Probus Club of Hunters Hill and District Inc.

Volume 45, Number 11

November 2020

Information in this newsletter is for Probus members only

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

DIARY

Monday 9th November

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

General Meeting

Tuesday 10th November Gladesville Sporties Club 9:30 181A Ryde Rd, Gladesville

Guest Speaker

lan Thompson
"Patents and Inventions Background and History"

Each Wednesday

Dog Walking 14:00 Peter Kelly: 0411 696 583

Each Thursday

Coffee Morning - The Sunroom 20A Alexandra St, Hunters Hill 10:00 am *****

Friday 20th November

Book Club Hunters Hill Museum 14:00 Middlemarch" by George Elliott. Afternoon Tea at the Sunroom

Monday 30th November

Seafood BBQ
Palm Beach
Pick up HH Post Office 13:15 pm
return approx 20:45 pm

Wednesday 16th December

Good Old Days Concert
The Concourse, Chatswood
11:00 am
\$35 + \$5.20 booking fee
Names and payment to Barbara
at November meeting

From the President

I was one proud President to have presided over the Club's first meeting of the year in front of probably a record attendance by members and guests at the meeting held in October. Thank you all for attending in the numbers you did. It was great to see.

Based on the feedback the committee and I received from a number of you, the new venue, Sporties was a success. Members liked the lunch menu and the hospitality extended by the club's management to our club was excellent.

I hope you liked the changes made to the presentation of the Service awards. I plan to introduce some further subtle changes to future meetings which I hope you will like, but, I am sure that if you don't, you will let me know. In fact I will always welcome feedback, good or bad. Please use the "Have Your Say" and write an article telling all of us what you think.

One thing however I will ask our members to better observe is the Covid-19 protocols that the club has asked to be followed. The Club's manager spoke to me a couple of times regarding this during the meeting, fearing that if an inspector visited the club, Sporties could be facing a heavy fine.

Please read the protocols included in this newsletter and try to observe these as much as you can. I know it is difficult, everyone wanting to mix with other members etc.

The trip to Mudgee was a lot of fun with lots of things to do and places visited. It was so good to finally get out of Sydney and relax. I can only speak for myself and Fay but, when we got back it felt like we were away for a week.

My thanks go to Barbara Banner and OnCourse for doing such a great job in looking after us.

Now that the Club's website has been launched, I hope you had a chance to get into it and had a look at the contents included and the information about the club. If you haven't done so as yet, I encourage you to please do so by entering *huntershillprobus.org*, I know you will like it.

We have our next major activity, a Seafood BBQ lunch coming up in late November and I urge you to book quickly as numbers are limited. It will, as always, be a lot of fun.

As to Club business, other than the matter of premises and HH Club, there is nothing of major importance for me to inform you about. On the HH Club saga, I will give you an update at our next meeting on 10 November.

See you all on 10 November for another great meeting.

Jim

Golf Group

We now have five members that have joined the Golf Group. The ideal number I would like to see is 8, so we need another 3 members to join. Remember it's open to all.

The plan was to kick off the beginning of the Golf Group by playing on 19^{th} October. As things went, 2 could not make it and we decided to cancel and try again the following week , 26^{th} October. However, the weather Gods interfered as they did when we planned to have another go at playing on 2^{nd} November.

We now plan to play 9^{th} Monday November at Lane Cove Golf Club, River Road, Lane Cove, tee-off 8:00 am. Call Jim to register 0412 090 400.

Please, if you have played before, have not played for a while, like all of us, come and join. It will be fun, playing fortnightly, 9 holes on nearby courses.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 1st December Gladesville Sporties Club 181a Ryde Rd, Gladesville 9:30

Guest Speaker
Our Very Own -Tony Saunders
Subject: Canada's Black Friday
20/2/1959
An Historic event which shook
the Nation.

Monday 14th & 28th December Golf

Venue, tee off 8:00 am. Call Jim 0412 090 400 to register

Tuesday 15th December

Christmas Lunch
The Alcott Club Lane Cove
Details TBA
Awaiting easing of Covid-19 restrictions

Friday 18th December
Book Club
Hunters Hill Museum
14:00
Afternoon Tea

HARS Museum - Albion Park

A great day out with glorious weather was enjoyed by all when 16 of our members and guests visited the **H**istorical **A**ircraft **R**estoration **S**ociety (HARS) museum at Albion Park. On the trip down we were collectively educated as to the true meaning of a "quiet carriage", for which we thank Transport for NSW.

The HARS Museum is run totally by volunteers and is funded primarily by private donations and a range of fund rising activities. Nearly 50% of the aircraft on view are air worthy and are flown at least 6-8 times per year to help maintain their air worthiness certification.

The society is a not-for-profit organisation and was formed in 1979 by a group of aviation enthusiasts interested in the preservation of Australian aviation history. Their mantra is - "To recover, and where possible restore to flying condition, aircraft or types of aircraft that have played a significant part in Australian Aviation History both in the Civil and Military arenas".

One of the concerns the Society has is that, with the passage of time, many of the skills required to meet these objectives will be lost.

There are too many highlights to mention but surely the giant Qantas 747-400 on display is hard to beat (photo of some of the group in front of one the 747's giant turbine engines is attached). Up until 2017 this aircraft held the record for the fastest non-stop flight from the UK to Australia, this record is now held by a Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

Some people were lucky enough to climb into the cockpit of an F-111 swing wing bomber (I am told it was a tight fit??), while others sat in the cockpit of a DC-10 or DC-3.

The Beatles were also on show with the stairs they used to get off their aircraft in 1965 on display and signed photographs of them still attached to the aircrafts main frame.

Among our group was Carole Clancy O'Heir, a member of the Hunters Hill Ladies Probus club. A nice surprise for all of us, including our tour guide Tom, was to find out that Carole's father built one of the aircraft on display in his back garden and flew it!! (See photo below of Clancy's' Sky baby).

Our guides were very informative and clearly have a passion for their "work". They recommended a return visit in a couple of years to see how much will have changed.

Fortunately the group was much better behaved on the return train journey.

Les Banner



Above: Connie Be

Below: Tight Fit F111





Above: Clancy Baby Below: QF747 and Crew



Additional photos can be found on our website: www.huntershillprobus.org/gallery

MINUTES OF THE 492nd GENERAL MEETING OF PROBUS CLUB OF HUNTERS HILL

TUESDAY OCTOBER 6th, 2020 GLADESVILLE SPORTIES CLUB

Meeting opened at 9.30 am by President Jim Likidis, who welcomed all members back after a very difficult last 6 months. It was a pleasure to see so many in attendance. He then thanked all the members of the Management Committee for their continued help during this time and their attendance at various alternative meetings such as zoom. A particular thanks were given to Mike Allum for his monthly and bi-monthly Newsletters and assistance in the development of the new Club website and Jim presented him with a bottle of wine for all his help. Jim apologised for the lack of information regarding the Hunters Hill Club. Negotiations are still underway. The HHC are charging \$250 rent which was rejected as unacceptable They also want to change to Wednesday or Thursday, also not acceptable. There is also the hearsay issue of being bumped if a wake or birthday party is booked. The management committee will be discussing this matter further.

Jim introduced a new section in the Newsletter – HAVE YOUR SAY. He asked that if anyone wanted to "have their say" to write to Mike Allum and this will be included in the next Newsletter. Jim then advised members that we have purchased a new computer to be used for presentations at member meetings as well as at PMC meetings. He advised that the new website would be up and running that afternoon – www:huntershillprobus.org. Jim encouraged all members to visit the club website and give feedback on what they thought.

Carolyn Timmins and Jim Hemmings were inducted as members following introductions nominators Pat Cox and Peter Kelly. Jim then welcomed visitors, President of the Gladesville Probus Club Terry Harkins, Carol Clancy-O'Heir, Helen Earp and Ada Radova.

Jim then presented 7 Long Service Awards.

1. REPORTS

TREASURER

Bank Balance as per Bank Statement 30/9/20		\$11,510	
Less Committed Funds			
Gov Grant less computer accessories	\$	333	
50th Birthday Reserve	\$	1,000	
Asset Replacement Reserve	\$	2,064	
Plus Unpresented Cheques as at 30/9/20		-	
Uncommitted Funds as per Cash Book 31/8/20	\$	8,113	

SECRETARY

Nil

WELFARE

Ashlyn Allum presented her report.

MEMBERSHIP

Kevin Marnie reported: Attendance 73 Total - 5 visitors. Total members 100. non-active 4, active 96. Vacancies 4

ACTIVITIES

Barbara Banner distributed her proposed Activities report for 21/22. This will be shown on the club website.

Barbara then outlined activities to the end of 2020 (attached to the Newsletter)

Jim Likidis then invited Mike Allum up to lectern to speak on Management Committee for next year. He proposed that the current committee be carried over to next year. There being no objections from the members a draft proposal to be prepared for November meeting.

<u>RAFFLE</u>

Jim Judge drew the following raffle winners: 1st prize:Tony Saunders 2nd prize: Ann Day 3rd prize: Lesley Pike Tickets sold: 286

Following Morning Tea our monthly Speaker was Jim Haynes OAM, Broadcaster and Humourist who gave a very amusing speech on "Australia's Unbelievable True Stories".

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12noon. Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10th. Gladesville Sporties Club.

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

Mudgee

16 Probians boarded a bus at Hunters Hill P.O. and headed off to Mudgee. We were first reminded that all precautions for the Coronavirus had been taken and there was lashings of hand sanitizer, special filters on the bus so we all felt safe.

Our first stop was Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens. Many flowers



were in bloom and we really enjoyed coffee and biscuits in this lovely setting. After lunch at Mudgee we visited the Blue Wren Winery for tastings. General agreement was that the Reds were pretty good but I thought the Riesling was also excellent. Next was a visit to the old Mudgee railway station which showcases a shop of many arts and crafts by local artists.

Our accommodation was at the Parklands Resort which was excellent. The rooms were spacious, mostly overlooking lovely gardens plus a lake and gazebo. The food was excellent too.



Our visit to Hill End was to the Hill End Museum to meet their curator, Malcolm Drinkwater, who showed his passion about the heritage of this area. The museum contained an enormous





range of gold rush equipment and really reflected the way of life at that time. One fascinating aspect was that we were able to visit a very small zoo which had 2 white peacocks. We didn't even know they existed. We then visited Peter Van Gent's winery for more tastings.

In the evening we headed to the Opera House at Gulgong for a



light hearted concert present by "Ned Kelly" of old bush ballads. A fun evening indeed.

A short visit to Mudgee Honey Haven allowed purchases of many local products.

Our return to Gulgong to visit the Henry Lawson Centre was also most interesting.

We returned to Sydney and everyone agreed it was a very worthwhile trip.

Garth Juster

Additional photos can be found on our website: www:huntershillprobus.org

Probus Club of Hunters Hill

PO BOX 1041 HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



November Birthdays

Peter Kelly	1
David Ward	8
Olena Holubinskyj	10
Carol Timmins	10
Rick Collins	11
Kathy O'Sullivan	16
Marie Do Rozario	16
Wendell Watt	21
Garth Juster	28
Barbara Banner	30

Members News

I've recently been advised that Calla Wahlquist, Gil and Vincie's grand-daughter, has been nominated for this year's **Walkley Award - Coverage of Indigenous Affairs**, for her story of the Rio Tinto/Juukan Gorge.

You may be aware that the destruction of the caves, reputedly in occupation for upwards of 40,000 years, sent shock-waves around the world.

As you know, Vincie's late husband, Gil, was a respected journalist in his working life and a previous editor of this newsletter.

Calla is a journalist for The Guardian, Australia and you can read her article at:

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/sep/25/rio-tinto

I don't have to tell you that the Walkley's are this country's most prestigious journalism awards.

My thanks to Jill Regnis for her message regarding Calla's nomination.

Mike

Jim Haynes

Well known speaker, broadcaster, and humourist, Jim Haynes, introduced his presentation as "Australia's Most Unbelievable True Stories".

His first example centred on the understanding that the first life saved at a beach took place at Bondi. He was of the view that, in fact, it occurred at Bronte Beach.

What made the story more interesting was that in 1906

one Lyster Ormsby of the Bondi Surf Bathers Lifesaving Club built a model from a cotton reel and two bobby pins of a portable horizontal reel for the rope. The first full-size reel was built in Paddington; and was improved on in the same year by Sydney coachbuilder, whose final design was used until 1993. The reel allowed a lifesaver wearing a belt with a rope attached to reach a distressed swimmer. The crew on the beach could then pull them back to the beach.

The rescue methods pioneered in Australia have since been used throughout the world.

The first life saved was that of an 8 year old boy, Charlie Kingsford Smith.

His second topic was the real contents of "The Ashes" trophy. The long held myth is that the urn contained he bails, ceremoniously burnt after Australia defeated England in a cricket match played at Kennington Oval, London in 1882. A day later, the Sporting Times carried a mock obituary of English cricket which concluded that: "The body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia". The concept caught the imagination of the sporting public.

A few weeks later, an English team, captained by the Hon Ivo Bligh [later Lord Darnley], set off to tour Australia, with Bligh vowing to return with "the ashes"; his Australian counterpart, WL Murdoch, similarly vowed to defend them.

As well as playing three scheduled matches against the Australian national side, Bligh and the amateur players in his team participated in many social matches. After one such match, at the Rupertswood Estate outside Melbourne on Christmas Eve 1882, Bligh was given the small terracotta urn as a symbol of the ashes that he had travelled to Australia to regain.

The contents of the urn are problematic;



they were variously reported to be the remains of a stump, bail or the outer casing of a ball. However, in the late 90's the 82-year-old daughter-in-law of the Lord Darnley the 1882 captain of the England team said they were the remains of her mother-in-law's veil, casting a further layer of doubt on the matter.

His final topic was focused on one of the two acts of war that took place on Australian soil

Following World War 1, a 'soldier settlement scheme' began to be rolled out across all states, and eventually it saw around 5,030 ex-soldiers given plots of land, which they were to convert into working farms, primarily to cultivate wheat and sheep. For a number of reasons, barely usable land and the Depression this made things tough.

And then there was the issue of the tens of thousands of West Australian emus that wanted their land back.

In 1922, they were officially reclassified as 'vermin'. By late 1932, there were 20,000 of them wreaking havoc on the farms of the veterans, and even these men, trained riflemen, who felled thousands of the mighty birds, could not put a dent in their numbers. So they called in the army to take action. They set out on 2 November 1932, determined to gun down a group of 50 birds in the district of Campion. They moved in formation behind the birds, and the birds answered by scattering themselves in all directions to minimise the casualties. The army tried gunning them down in moving trucks, but found they couldn't aim properly at their speedy foes.

A second campaign was mounted on 13 November 1932, killing 40 emus. Two days later, barely any, but about a month later it was reported that 100 emus were being killed every week. Even so, the Army did the maths and found that it took 10 bullets to bring down one emu, which was a pretty dismal effort. They were and the Great Emu War had finally come to an end.

Eventually, the government provided the ammunition for the locals to resolve problem themselves

All in all a very humorous, entertaining and informative presentation on some of Australia's unbelievable stories and things we didn't know.

Covid-19 Protocols for Gladesville Sporties Club Premises

It is very important that we follow the protocols as advised by the Sporties Club Management. We do not want to jeopardise our ability to use the premises by not following their request. They risk heavy fines if the rules are not adhered to.

As Jim mentions in his article on page 1, he was approached by the club management a couple of times during our October meeting.

There are 3 entrances into the Sporties Club in Gladesville, via Swan Street, via Ryde Road and via Halcyon Street. The Swan Street and Ryde Road entrances have steps before entering the clubhouse. The Halcyon Street entrance should only be used by those who have a problem with negotiating steps.

The club car park, accessible from Swan Street, takes about 40 cars. There should be sufficient off street parking available.

Again, we request that you register with Kevin - **kevin.manie@mac.com**, or 0412 349 270, if you plan to attend. This is 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 including visitors, 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. Seating 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.

We stress that, 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.

Please help by following the rules.

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.

Mike

A Reminder for the December 1st Meeting

Vincie has reminded me, it's that time again

We will have our Hardship Gift Collection for Hunters Hill Community Aid at our December 1st meeting.

The following are suggestions for us to donate:-

- Longlife milk (Full Cream and Light) in one Litre cartons
- Vegemite
- 2 minute noodles
- Tins of Spam or other meals, casseroles etc, in tins
- Packets of instant potato and instant peas
- Packets of cereals
- Packets of pasta meals
- Shampoo, soap, toilet paper toothpaste

We will probably organise for you to drop your donations off in the car park to save carrying everything into the club and then back out again.

Details at the November meeting.

Thank you.

Also, Jim Judge advises me that the raffle to be held at the December meeting will include a special, extra prize. So, plan to spend up big.

Book Club



"Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet"

by Jaime Ford.

The general consensus was that it was not a particularly well written book, perhaps because it was the author's first novel. We mostly enjoyed the historical aspects set in 1942, during the second world war.

Much discussion ensued around the aspects of race, which were the Chinese and Japanese residents of Seattle at that time and how the main characters in the book were driven by the cultures into which they were born despite the fact they were born in the USA.

One reader noted and enjoyed the book's happy ending.

Margaret Timbs

Have Your Say

In response to my invitation to you to "Have Your Say" in the last issue I received a very swift response that I publish below.

"While Probus and the Hunters Hill Club strives to keep up with the times and remain relevant to younger and potential members, it is difficult to reconcile the rationale for singing the Australian national anthem at the start of every meeting. To many in the community, this would appear to be anachronistic and jingoistic.

If the club persists with this old fashioned expression of Aussie patriotism, then why not also include an Acknowledgement of Country, which is now the norm at most civic events."

Chris Schofield

My only comment on this is that during the January 2020 General Meeting, as President, I did raise the topic of playing the National Anthem at the commencement of our meetings and a vast majority of the attendees voted for continuing the practice.

Mike

Editor's Musings

Statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarfs are not Happy.

The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death.

The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin.

What this country needs are more unemployed politicians.

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

New Interest Group

Scenic Roaming

This group gathers together members and friends who like to roam, that is to walk, explore, discover and investigate things that interest us along the way. On the list is always the botanic gardens, Balmain, Barangaroo, Watsons Bay and some of the other fabulous places near and around our harbour.

Scenic Roaming will happen on the first Thursday morning of each month, and some members and friends like to have lunch at a scenic spot or café before returning home.

We will usually travel by ferry, and each month the roamers make suggestions for the coming month.

Activity Leader:

Rick Collins - mob. 0411 023 473

or

Margaret Conley - mob. 0407 931 945

Watch this space for news of another group soon to start.

Barbara's Thought for the Month

"Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate".

Author: Dr Albert Schweitzer (Medical Missionary and Nobel Prize winner)

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 Pre	sident -	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 Lorschy	0428 247 708
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