

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this newsletter is for Probus members only

DIARY

Tuesday 5th January

General Meeting

Gladesville Sporties Club
9:30

181A Ryde Rd, Gladesville

CANCELLED

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 7th January

Scenic Roaming

Call Rick Collins 0411 023 473

Monday 11th and 25th January

Golf

Call Jim 0412 090 400

Friday 15th January

Book Club

12:30

Book of Your Choice

Saturday 26th January

Australia Day

Reminders

Due at the January Meeting

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

and

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

From the President

The end of the year is almost upon us and what a weird year it has been because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

We will remember 2020 as many things, the year we spent alone, the year we spent online, the year we feared for our health and our loved ones, the year of the US election. Just as we thought we were coming to the end of it, with basically no new transmissions nationally, the new spread at the Northern beaches was a big disappointment and great concern.

However, we must be thankful that we have a good government that has shown it has the experience and capability to address this. The important thing for me, and a big reminder, is we must not get complacent and that Covid 19 can hit at any time.

Despite the current setback, I do honestly believe we are nearing the end of it and normal life will return shortly, back to how we once knew it not that long ago. I know 2021 will be a great year for all of us.

By now, you would have all recovered from our Christmas lunch held on 15 December. What a Christmas party. Some of the feedback received from a number of you was "the best party held ever", "so much fun" which was fantastic to hear. This is exactly what we on the committee wanted to achieve .

My thanks go to our organisers Barbara Banner and Ashlyn Allum and of course the support people that helped out to make this such a success, namely Judy Davey, Sandy Mower on the door, Rod Stewart our club photographer, Garth and Anne Juster for the very entertaining Trivia game we played and Mike Allum for helping to set up and general support, together with my wife Fay.

As you know, I invited the President of Gladesville Probus Terry Harkins and his wife Denise who were sitting next to me. I was delighted to hear Terry and his wife make a comment about our members that I would like to share with you:

"your members really enjoy each other's company and are so friendly. Ours are like this but not as much as your members."

Of course I knew this, but it was good to hear this from an outsider , which supports the words included in our mission statement:

"Our strength and our future are our members"

Hopefully 2021 will see us returning to normal Club activities and our main objective is to provide lots of activities for our members to participate in. In February we have the Presidents Lunch, April the trip away to Harrington and June a trip to the Cook Islands.

The following special Interest groups have commenced, Dog Walking, Scenic Roaming and Golf with Coffee mornings on a Thursday proving to be very popular and of course, our Book club.

We hope to commence Scenic Lunching, Technical Outings, Art Galleries, International Dining and Botanical Gardens. To do this however we need members who are interested in these areas to nominate to be co-ordinators, so please if you are interested let Barbara Banner know .

In closing, I hope all our members and their families and our Probus Management Committee, had a very Merry and Joyous Christmas and will have a Happy New year.

Please stay safe and healthy and I will see you all at our next meeting on 5th January 2021.

Jim

FOR YOUR DIARY

General Meeting

Tuesday 2nd February
 Gladesville Sporties Club
 181a Ryde Rd, Gladesville
 9:30

Guest Speaker

Graham Sims
 Aussie Ballads and Bush Poetry

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

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

Thursday 4th February

Scenic Roaming
 Call Rick Collins 0411 023 473

Monday 8th and 22nd February

Golf
 Call Jim 0412 090 400

Wednesday 17th February

45th Birthday lunch
 The Alcott, Lane Cove
 Barbara Banner / Sandy Mower
 Details to follow

Friday 19th February

Book Club
 Hunters Hill Museum 14:00

Tuesday 27th - 30th April

4 day trip to Harrington Waters
 See Jill Regnis
 \$200 deposit at January meeting

Friday 4th - 11th June

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

Seafood BBQ

On a beautiful November 30th, 44 of us joined our OnCourse coach at the Hunters Hill Post office and set off for the Sydney Fish Markets. Some of us wandered and looked others sought to stock their fridges, not for our BBQ, but to take home. Our driver bought the supplies for the BBQ.

We then set off over the Harbour Bridge bound for afternoon tea at Manly Beach. On arrival we were all surprised to see a fully grown seal lolling about in the surf right on the water's edge. A small crowd had gathered but the seal was less than bothered by it all.

After watching the unscripted entertainment and enjoying our refreshments we boarded the coach again for a scenic drive via the beaches to Palm Beach.

At our destination we spread out, sat down and enjoyed a cold entrée of prawns, oysters and salad followed by freshly barbecued salmon washed down with a choice of wines or soft drinks.

All in all, a very pleasant experience with good company in fine weather, although it did get a little cool by the time we left to go home.

As usual, our thanks go to Barbara and Ashlyn for organising the event.

PS: I'm very pleased to report that I did manage to get to enjoy some prawns this year.

Mike



See the our website for more Photos - www.huntershillprobud.org

2020 Christmas Lunch

A first this year, Christmas lunch at our new “home”, Gladesville Sporties. In attendance were 68 members and guests, with two absentees unable to attend. Those that did were welcomed by a continuing slide show of selected activity photos from the year with a soundtrack of Christmas Carols. President Jim welcomed every one to the lunch and proceedings got underway.

Following the entrée, Ashlyn and Barbara conducted a variation of the game “tops and tails”, in this instance “spoons and forks” due to Covid restrictions. The winner was Barbara Jago after a closely fought contest of dubious antics. Between the main and dessert courses, Garth Juster conducted a “Trivial Pursuit” game comprising very simple and easy questions. Shock horror, the highest score, shared by 4 tables was 5 out of 12 questions. A playoff ensued before the winning table, devoid of dubious antics, won the major prizes.

After dessert and coffee a luck door prize draw was conducted, the winner being Sandy Mower.

Congratulations to Barbara Banner and all her team for the event organisation and presentation of table decorations, Bon-Bons and place settings.

A great deal of thanks also goes to the staff at the Sporties club for their attentive and timely service together with Chef Sean and his team in the kitchen.



2020 Christmas Lunch - cont.



"Fork and Spoon" Contest Comperes



Barbara Jago - "Fork and Spoon" Winner



Garth - Trivia Quizmaster



Intense Concentration



Trivia Quiz Winners

See the our website for more Photos - www.huntershillprobus.org

Last Coffee Morning Morning Before Christmas



Club Raffle

At the last meeting Jim Judge "retired" as our "Raffler Extraordinaire". I'm not sure when he started running our monthly raffle but, suffice to say, it's been a long time. He has brought a smile to all our faces with this unique style of drawing the winners and, in particular, the humour he employs.

Judy Davey, his erstwhile assistant, has offered to take over the role, for which we thank her.

Thanks Jim, for your hard work over the years and for the contribution the raffles have made to club funds. Now you can buy tickets and maybe win, but not too often!

Mike

Book Club - Lunch



Our end of year Christmas party was held by the book club at "Ironwood" on Friday 18th.

A trivia competition (like Probus Christmas party) was won by Pete Kelly who shared his Lindt prize with all attendees. Dean

generously raided his Esky to present us with Gravlax to be savoured at Christmas and we all reminisced about our 2020 deliberations on a range of books, thoughtfully provided by our committee.

We thanked our convenor Margaret who, ably assisted by her team, led us through the maze of literary conundra to eke out a consensus - with greater or lesser exuberance - for Mike to publish in the newsletter

Richard Jones



Editor's Musings

I went line dancing last night. OK, so it was a roadside sobriety test... same thing.

I told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.

I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.

As I watch this new generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of....it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

Barbara's Thought for the Month

As I've aged... I've become kinder to myself and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 am or sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 60 & 70's, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love... I will. I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set. They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And I eventually remember the important things. Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when somebody's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning grey, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore... I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day (if I feel like it).

Author unknown

**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: mike.allum@bigpond.com)	
Honorary Auditor	-	Anthony Alexandrou	

**Probus Club of
Hunters Hill**

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



January Birthdays

Jill Regnis	2
Margaret Timbs	2
Darryl Tutton	4
Barbara Jago	6
Bill Patterson	6
Ian Adair	6
Judith Love	9
Bambi Michael	22
Joe Stockreiter	25

A Good Old Day's Concert

Three Probarians enjoyed a Good Old Day's Concert at the Concourse, Chatswood on the 16th December.

Jane Rutter, flautist at her very best. Daniel Belle, tenor dazzled us with his amazing voice and what can you say about Bernard Walz, always so entertaining.

I'm looking forward to getting their 2021 Program.

Barbara Banner



Canada's Black Friday

Jim Likidis introduced Tony Saunders who told us the story of the commencement and demise of Avro Canada, a Canadian aircraft and engineering company.

Tony was employed by this company in his first job as a cadet engineer in 1953. His presentation started with the reason for the formation of the company which commenced in late 1945. The Cold War was about to commence and Canada wanted a fighter jet to protect it's Northern borders from Russian attack which could eventuate across the Artic Circle.

By 1945 the company had grown enormously. The group had 50,000 employees, was the third largest company in Canada and amongst the top 100 industrial companies in the world. But the heart of the company was the aircraft division with 15,000 employed on a site at Toronto airport where Tony worked.

He went on to describe the four aircraft produced: the CF 100 jet fighter, the Avro Jetliner (first passenger jet in the world to carry mail), the Flying Saucer (two were produced) and the



world beating Avro Arrow.

On Black Friday, 20 September 1959, the Prime Minister of Canada, John Diefenbaker stood up in Parliament and announced the immediate cancellation of the Avro Arrow.

The 15,000 employees left the factory that afternoon (including Tony) and an economic pall settled over Toronto with an estimated 50,000 workers in the community directly/indirectly affected.

Two months later, the assembly line, tooling, plans, and existing airframes and engines were ordered to be destroyed.

The cancellation was the topic of considerable political controversy at the time, and the subsequent destruction of the aircraft in production remains a topic for debate among historians and industry pundits. This action effectively put Avro out of business and its highly skilled engineering and production personnel scattered.

Tony concluded his talk with a description of what eventually happened to some of the people involved (including himself), the Great Canadian Brain Drain and four aircraft which were built.



And finally.....

A big thank you to all of you who have assisted me in being able to publish the Newsletter over the very difficult months we endured from our March meeting until we reconvened in October.

It was not without it's challenges but not only we were able to publish with a variety of content but, I now have a surplus of articles yet to be published provided by several of you, our members.

Happy New Year.

Mike