

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 4th September

Guest Speaker - Julian Leatherdale

Julian worked as a staff writer, researcher and photo editor for Time - Life's Australians at War series in the late 1980s. He later researched and co wrote two Film Australia- ABC TV history documentaries . He looks at the history behind the Hydro Majestic Hotel in Medlow Bath which features in his book "Palace of Tears" set in the Blue Mountains.

Friday 21st September

Book Club

Hunters Hill Museum - 14:00
 (recently updated with the help of Probus members)

The book for the month is 'Big Little Lies' by Australian best seller, Liane Moriarty
 Afternoon Tea - Annette Kent

Wednesday 19th September

Opal Outing

Dendy Circular Quay film
 "The Ladies in Black"

No need to call arrive at 9:45am

September

Simon Taylor Bus Tour

Dubbo and Siding Springs

CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF SUPPORT

Refunds will be made to those who had paid

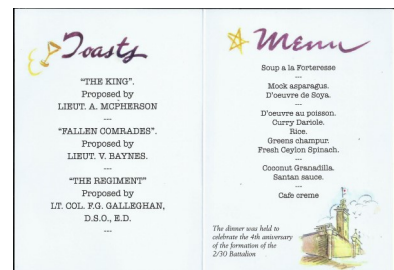
A Family Story

August 15th is the anniversary of the Japanese surrender to the Allies, bringing World War II to an end. On this date, seventy-three years later, the Hunters Hill Probus Club held a Changi lunch and presentation at the Hunters Hill Club with fifty members and guests attending. The lunch was based on a menu which Wendell Watt's father Ray Simmons had brought back from Changi Prisoner-of-War camp.

Ray Simmons was with the 2/30th Battalion 8th Division when Singapore fell on 15 February 1942. Wendell's presentation included precious family photographs of her and her brother visiting their father in the Army camp in 1940 and the wallet with pictures of his wife Leila on their wedding day and his children, which he carried throughout the war. Other mementoes included a twenty-word letter card from Ray to his family from Changi and an engraved box made of aluminium from a crashed Japanese Zero fighter plane.

Wendell read excerpts from her father's diary written in Changi and from an account he had written after he returned home. We heard about hunger and hard work and how much the series of lectures and concerts organized at the camp meant, and that the prisoners never lost hope that we would win the war and they would be reunited with their families. Ray wrote how much he missed his family. Wendell told us how much they missed him and wondered if they would ever see him again. The final picture was of Ray on the hospital ship Oranje in Darwin, returning home in September 1945 after three-and-a-half years as a POW.

Ray had brought back the menu for the fourth anniversary of the 2/30th Battalion, which occurred during his time in Changi. Although the food in the camp was meagre and of low quality, the prisoners cheered themselves up by substituting the names of fantasy French dishes. The menu format was duplicated at the club lunch.



WHAT'S COMING UP

**Wednesday 17TH October, 2018 – Bus Trip
To Blackheath Rhododendron Festival
COST \$30 – BYO LUNCH**

A 9am start from the HH Club carpark will see us head for the Blue Mountains. We will have a comfort stop at the foot of the mountains and then continue to Blackheath for a delicious morning tea (bottomless cup of tea/coffee). We then stroll around this lovely 18 hectare garden with delightful views etc. We can enjoy our picnic lunch at our leisure.

LIMITED NUMBERS FOR THIS TRIP

Bookings and or payment TODAY

PLEASE – NAME, OUTING, AMOUNT IN ENVELOPE
THANKS.

Tuesday 30TH OCTOBER

PORT HACKING LUNCHEON CRUISE

Come join us on this delightful 3-hour cruise on Port Hacking which includes morning tea and a 2-course lunch. Tour departs 9.30am return approx.. 4.30pm. \$77 each.

Booking and or payment today please. Same way – Envelope with money or cheque and details on front.

**Advance Notice - Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 12TH December
Here at the HHC – 12 for 12.30pm**

Next Year

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!)

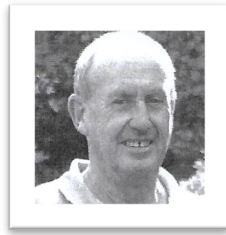
Prices vary from \$999 (inside) to \$2,759 (suite) per person including meals and most entertainment. The travel agent has informed us that the shipping line may have increased some prices.

We have 14 who have decided to join us and whilst you may be able to get on at the last minute, the best cabins at the best price have probably been taken – but we have been informed there are still some good cabins available.

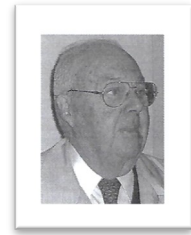
Payment for this cruise is direct to the travel agent but we are co-ordinating booking forms as it is a Probus event.

Contact Tony Saunders - 9817 1432 if you wish more information or a booking form.

Vale



Peter Jackson



Bob Love OAM

As most of us know we have recently lost two valued and respected members of our club; Peter Jackson and Bob Love OAM.

Peter's funeral was on Wednesday, 8th August at Villa Maria Church, Mary Street, Hunters Hill.

Bob's funeral was at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium on Wednesday 22nd August.

It goes without saying that all our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to Peter's wife Barbara and Bob's wife Judith at this very sad time.

Peter Kelly

Book Club



Our latest read 'The Forgotten Garden' by Australian author Kate Morton really divided the book group.

It was a vast complex story spread over many generations and localities, and told by numerous voices, as the story sought to expose the heritage of Nell, a child who was found abandoned on a wharf in Australia earlier in the last century, with just a small white suitcase containing a dress and a book a fairy stories, but no identifying documentation.

Those who loved the book readily comprehended the many characters and how they fitted into the complex time line of the narration. Those who gave up on the book, and there were a few, found the structure too complex and the style not compelling enough to encourage them to push through. One member who finished but was ambivalent about the value of the work reflected that the style was slightly above what one expected in the Women's Weekly.....guess this would be called damning with faint praise.

Nevertheless there was vibrant discussion as always, respect shown for the various views, and thorough analysis of the plot. Some felt that the plot was weak and contrived, while others expressed the view that it was a book for which realism was neither required nor desirable, allied more to the style of a fairy story than a work of non-fiction, and should be so judged.

Annette Kent

Member News



Adrian Nieuwenhuizen ran his 28th City to Surf on August 12th. He completed the course in 2 hours and 4 minutes, just 2 minutes more than his time for last year. Needless to say he was very happy with his performance. Can you spot him in the photo? He's in there somewhere.

Gordon Sanson was recently awarded a life membership of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Congratulations to them both on their achievements.

Wendell's Column

Val Colley tells the story of her brother-in-law in the navy in World War II. On leave, he arrived back to base in Sydney Harbour too late to take up his position on watch on the HMAS Kanimbla. His place was filled by a friend. This was on the fateful night when the Japanese midget submarines attacked the shipping in the harbour. The Kanimbla was sunk and the friend killed. Ian Adair has a happier story of the ship Oranje, which later brought a load of ex-POWs back to Australia from Singapore including my father. Moored in the harbour that same night, it left an hour before the attack. As the saying goes, timing is all.

At the self-serve checkout in Gladesville Coles, I found I had left my wallet at home. No money, no biscuits which I needed for afternoon tea at a meeting that afternoon. Meeting in Gladesville, money back home in Greenwich means exasperation and a need for sympathy. I blurted out my story to a woman at the next-door checkout. She was duly kind. However a young man a small distance away hurried over and offered me his card. 'You can put it on this.' He did the transaction for me and I carried the Arnott's chocolate mints happily to the meeting. The charge was only \$2.50 but, for the glow it gave me, it could have been \$1000. To steal Peter Fitzsimons words from his par in the Sun-Herald every week, 'Ya gotta love this city.'

Peter and Dianne Kelly and Greg and Jan Griffiths have recently travelled on the outback train the Ghan, a 903 metre, 38 carriage, 290 passenger train through the red desert country of outback Australia. North to south across the country's heart, from Darwin to Adelaide, the long journey includes day trips into the spectacular scenery of Katherine Gorge, Alice Springs, the opal mines at Coober Pedy. Apart from enjoying the trip Peter learnt some interesting news. In Greg's words: A soothsayer passenger (who claimed to have read the future for Liberace and Madonna in the USA and received \$1000 tips) told Peter he was MY FATHER IN ANOTHER LIFE?????. He looked benignly on me and protected me for the rest of the trip!! At an Opal mine in Coober Pedy, he was given a free hard hat and insisted on posing with it on to prove to his "son" Greg how tough he looked !!



I wonder if Greg will be asking Peter for pocket money.

Barbara's Thought for the Month

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

Author: Albert Einstein

Editor's Musings

Atheism is a non-prophet organisation

Remember half the people you know are below average.

What is a free gift? Aren't all gifts free?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

A New Member Perspective

My name is Christine (Chris) Coulter, a new member. I was asked by the committee to share my experience thus far on becoming a member and taking part in the various events the club organises. I would like to say, I am very happy to do so.

I had worked for some years, full time, and then went to part time. I became accustomed to a couple of free days during the week and I filled them quite easily! Then I had a full free week to fill when I 'retired' last year. I knew of Probus and I saw an article in my local paper about Hunters Hill Probus Club. It read very well, there was a contact number, so I rang. I spoke to a charming gentleman who filled me in on the activities of the Club and he encouraged me to come along to a meeting which I subsequently did.

I was warmly welcomed on arrival and looked after very kindly during the meeting. When the official part of the meeting was completed, we broke for morning tea, after which we were treated to a very interesting guest speaker. I enjoyed that first meeting, so I attended the next month's meeting which was equally enjoyable. It was then suggested to me to go along to the Club's monthly dinner, as it was a great way to get to know people a little better in a more relaxed environment. It was a fun and friendly evening.

To date, I have attended several meetings with informative and entertaining guest speakers (a real bonus), monthly dinners, café lunches, a new adventure each time at different venues, and, an overnight coach tour to Canberra for the Cartier Exhibition which was stunning.

We were also treated to a tour of Duntroon, the Arboretum and then we had a choice of one of the many iconic and historical attractions Canberra has to offer, such as the War Memorial, New Parliament House, just to mention a couple. I chose Old Parliament House, where an exhibition featuring satirical political cartoons, past and present was showing and they certainly brought a smile to my face! As well, we were offered a tour of the Senate Chamber and the House of Representatives. Overall, the tour was well organized, comfortable and great company .

The members of Hunters Hill Probus Club are welcoming, lots of good humour and friendship which I think, is what it is all about!

**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**



September Birthdays

Judith Dewsnap	4
Tony Saunders	4
Pat Cox	5
Judith Dunstan	5
Bob Mostyn	8
Valerie Colley	19
Leonard Macpherson	25
Mike Regnis	25
Catherine Higgs	25

SPARE A MINUTE

**Minutes of the 472st Meeting of
Hunters Hill Probus Club at the
Hunters Hill Club on
Tuesday 7th August, 2018 at 9:30**

OPENING

Following the opening of the meeting with the national anthem, the President, Margaret Conley, presented a new member badge to Jean Clinch. The president then welcomed to the meeting the following visitors: Julie Gahn, Ross Dive, Ian Galbraith, Kevin Manie, Rick Collies, David Ward, and Chris Schofield. The president reminded members that the suggestion box is on the back table at meetings, and the Management Committee would love to receive your suggestions. The president asked any members who would like to have an up-to-date membership list to please see Gordon Sanson at morning tea. The president asked when members have read the Active Retiree Magazine to please recycle it in waiting rooms of doctors etc.

CORRESPONDENCE

IN: New member cards from PSPL, promotional brochure from KTG Tours. Thank you letter from Sydney Commu-

Japanese Attack on Sydney Harbour

Rod Stewart introduced Peter Sweeney, who spoke on the Japanese submarine attack on Sydney Harbour. Peter is a co-director of Battle Honours Australia, which explores Australian military history, gives cruise talks and speaks to organisations such as Probus on battlefields in which Australian troops have been involved.

On the night of 29 May 1942, five large Japanese submarines positioned themselves off Sydney Heads. At 3.00 am the next day one of the submarines launched a reconnaissance aircraft. After circling Sydney Harbour the aircraft returned, reporting the presence of 'battleships and cruisers' moored in the harbour. The commanding officer decided to attack the harbour with midget submarines the next night. The next day the five submarines approached to within 11 kilometres of Sydney Heads, and at about 4.30 pm they released three midget submarines which began their approach to Sydney Harbour.

The outer-harbour defenses detected the entry of the first midget submarine at about 8.00 pm, but it was not identified until it became entangled in an anti-torpedo net suspended between George's Head and Green Point. Before HMAS *Yarrama* was able to open fire the submarine's two crew members destroyed their vessel with demolition charges and killed themselves.

The second submarine entered the harbour at about 9.48 pm and headed west towards the Harbour Bridge, causing a general alarm. About 200 metres from Garden Island the submarine was fired on by the heavy cruiser

USS *Chicago*. The submarine then fired its two torpedoes at the cruiser. One torpedo ran ashore on Garden Island but failed to explode. The other passed under the Dutch submarine *K9* and struck the harbour bed beneath the depot ship HMAS *Kuttabul* where it exploded, killing 21 sailors. The submarine then slipped out of the harbour. Its fate wasn't known until 2006, when it was discovered by divers off Sydney's northern beaches.



Japanese sub recovered the next day

The third submarine was sighted by HMAS *Yandra* at the entrance to the harbour and was depth-charged.

Four hours later, having recovered, it entered the harbour and was again attacked with depth charges and sunk in Taylors Bay. Both members of the submarine's crew committed suicide.

The two submarines that were recovered were identical, and their remains were used to reconstruct a complete vessel which toured New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia before being delivered to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in 1943, where it remains on display.

Peter said there were failures in the Allied defence and flaws in the Japanese tactics. There was inadequate response to the Japanese reconnaissance flight over the harbour and some anti-submarine nets were either unfinished or not functioning, and there was a lack of trained personnel.

The main flaw in the Japanese attack was that the captains of the midget submarines should have been given a plan to work to, and the submarines were unstable and prone to dive and surface uncontrollably.

nity Services especially mentioning Vinci Wahlquist. Letter and form from Trent Zimmerman, Member for North Sydney, outlining the Stronger Communities Program Grants. Letter with latest brochure from the Whitlam Institute, WSU, Parramatta Campus. Letter from HH Ladies Probus inviting President to their 30th birthday Lunch. Email from PSPL showing current Financial Results etc.

OUT: Email to Mike Regnis from the President re the Memorial Bell. Email to the Hunters Hill RSL inviting the President and Members to the Changi Lunch. Email to the HH Club Manager, attaching the HH Probus Club Certificate of Public Liability Insurance.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Judith Butt presented her report.	
C/b bal 1 July 2018	\$3,757.36
Total receipts	\$5,541.00
Total expenses	\$3,350.03
C/b bal 31 July 2018	\$5,948.33

WELFARE REPORT

Peter Kelly presented his report including the death of Peter Jackson.

ACTIVITIES

Jill Regnis spoke to the Activities report.

MEMBERSHIP

Gordon Sanson. Nil to report. The president informed members that Gordon has been awarded life membership of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

OPAL EVENTS

Ellen McKeown. See Newsletter.

BOOK CLUB

No report as Annette absent. (Page 2, Ed)

MEN'S GROUP

Neville Davey. Moving slowly.

RAFFLE

Jim Judge sold 343 raffle tickets.

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