sullivan, Chris Coulter and Bronwyn Ellens. The president reminded all members to please sign the attendance book. Attention was drawn to a flyer available on the back table, called Your Brain Matters, a presentation to be held at HH Town Hall. The president invited members to thank Graham Percival, Barbara Jago, Marie do Rozario and Beverly Grace plus other club members for their long commitment to providing morning tea. An invitation was extended to members, asking them to consider joining the tea committee.

CORRESPONDENCE

OUT: Emails sent to Mayor of HH, Federal Member for North Sydney, State Member for Lane Cove, and Probus South Pacific Ltd. Informing them of

The Wonderful World of Monte Dwyer

The April guest speaker was Monte Dwyer, introduced by Greg Griffiths.

Monte was born in Newcastle and grew up around Lake Macquarie and the Hunter Valley. The urge to explore the world and make his own living prompted him to leave school in year 11.

As a precautionary measure he trained as a psychiatric nurse in Morisset. Among other occupations, he has been a professional fisherman, fashion model, foreign aid worker, hospitality worker and unsuccessful property developer. But he finally decided the artistic life was for him.

In the late eighties he turned up on Darwin television, giving theatrical presentations of the weather for the local ABC station, before being noticed by Channel 9 and given the same job on their national breakfast show, where he stayed from 1991



until 2002.

He was voted Australia's favourite TV weatherman for over 15 years. Throughout his working career he has also been a produced playwright, actor, radio announcer, TV host, newspaper columnist, author, musician and journalist.

It seems Monte has found his true calling with the Red in The Centre series of books, based on the places he's been to and the people he's met in his travels around inland Australia.

Monte is a gifted story teller, and he kept members entertained with descriptions of his travels and some inside snippets about the world of the media. To show just how versatile he is, he also sang one of his songs, *Red in the Centre*.

Monte's books were very popular, and his polished and humorous style was very well received by members.

new Office Bearers for HH Probus Club for 2018.

IN: Email from State Member for Lane Cove thanking us for new office bearers information. Email from HH Ladies Probus notifying us of their Office Bearers for 2018.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Peter Kelly, standing in for Judith Butt, presented the Treasurer's report for March 2018.

C/b bal 1 March 2018	\$7,052.61
Total receipts	\$2,341.00
Total payments	\$3,140.82
C/b bal 31 March 2018	\$6,252.79

WELFARE REPORT

Peter Kelly, advised the meeting of those members who were unwell during the last month and those who will undergo surgery this month. Peter read to members a letter from Mike Regnis to the president, expressing thanks and appreciation for their well wishes.

ACTIVITIES

Jill Regnis tabled an Activities Report to the meeting and thanked Ian Adair for organising

the Spit Roast. Jill mentioned the February 2019 Cruise being organised by Tony Saunders and stated forms etc are available from Tony.

MEMBERSHIP

Gordon Sanson. Nothing to report.

TEA COMMITTEE

Ashlyn Allum informed members that John Johnson is co-ordinator of the Tea Committee and requires 2 volunteer assistants who would need to arrive at HH Club at 8.15am for set up, and after morning tea, to clean up.

BOOK CLUB

Annette Kent informed members of current book being read, for discussion.

GENERAL BUSINESS

There are still 9 members to pay their subscription.

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