

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this newsletter is for Probus members only

DIARY

General Meeting

Tuesday 6th October
Gladesville Sporties Club
9:30
181A Ryde Rd, Gladesville

Guest Speaker
Jim Haynes
Speaker, Broadcaster, Humourist
"Australia's Most Unbelievable True Stories"

Each Thursday
Weekly Coffee The Sunroom
20A Alexandra St, Hunters Hill
In the church grounds
10:00 am
Now Weekly

Each Wednesday
Dog Walking
14:00
Call
Peter Kelly: 0411 696 583

Monday 12th October
HARS Aviation Tour Albion
Park & Lunch
Opal Outing
Depart Central Platform 25 at
9:27am

Wednesday 14th October
3 Day Mudgee Tour
Barbara Banner
Details at meeting

Friday 16th October
Book Club
Hunters Hill Museum
14:00
"Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet"
Author: Jamie Ford
Afternoon Tea: Vincie Wahlquist

Monday 19th October
Golf
Lane Cove Golf Club, tee off
8:00am. Call Jim 0412 090 400
to register

From the President

What a year it's been so far living with the fear of Covid19 and the restrictions this has imposed on our lives. However, life is slowly changing back to normality, although I feel it will be some time before we return to life as we knew it 7-8 months ago.

The good news is, most of us are ok and can only look forward to better times.

As you are all aware, it has been six months since we have met as a club and I am so excited and looking forward to finally have a member meeting on October 6th. This will be my first meeting as President and I hope you will forgive me for any mistakes I make during the meeting.

I think it will be great and a lot of fun.

Unfortunately, we were not able to have the meeting at what I consider to be our spiritual club home, the Hunters Hill Club.

We still have not finalised discussions with the club's management, however, this will be done, no later than end of October. I will fill everyone in on more detail on this matter at the meeting next Tuesday.

In the meantime, holding the club's meeting at Sporties in Gladesville will be good.

Sporties does not have the same ambience as The Hunters Hill Club but it does offer everything else we need to hold an interesting and successful member meeting. The management of the club has offered us most of the dining area, the audio system and will put on morning refreshments including biscuits free of charge. They also have a varied menu at very reasonable prices and I encourage you all to stay for lunch.

I think you will agree with me in saying that it is not the four walls and the room where we meet that makes a successful Probus meeting, rather it is the fantastic members we have attending that does.

We have a busy program planned. It may take a little longer, but not much, than normal as we will be inducting two new members and present some Club Service awards to 7-8 members. We have a fascinating speaker in Jim Haynes, the topic being "Australia's most Unbelievable True Stories". I am so looking forward to this.

You would have heard by now that we are introducing a number of minor activities, referred to as "special interest groups". The coordinators of the groups that are ready to go will speak briefly about these to give you more details. These groups are, Dog Walking, Technical Outings and Golf. Our popular Coffee Mornings, now weekly, have changed venue and the Book Club continues to meet at the Museum.

Others in the process of being planned are, Scenic walking, Art galleries, Botanical Gardens and International Dining.

All in all, I think and hope it will be an entertaining meeting and feel certain that you will enjoy it with the company of all your friends.

Finally and on another topic, I will be pleased to announce the launch of our brand new Probus Club of Hunters Hill website at the meeting on Tuesday.

You may be aware that we previously had a "microsite" within the PSPL structure. Over time, we have decided to implement our own individual site with the help and able assistance of a website development company, Webfeat.

More information about the site at our meeting and in the in the next Newsletter.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday.

Jim

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 10th November

General Meeting
 Delayed due Melbourne Cup
 Venue TBA
 Guest Speaker
 Ian Thompson
 "Patents and Inventions"

Monday 2nd November

Archibald Prize NSW Art Gallery
 Barbara Banner
 Details TBA at meeting

Friday 20th November

Book Club
 Hunters Hill Museum
 14:00

Monday 30th November

Seafood BBQ
 Palm Beach
 Ashlyn Allum

Tuesday 15th December

Christmas Lunch
 The Alcott Club Lane Cove
 Details TBA

General Meeting October 6th

Yes, we are finally having a General Meeting after a break of some six months and we need to share a few things with you.

There are 3 entrances to the Sporties Club in Gladesville, via Ryde Road, via Halcyon Street and via Swan Street.

The club car park, accessible from Swan Street, takes about 40 cars. However, there are steps into the club that need to be negotiated. Similarly, the entrance from Ryde Road also has some 7 steps. For those of you that have an issue with steps, the best entrance is in Halcyon Street. There should be sufficient off street parking available.

We have requested that you register with Kevin if you plan to attend. This solely for us to provide the club, in advance, with the contact details of those attending and eliminate unnecessary queuing at the entrances. Our meet and greet teams will meet you at the door and, tick your name on the registration sheet, add anybody not previously registered and finally, delete any "no-shows".

Once inside the club, social distancing will apply. We will have advised the club of expected numbers and seating will be arranged accordingly. Seated will be at tables rather than the usual theatre set up. At the morning tea break, the club will be providing tea, coffee and biscuits. We will go to the serving area and return to the tables at which we originally sat. Unfortunately standing and "mingling" will not be possible.

Masks are **NOT** compulsory but feel free to wear one if you are more comfortable doing so. Hand sanitisers will be available for use.

We have a busy schedule with 8 members receiving service pins, induction of 2 new members an introduction to our new Website followed by a very entertaining speaker with a fascinating topic

Following the conclusion of the meeting we encourage you to remain in the club and have lunch on the premises. The committee plan to do so and spread themselves amongst the tables for the opportunity to gain your feedback as to how the meeting went and your experience, concerns or otherwise.

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On another topic, we'd like to introduce a member's "**Have Your Say**" section. An area in the Newsletter set aside for you to provide some feedback on how you think the Club is going, what you would like to see in the way of activities, speakers topics, agenda items for General meetings or anything else on your mind.

It'll be a chance for you to input your thoughts, opinions, feelings and comments about what you like about the club, or, what concerns you may have. Share your views with other members.

If any input requires a response or comment from, for example, the Committee, I will endeavour to obtain that response and, if appropriate subsequently publish it. If not appropriate at least provide the response to the individual.

Who's going to be the first?

Mike

Interest Groups



Dog Walking now weekly on Wednesdays, call Peter Kelly 0411 696 585 or Judy Davey 0419 633 149



Golf commencing Monday October 19th, Lane Cove Golf Club, tee off 8:00am. Call Jim 0412 090 400 to register. All welcome.

Garth's Travel - Savannahlander

The Savannahlander is an aluminium 2 car rail motor which runs on a narrow gauge rail. It was built in 1963 and restored in 2003. It runs from Cairns up over the Kuranda range and on to Forsyth an 850Km return trip. As the train does not have any sleeping accommodation it stops at three different towns for the nights, (Almaden, Forsyth, and Mount Surprise).



First stop was the Kuranda station – a beautifully decorated rail station with hundreds of tropical plants. We also had the opportunity to stop and view the wonderful Barron Falls.

Then a short stop for a walk around Mareeba, then on to a rail museum at Dimbulah and arrived at Almaden for lunch. Off on a tour of the township of Chillagoe including a visit to caves which were very good. Overnight was in cabins. The lady running this location was involved with “Wires” and after dinner she handed everyone a piece of stale bread, what’s going on? Miniature horses then came into the dining room and we fed the horses from the table. Different!

The rail line around Chillagoe was constructed by a mining company that was refining agate, a semi-precious stone. The area is now considered to be mined out but there are still some small deposits of agate left. At one stage on our trip to Mount Surprise the train was stopped and we all went fossicking for agate in the bush beside the rail. We got a few small pieces.

Lunch was at the Einasleigh pub, nothing there only the pub. A very typical old Queensland country pub.

Our next excursion was a visit to Cobbold Gorge. The gorge runs through beautiful multi-coloured sedimentary rock and in some places narrows to just a few metres. We floated through the gorge in a small electric boat, in silence, a magical atmosphere.

Back on the train we headed back to Mount Surprise. On the way the driver of the railmotor just stopped in the middle of nowhere and announced “morning tea”. He then proceeded to boil the billy beside the rail and we all enjoyed hot tea and fruit cake.

We then transferred to a bus taking us to the Undara lava tubes. The Undara lava tubes were formed when a large volcano erupted violently and spewed molten lava. The lava then flowed down dried river beds and when the top of the lava cooled forming a crust, and allowed the lava below to continue flowing and formed a hollow tube. The tubes are worth seeing, but not much more to do. Our accommodation was in old railway carriages and I believe these have now been replaced with a modern hotel. The evening was completed listening to a reading of bush poetry read by an old “bushie”.



Next morning back on the train to Cairns completed a most unusual but enjoyable 4 days.

Garth Juster

Nostalgia Corner

Mike and I were busily watching the Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremony for year 12 at Wenona School on Tuesday 22nd September, to see our granddaughter receive her prize for ‘Science and the Environment’. We were delighted to hear that one of the students had been awarded the ‘Ailsa McPherson’ Memorial Prize.

For those of us who knew and admired Ailsa, we knew that she had been dux of the school in her graduation year, and was then an enthusiastic member of the alumni.

Sadly, she passed away just short of her 80th birthday in March, 2016.

I first met Ailsa when she joined the Hunters Hill Quilters and we became friends. She decided to come to Probus as a visitor to see if it was as good as I had been telling her. She subsequently was invited to join and soon became an enthusiastic contributor to the club serving in the role of Art Outings organizer.

Her enthusiasm for learning lives on.

Jill Regnis

**Probus Club of
Hunters Hill**

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



October Birthdays

Anne Day	17
Lesley Pike	17
Barbara Gardner	23
Deirdre Walker	24
Diane Drew	28



Book Club



Harland's Half Acre.
by David Malouf

This is the story of an artist, but much more than that it contains many family and sibling narratives, linked or tangential to the travails of an earlier Irish diaspora and their naive love of a property named inappropriately "Killarney" a somewhat poor choice of location for stock in inland Queensland; a flawed dream lost to gambling and later replaced piecemeal.

There is a feeling that things won't end well (as Clive James said. "Don't worry, none of us gets off this earth alive").

Grandpa's demise is an epic adventure in dying--will it never end?

One enjoys the exquisite detail in characterisation and the posing of the vernacular with the urbane. There are obliquities seeking syntax. It helps to be of Probian years to appreciate the early 20 th century Queensland culture (a Bex in Coke) —and there is a lot of peeing!

There is tragedy, dysfunction, gaol, suicide and much complex psychology as the family squabble, separates and reconciles.

A raconteur, Phil, is introduced perhaps to portray a third person perspective to the many ups and downs as Frank the artist moves from home to foster care, to sleeping in a car dump etc to hermit life in a tent on the beach sand dunes --all the while painting away to legendary status.

Richard Jones

Barbara's Thoughts for the Month

"Children will not remember you for the material things you provided but for the feeling that you cherished them."

Author: Richard L Evans

"It's better to walk alone, than with a crowd going in the wrong direction."

Author: Diane Grant

Editor's Musings

Don't irritate old people. The older we get, the less "Life in prison" is a deterrent.

Confuse your doctor by putting on rubber gloves at the same time she does.

Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

You are such a good friend that if we were on a sinking ship together and there was only one life jacket... I'd miss you heaps and think of you often.

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

President	-	Jim Likidis	0412 090 400
Vice President	-	Dean Letcher	9816 5357
Immediate Past President	-	Mike Allum	0417 596 300
Secretary	-	Carolyn Jolly	9437 6229
Treasurer	-	Josephine McBride	9817 5632
Activities Convenor	-	Barbara Banner	9427 0102
Speakers	-	Carol Pelham	9808 5020
Welfare Officer	-	Ashlyn Allum	9816 3269
Membership Officer	-	Kevin Manie	0412 349 270
Committee	-	David Lorsch	0428 247 708
Book Club Convenor	-	Margaret Timbs	9816 2374
Newsletter Editor	-	Mike Allum	0417 596 300
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