

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 Meeting

Tuesday 13th November

Guest Speaker - Judith Dunn
from *Pastime Tours*
Subject: "Tourist Trouble"

Judith's talk will be on things that can and do, go wrong on tour, personalities that make up tour groups and how they get over tours mishaps. Stories from twelve years of guiding tour groups.

You don't want to know what goes on behind the scenes!

Cheapie Movies – EVENT Cinemas - \$7

Cinebuzz member (otherwise \$8)

10.30 am - Seniors Mondays

12th November - North by Northwest

26th November - Roman Holiday

Meet either at Top Ryde or Macquarie Event Cinema at 10.15 am to purchase tickets for a 10.30 start.

Perhaps enjoy lunch or coffee afterwards.

Friday 16th November Book Club

Hunters Hill Museum - 14:00

The book for the month is

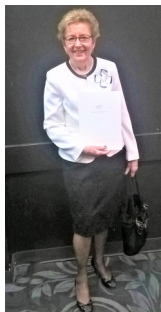
***Elegance of the Hedgehog*
by Muriel Barbery**

Afternoon Tea Vincie Wahlquist

Jill Regnis wins North Sydney Community Award

A strong group of supporters went along with Jill Regnis to the North Sydney Community Awards, hosted by federal member for North Sydney Trent Zimmerman, on Thursday 27 September. The event was held at the North Sydney Leagues Club.

The purpose of these annual awards is to provide an opportunity to recognise those who achieve exceptional results as volunteers in community organisations within the North Sydney electorate.



Awards are given in the areas of Sporting Achievement, Community Awards, in which Jill received her award, Young Person of the Year, Older Person of the Year and Community Group of the Year.

Jill's award was for services to Probus Club of Hunters Hill and District in the positions of President, Secretary and Activities Director.

The guest speaker at the awards ceremony was journalist Annabel Crabb, who shared some amusing insights into the current political scene.



Cruising on Port Hacking

It was a perfect day for cruising when forty-nine members from the Combined and Ladies clubs boarded the cruise vessel *Gunnamatta* to explore Port Hacking on

the canopy, some with a glass of wine to add to their enjoyment.

Houses on land sloping gently down to the water's edge suggested a relaxed

lifestyle away from the hustle and bustle of the city, while on one side of the bay we saw the wooded area of the Royal National Park. SES volunteers moved about in boats carrying out maintenance and the oc-



Tuesday 30 October. The water was calm as a mill pond and the colour varied from blue to turquoise.

On leaving the dock we enjoyed coffee and then a two-course lunch; afterwards, some chose to remain inside and chat, while others moved outside to enjoy the views from the bow deck or upstairs under

casual pleasure boat or water ski rider took advantage of the beautiful weather and calm waters.

It was a wonderful way to 'get away from it all', and the three hours passed all too quickly.

More pictures on page 2

WHAT'S COMING UP

EVENT MOVIE MONDAYS

12 November

North By Northwest

26 November

Roman Holiday

3 December

Singin' In The Rain

10 December

It's A Wonderful Life

10.30 start at Event Top Ryde, Macquarie

\$7 for members

Friday 13 November

Opal Outing

Jacaranda Cruise to Parramatta

Rivercat from CQ 11.37, Cockatoo Island 11.58,

Huntleys Point 12.08, Kissing Point 12.22.

Arrives Parramatta 12.33.

Lunch at Port Bar (Italian) at Parramatta wharf.

Return ferry 2.30pm (last from P'matta)
or M52 bus.

SEE ELLEN McKEOWN TO BOOK

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 12TH December

12 noon at the Hunters Hill Club

SEE INSERT IN NEWSLETTER

Please fill in menu choices and place in

envelope with cash or cheque for \$60

MENU CHOICES AND MONEY TAKEN TODAY

Monday 4 February 2019

Good Old Days Concert at Sydney Town Hall

Bookings open next week, See Jill today.

Tickets \$45 for 2pm concert

25th February March 2019

Probus Group Cruise

8 days / 7 nights

Southern Barrier Reef Discovery Cruise

Onboard P & O Pacific Explorer

Ports of call, Mooloolaba, Gladstone, Moreton Island. As this cruise is in Australian Waters, no passport is required. You only need to pack/unpack once for the whole voyage (bliss!)

Payment for this cruise is direct to the travel agent but we are co-ordinating booking forms as it is a Probus event.

Contact Tony Saunders - 9817 1432 for more information or a booking form.

Wed 27TH March – Sun 31ST March 2019

New Trip

Melbourne Flower and Garden Show

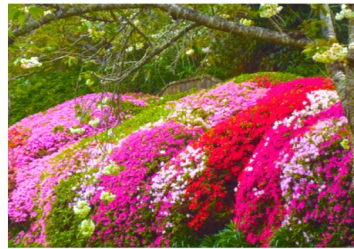
5 days/4 nights

Pick up brochures and booking forms today

Deposit due 16TH November

A Drizzly Day In Blackheath

15 Probians rugged up against the wind and rain turned up at the Club's car park ready to set off to Blackheath at 9am. on Wednesday 17 October. Our able driver, John Malone, departed for the mountains and after a speedy trip along the freeway arrived at the Rhododendron Gardens just in time for a lovely morning tea with scones and banana bread.



The Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society was formed in the late 1960's and is proud to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2019. The gardens are established over a 45 hectare block of land and at 1065m above sea level, the climate is conducive to growing rhododendrons. There are many other exotics, including azaleas, kalmias, camellias, maples, wisteria, beautiful flowering cherries amongst the native bush and large trees.

It is a garden unique in the world – no other garden has attempted to plant exotics underneath their existing native bush on such a large scale. The Society had also constructed some small lakes, stone bridges so it was lovely to hear the frogs 'chatting to each other' on a wet day.

There are a number of walking tracks with picnic tables and chairs dotted around the gardens together with a shelter shed and a gazebo. As this was a BYO lunch outing, good use was made of these facilities to avoid the rain and enjoy each other's company.

Many thanks to Jill for organizing this enjoyable day and again special thanks to driver John who is such a careful and safe driver. **Garth Juster**

More pictures from Port Hacking



Wendell's Column

On the 17 October, a misty grey day, John Malone rove us in the community bus to Blackheath to visit the Rhododendron Gardens. Morning tea of hot scones, jam and cream with tea or coffee set us up for the garden walk. It was the perfect weather to wander through the hillside garden, misted in a kind of Lord of the Rings magic. A gazebo was the perfect place for lunch, where we sat and enjoyed the mountain air. Azaleas were at their best, the rhododendrons not quite at their prime although some early blooming ones were out.

Rhododendrons are the national flower of Nepal. I have trekked in Nepal through rhododendron forests and could only imagine what they were looked like in spring. But my trip was in January, long after the flowering season, when snow was more likely than flowers. For all their beauty, in flower language rhododendrons symbolize danger because of their toxic roots. Some varieties contain a toxin in their nectar and pollen. Beware of the honey from these plants; it can cause hallucinations!

On a more local note, Sydney is now awash with the blue flowers of jacaranda. Although they are not true Aussies (they are native to Brazil) we have made them our own. They started their invasion here in the early years of the 20th century, brought here by landscape designers, and by the 1930s it was almost forgotten that they are not native trees. All students know that when the trees start to bloom, exam time is fast approaching and it's time to settle down to study. Grafton celebrates its jacarandas in a big way, with a festive that starts on the last weekend in October and goes for nine days of parades and parties. On Jacaranda Thursday 2 November everyone gets a half-day holiday to celebrate. We don't need to go to Grafton; Hunters Hill is one of the best viewing spots in the state.

Our native trees have not been forgotten. When I was a little girl, we each wore a sprig of wattle to school on August 1, Wattle Day. Since 1992, Wattle Day has been officially designated to be held on September 1 in all states, but these days it does not seem gather much publicity.

Another well-known native is the waratah, which gets more official recognition because it is the state emblem of New South Wales. To see a mass display of waratahs in full bloom growing wild in the bush is a special experience.

Thanks to John for his capable ferrying of our cheerful group to Blackheath and back, and to Jill for organising the trip.

Barbara's Thought for the Month

"What we see depends mainly on what we look for."

Sir John Lubbock - British Statesman and Naturalist.

Editor's Musings

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Money can't buy happiness, but it sure keeps the kids in touch!

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting dead?

Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?

Book Club



Annette Kent

There was a small turn out for the book club this month, but Deirdre, who chaired the meeting in my absence, said that most people enjoyed Chris Hadfield's *'An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth'*, though many found his writing style quite pedestrian. My overwhelming impression was that the training was really repetitive and the reward in terms of time in space limited. But of course he has done what most of us could not dream of doing in gaining a perspective of earth from space. He was obviously an alpha male to be able to compete over many decades to secure his spot both on a space flight and for his stint on the space station. He had a very supportive wife who was, for much of this time, in sole charge of the upbringing of their children. Those interested may like to YouTube the video of Hadfield singing Space Oddity, originally by David Bowie, while on the Space Station. I am sure many of members of the book club will follow this read by a trip to the movies to see 'First Man', a highly acclaimed account of Neil Armstrong's life and efforts to become the first man to set foot on the moon.

HUNTERS HILL RYDE COMMUNITY AID

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO BRING DONATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE DECEMBER MEETING:

TOILETRIES

SOAP, SHAMPOO, TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES,
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DEODORANTS AND
TOILET PAPER.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD

TINS OF WHOLE MEALS, VEGETABLES, SAUCES,
PASTA SAUCES, BISCUITS AND DRIED FRUIT.

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

Probus Club of Hunters Hill

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



November Birthdays

Peter Kelly	1
Olena Holubinskyj	10
Marie do Rozario	16
Annette Kent	19
Magarita Charalambous	20
Wendell Watt	21
Garth Juster	28
Barbara Banner	30

SPARE A MINUTE

Minutes of the 474th Meeting of
Hunters Hill Probus Club at the
Hunters Hill Club on
Tuesday 2nd October 2018 at 9:30

BRIAN MONKTON – THE AQUATIC AIRMAN

Annette Kent introduced Trevor Dean from the Australian National Maritime Museum who spoke on the life and career of Bryan Monkton, who created a business using surplus WWII Sunderland flying boats. Bryan's exploits are detailed in his book *The Boats I Flew*. Trevor Dean helped Bryan finish and publish the book. At the outbreak of WWII, Brian Monkton was a flying instructor with the Royal Aero Club. As a keen yachtsman, he applied to join the RAN, hoping to be given an immediate commission. He was told he could have to wait six months. He approached the RAAF and was accepted immediately. He was posted to England and flew Hawker Hurricanes until the Japanese threatened



Australia. Instead of flying fighter planes, Bryan was posted to Flight Training. He made his disappointment known, and it was suggested he transfer to flying boats. He came to love this form of flying and rose to squadron leader in RAAF 43 Squadron.

After the war, Bryan came across several surplus Sunderland flying boats. He made a bid for one, with a view to starting a water-based airline service. Unfortunately, he was told he had to bid for five, plus 22 spare engines. He put in a bid he couldn't afford and expected to hear no more about it. Then he was informed he had won the quote and had 21 days to pick up the planes and engines.

He needed financial help badly, and it came from a good Air Force friend, Kym Bonnython, a wealthy art lover. Jazz lover and car and motor bike racer. The planes were ferried

to Rose Bay Flying Base and Bryan was ready to start his new venture, Trans Oceanic Airways.

The company began by flying to Noumea and the South Pacific; Bryan was asked to consider starting a service to Lord Howe Island, because supply ships were prevented from getting close to the island in heavy seas.

TOA attracted the ire of Qantas for continuing to fly to Noumea, Qantas saying they were the preferred airline of the Australian Government. As compensation, Qantas would allow them to continue the Lord Howe Island route. Bryan Monkton refused to comply, so Qantas began flights to Lord Howe Island, using Catalinas. One stormy night, a Qantas Catalina slipped its moorings and ended up on the beach. Qantas blamed TOA.

The feud with Qantas continued for years.

In 1953, TOA ceased operations, selling its fleet to Ansett Flying Boats, which continued the Lord Howe Island Service. Bryan flew to America, where he became involved in setting up South Pacific Airlines. This time they upset Pan American Airlines, who claimed they were officially sanctioned by the US Government. SPA appealed to the Federal Aviation Authority and were allowed to continue. For various reasons, this venture was unsuccessful and closed down. With the demise of SPA, Bryan returned to Australia and became a freelance captain.

Owing to bad investments, Bryan and his socialite wife fell on hard times. She passed away in 1999. Bryan was offered accommodation in Exeter in the Southern Highlands, where he died of a brain tumour in 2003.

OPENING

Following the opening of the meeting with the National Anthem, the President, Margaret Conley, presented a new member badge to Rick Collins. The president then welcomed to the meeting the following Visitors: Bambi Michael, Julie Gahan, Ross Dive and Kathy O'Sullivan. The president advised that:

- PSPL provides a webpage on which any Probus Club can set up a club microsite, giving club information and include their newsletter
- at November meeting, there will be 3 raffle prizes
- the updating of personal profiles of members is still in progress, and hopefully the calls will be completed by December
- suggestions from the suggestion box in August are still being discussed and it would be helpful if people sign their suggestions, so we can follow up and get more detail.

CORRESPONDENCE

IN: Letter from Trent Zimmerman, member for North Sydney, informing that our nomination of Jill Regnis for the North Sydney Community Award for 2018 was successful. The president invited Members to congratulate Jill on the award. Letter from NSW Fair Trading confirming receipt of 2018 changes.

OUT: Annual Forms to NSW Fair Trading

TREASURER'S REPORT

Judith Butt presented her report.

C/B bal 1 September 2018	\$7,087.93
Total Receipts	\$2,799.00
Total expenses	\$2,837.21
C/B bal 30 September 2018	\$7,049.72

WELFARE

Ashlyn Allum, standing in for Peter Kelly, reported that Sandy Mower is in rehab. at HH Private and would welcome visitors.

Barbara Banner is in the Prince of Wales Hospital, post-surgery.

The Wake for Graham Percival was well attended and Ashlyn thanked those from this Club who were present.

ACTIVITIES

Jill Regnis presented her report

MEMBERSHIP

Gordon Sanson supplied numbers – attendance 59, 19 absent, 24 apologies, 3 non-active, 4 visitors Nil to report.

BOOK CLUB

Annette Kent. The book read was "Big Little Lies", written by Liane Moriarty. Annette gave a synopsis of what she had written for the Newsletter and also informed that the Book Club has a new member.

MEN'S GROUP

Ian Adair addressed the meeting as Neville Davey is away until 17 October. Ian informed that the next activity is a Whale Watching Discovery Cruise on Tuesday 23 October. can also book at the Kiosk at Wharf 6.

RAFFLE

Jim Judge sold 250 tickets. Next month there will be 3 prizes for raffle.

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