

# PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this newsletter is for Probus members only

## DIARY

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

### General Meeting

Gladesville Sporties Club  
9:30 - 181A Ryde Rd, Gladesville

### Guest Speaker

Graham Sims  
Aussie Ballads and Bush Poetry  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Each Wednesday**

Dog Walking - 14:00  
Peter Kelly: 0411 696 583  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Each Thursday**

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

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

Scenic Roaming  
Call Rick Collins 0411 023 473  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

Golf  
Call Jim 0412 090 400  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

Powerhouse Museum Ultimo  
(details inside)  
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**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

45<sup>th</sup> Birthday lunch  
Hunters Hill Club  
12:00 noon for 12:30  
3 course - \$70 per head Your club is  
sponsoring a drink.

**Money due at the meeting or before**

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**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

Book Club  
12:30  
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### Reminders

**Deposits of \$200 due to Jill Regnis for Harrington Waters Trip - See Website - "Activities- Book and Pay Information" to pay online or pay at February meeting**

**Membership Fees of \$80 See Website "Subscription Information" to pay online**

## From the President

By now, most would sadly know of the passing of David Bowman. David joined Probus Hunters Hill in 2016 together with his wife Margaret, he would have been 91 years of age on February 19<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of myself, the management Committee and all their friends at Probus, I extend my condolences to Margaret and all our best wishes.

It was a big disappointment to me, and I am sure to most of you that the January member meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 reasons. From feedback received from a number of members, the decision to do so was the right one.

The health of our members is, and will always be, the number one priority of mine and the Management Committee.

The good news however, is we have a great February planned with the general monthly meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February followed by our 45<sup>th</sup> Birthday Lunch on 17 February.

The usual other Special Interest Groups will also be on, Golf, Book Club, Dog Walking and Morning Coffee.

Two new groups that will shortly be launched (see pages 2 & 3) are International Dining and Technical Outings. Other Special Interest Groups we would like to start up are the following, Scenic LUNCHING, Art Galleries, Botanical Gardens and Card Playing. More information is on following pages

As you know, Scenic Walking was launched a couple of months ago, but unfortunately participation was basically non-existent. There will be further discussion on this activity at a later general meeting.

I would like to invite anyone that is interested to be the Group leader/Co-ordinator of any of these groups to see Barbara Banner.

In respect of the 45<sup>th</sup> Lunch Celebration, as previously announced, the venue was to be the Alcott in Lane Cove. Unfortunately, one of today's Covid restrictions is the 4 m<sup>2</sup> rule per person and based on this, the Alcott Club in Lane Cove could not accommodate us, only being able to accept 45 people.

Barbara and Sandy Mower, our new Assistant Activity Officer to Barbara, proposed 3 sites namely Sporties, North Ryde RSL and Hunters Hill Club. A decision was made to hold our lunch at the HH Club due to the proximity, ambience of the venue and the menu offered.

This decision was not taken lightly as we know how some of our members feel about the club's management and the way we have been treated in respect of holding our member meetings there.

This decision was not based on helping, or in support of, the Hunters Hill Club management but purely on what would optimise the enjoyment of our members in celebrating such an important milestone for this magnificent club, 45 years.

Not to hold the lunch there, in my opinion, would have been to the detriment of our members.

Planning for this lunch is going well and hopefully you will be happy of the outcome. Barbara will speak further on this at the oncoming meeting.

Can I remind everyone that, if anyone is interested in putting their hand up to join the management committee in 2021, they need to nominate at the next member meeting on 2 February.

Until then, stay well, stay safe and be happy.

*Jim*

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**General Meeting**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
 Gladesville Sporties Club  
 181a Ryde Rd, Gladesville  
 9:30  
 No Speaker  
 Followed by AGM

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**Wednesdays**

Dog Walking - 14:00  
 Peter Kelly: 0411 696 583

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursdays**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

Scenic Roaming  
 Call Rick Collins 0411 023 473

\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

Golf  
 Call Jim 0412 090 400

\*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

Movie Outing - Roseville TBA  
 Barbara Banner

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**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

Book Club  
 Hunters Hill Museum 14:00

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**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

4 day trip to Harrington Waters  
 See Jill Regnis

**\$200 deposit at February meeting**

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**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> June**

Cook Islands  
 8 day OnCourse Tour  
 \$3,950 pp  
 Barbara Banner

**Probus Small Groups**

Starting at the first 2021 meeting on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February you will be invited to sign up to a number of 'small group activities' catering to individual interests that may not be shared by the whole club.

For each event members will arrange their own transport and pay at the event. At the meeting, leaders will be responsible for explaining the particular activity, the date, time and cost and then signing up members. The 'Event Sheet' completed with those details ensures the Probus personal insurance applies.

For instance, Dean Letcher will be Leader of the **Exotic Lunch** group, whose first event will be lunch for maximum 12 at the Eastwood Seafood restaurant at Rowe Street Eastwood on a date to be announced but during February and to be repeated later.

This is intended to be an introduction to Cantonese Chinese dishes which is the speciality of the restaurant. Guangzhou province is in the southern warm part of the Chinese coastline (next to Hong Kong) so they eat lots of seafood, white rice and fresh greens. The meal will be sharing : Pippies in XO sauce with vermicelli, Braised tofu with minced fish, Fried glutinous rice and Stir-fry mixed summer vegetables with mushrooms with Steam rice and Chinese tea – all for about \$40.00.

Additional dishes and alcohol may be ordered and paid for by members – "You order, You pay" but everyone pays the \$40.00 whether they eat a lot or a little. Large free parking station nearby. The date and exact details will be on a sheet given to those signing up

A month later the **Exotic Lunch** will be at The Hills restaurant Hunters Hill for a Lebanese lunch typical of much Middle Eastern cuisine for a cost of about \$40.00 each. Given the infertile sandy soils, heat and dryness of the region the locals have perfected making the most of chick-peas, flat bread, parsley and a little protein. The leader will introduce and explain the dishes – labneh, hoummos, baba ganoush, falafel, tabbouli and fattoush plus sweet lemon juice and tea. Again, additional dishes or alcohol – "you order, you pay".

Later experiences: Na Zdrowie [Polish], Szechuan Chinese [Glebe], Uighur {Burwood}

**ART GALLERY:**

Leader, to be advised, will take first 12 members signing up for visits to artists' studios, small art galleries, new and stimulating exhibitions. Leader to introduce artist's work or obtain a gallery person to give a short talk. Initially all members to transport themselves. Later when numbers stabilize a bus may be organized. First event – visit Ross McBride in his working pottery in Hunters Hill. Date to be announced – no cost but Ross is always ready to meet the market

Later experiences: Mosman Art Gallery, Lane Cove Council gallery, Rushcutter galleries.

**HARBOUR LUNCHING:**

To enjoy lunch with friends at a harbourside restaurant with reasonable but not cheap pricing and with a fabulous harbour view. The leader [yet to nominate] will accept first 12 members for a weekday lunch, self-transport or public transport. All to order and pay for self at restaurant

**Examples:** Sydney Rowing Club Abbotsford – fabulous views – Opal ferry Huntleys Point to Abbotsford. Sydney Flying Squadron Kirribilli, Drummoyne Sailing Club, MCA Circular Quay.

Leader and dates to be announced.

And more to come folks.....

**Dean Letcher**

If you have any other suggestions for small groups of interest being formed, don't hesitate to let Dean know.

### A One Year Review

As some of you know, we were trapped for 3 days in Narooma last New Year, ringed by roaring black fires and no power for anything which made us feel totally helpless. Also, no petrol, no lights, no phones, no sunshine, no avoiding black ash, no communications from authorities as their phone lines crashed, no room for locals and tourists packing the golf Club and fairways packed with cars/caravans with families with babies huddling.

And what's more NO **COFFEE SHOPS** !!!

Finally, we received an urgent call to say the road to Bega had just been reopened if we left immediately. Clothes and belongings were thrown into our car and the Manager of the Motel pleaded with us "You will return"?

The promise was made and we returned on Boxing Day 2020 to give support and see the recovery for ourselves. In fact we were pleasantly surprised to see how well the trees were looking, lovely with soft downy leaves sprouting, the countryside was lush and green, the dams full as were the cattle that grazed content and well fed. Accommodation was full and restaurants needing bookings to be seated.

That was the vision we first witnessed. However, while Jan checked out the shops in Cobargo and Bermagui, I sought out the locals to discuss their experiences and it was not pretty listening. One couple had earlier moved down from Sydney to start a new life, bought a property planted an orchard, built a house only to have their farm and house totally destroyed. They are now slowly rebuilding but had lost all of their memories and valuables. I checked with the local post mistress in Cobargo who was told hers and two other buildings were priorities to be saved as the fire threatened to totally destroy the small township. The wind changed at the last moment - they lost their property. Others were still living, rent free, in small unit accommodation wherever available, together with caravan only options. One lady who made beaded jewellery, lost her home and all bead stock and was in a caravan where she now lives and works. Some people from all over the world, on hearing of her loss via the media, have responded, sending a wonderful assortment of replacements which has delighted her with their generosity

Similar stories are told in Bermagui where one person told me that again, when fire threatened the township but a wind change stopped the tragedy, he was away fighting fires. His own home was destroyed and his mother dying at the same time. Only now a start to a new home being built .

Interesting, there were reports that charity money had not been seen but we were told that was not correct, although the Government money was slow in coming.

All the locals had very similar disturbing stories.

**Greg Griffiths**

### Member News

**Ross Dive** and his wife Paula were about to retire to bed on the eve of Australia Day, when they heard a loud "bang" and saw "mist" out of the bedroom window. Needless to say it wasn't mist but smoke emanating from their garage.

Several hours later it was clear the "only" damage was to the garage, which was destroyed and 3 vehicles, one in the garage which was totally destroyed and two in the driveway which suffered major damage through the heat melting much of the non-metal bodywork. The rest of the house was intact and undamaged. Spoke affected, certainly, but that was all.

The next day, they were invested as Australian Citizens at the Bedlam Park Citizenship Ceremony.

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**Ruth Cronk** has recently resigned her Probus membership after 25 and a half years., our 8th longest serving member. I'm not aware of the reason but firmly believe she deserves a rest and a long and healthy "retirement" from the Club.

### Book Club



I understand the January Book Club meeting was cancelled hence there is no specific book to review at the February 19th meeting. Instead members will be encouraged to speak about the books they have enjoyed since their last get together.

Margaret Timbs advises me that the Library Fee of \$5.50 per person is now due.

**Mike**

**Technical Outing - Powerhouse Museum**

**Tuesday 9 February 2021 Powerhouse Museum, Ultimo**

In 2020 the NSW Government succumbed to community pressure and agreed to maintain the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo. Therefore, it is timely to show our continued support by a visit to this repository of Australian applied arts and science. It is probably a while since you took your kids or grandkids, so come along to see if anything has changed.

**Planned timetable.**

9:24 am ferry from Woolwich Wharf to Circular Quay, L3 light rail (tram) via George Street to China Town stop, change to L1 light rail Dulwich Hill line to Exhibition Centre stop, then 10 minute walk to Museum entrance in Harris Street, arriving about 10:35 am. Check in at entry using QR code. Wear face mask while in museum.

Government COVID-19 regulations currently prohibit Group Tours, so entry is individual free) to the museum and inspection of displays is individually or in small groups. Meet for lunch about 12:30 pm at MAAS Café. Continue individual or small group inspection of displays. Return home by reverse route at your convenience.

Special on-site parking can be arranged for people with a Mobility Parking Scheme permit. For more information please email [book@maas.museum](mailto:book@maas.museum) or call 9217 0222.

Please register with me your intention to come at the meeting on 2 February 2021 or by phone so that your attendance is recorded as a Probus Club activity for insurance purposes.

**David Lorsch**  
Leader, Technical Tours  
Phone 0428 247 708

**Barbara's Thought for the Month**

We achieve a sense of self from what we do for ourselves and how we develop our capabilities. If all your efforts have gone into developing others ,you're bound to feel empty. Take your turn now!

**Author: Robin Norwood**

**Editor's Musings**

During the middle ages they celebrated the end of the plague with wine and orgies. Does anyone know if there is anything planned when this one ends?


Politicians and diapers have one thing in common. They should both be changed regularly and for the same reason.

Knowledge is power, and power corrupts. So study hard and be evil.

Why is it called tourist season if we can't shoot them?

If you can stay calm while all around you is chaos, then you probably haven't completely understood the situation.

**Vale David Bowman**



Unfortunately David was not in good health when he and Margaret joined Probus in December 2016 hence not too many members got to know him very well, my self included.

Vincie has kindly put some words together for me.

*"David Bowman began his working life at age 19 as a copyboy for The News (Adelaide). He then went to the Canberra Times where he was Managing Editor.*

*He met Margaret in 1979 when she was his secretary on the Sydney Morning Herald and they married in the Russian Orthodox Church.*

*David was Executive Editor responsible for the Fairfax paper. After he left Fairfax he was a media critic and wrote a book called "The Captive Press" protesting about the concentration of press ownership concerned that it was strangling the press.*

*He was a champion chess player and lately enjoyed singing in the Dementia choir."*

**Vincie Wahlquist**

**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
(email: <a href="mailto:mike.allum@bigpond.com">mike.allum@bigpond.com</a> )			
Honorary Auditor	-	Anthony Alexandrou	

**Probus Club of  
Hunters Hill**

PO BOX 1041  
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



**February Birthdays**

<b>Norbett Snashall</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Ashlyn Allum</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Ruth Cronk</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Jean Fong</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>John Malone</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Mearle Denton</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Allison O'Neill</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Dawn Saunders</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Deirdre Page</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Greg Griffiths</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Nancy Hattersley</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Gwen Macree</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Charles Kent</b>	<b>26</b>

**Extension of President's Term**

At the 6<sup>th</sup> October General Meeting it was proposed that, given the disjointed year brought about by the Corona Virus, the term of the Committee be extended for a further year, through to February 2021. This proposition falls within the confines of our Constitution. The proposal was met with agreement by the vast majority of members present.

However, the Constitution, Management Clause 4(b) states "The term of office of the President shall be one year, which may be extended to not more than two consecutive years if required due to special circumstances."

Therefore at the meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup> the following motion will be put to the Membership and a vote will be taken.

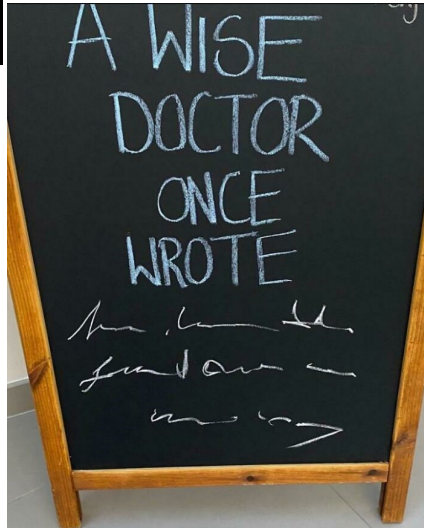
**MOTION**

"That, as a one off occurrence, for the purposes of Management Clause 4(b) of the club's Constitution the 'SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES', provision be now agreed as applying, this because of the COVID-19 pandemic and its many restrictions on the club, its management and on individual Members.

Further, that the term of the President and Committee be extended until February 2022."

As stated previously, notwithstanding the motion above being passed, any member wishing to nominate for a position on the Management committee is a liberty to do so. Nomination forms are held by the Secretary and will be available at the meeting. They need to be completed and handed back to the Secretary prior to the closure of the meeting .

*Mike*



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