

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this newsletter is for Probus members only

DIARY

Tuesday 4th May

General Meeting

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

Guest Speaker

Tom Ware

Acclaimed Storyteller

Each Thursday

Coffee Morning - The Sunroom

10:00 am

Thursday 13th May

Scenic Walking

Details see Page 8

Rick Collins 0411 023 473

Monday 3rd and 17th May

Golf - Call Jim 0412 090 400

Friday 14th May

Exotic Dining

Bamiyan Afghani

147 Great North Rd, Five Dock

Dean: 9816 5357

Wednesday 19th May

Scenic Dining

Drumoyne Sailing Club

Dean Letcher - 9816 5357

Friday 21st May

Book Club

"Milkman" by Anna Burns

Hunters Hill Museum 14:00

Afternoon Tea at the Sunroom

Tuesday 25th May

Nepean Belle / Lindt Factory

\$93 Barbara Banner

0405 427259

Last day for names and payments

Friday 28th May

Art Group

Gallery Lane Cove 10:30

See Page 5

Margaret Timbs - 9816 2374

From the President

As the President of this amazing Club it gives me great satisfaction and pleasure to see so many activities taking place each month and to hear that our members enjoy attending and having a good time.

Each Thursday the coffee mornings are proving very popular, with the numbers of people attending each week getting larger.

The two type of lunches held each month co-ordinated by Dean Letcher namely Exotic and Scenic are well attended as are the Technical Outings co-ordinated by David Lorsch. Golf continues to limp along, having only four players, played on a fortnightly basis when players in the group are available.

Scenic Walking led by Rick Collins and Margaret Conley, is catching on and at the last walk taken on 15th April, there were seven attending. It was amazing and we all enjoyed it very much. The walk was at Barangaroo and the wonderful foreshore of our magnificent city, on a beautiful day, culminating for lunch at a great restaurant in Walsh Bay.

The Club's Book Club is also well attended the convener being Margaret Timbs. Then we have the relatively new activity introduced recently, Art Galleries, again led by Margaret Timbs, which is proving very popular with members. I was fortunate to attend the recent Art outing last week, together with approximately 20 other members. We commenced at the Hunters Hill Museum where a number of works of art are displayed. Our own Tony Saunders shared with us his extensive knowledge on some of the artists. We then crossed the road to go to the highlight of this activity, a visit to Ian Hansen's home. This was an experience and to see the works of this amazing Australian and meeting him in the flesh was a real buzz for me.

The activity for the month was the trip to Harrington when 31 members boarded the bus to go away for 4 days. The trip away was not without some small issues, however, we all agreed we had a wonderful 4 days away together fostering the friendships developed over the years with the old members and developing friendships further with newer members such as Fay and me.

My thanks go to all the convenors mentioned of the above activities for the time they put into it. I am sure it is very much appreciated by the members.

I would also like to especially thank Rod Stewart, the "Club's Photographer", for his time taking numerous photos which we use. Rod, because he takes the photo's, is very rarely in them. So I have made a small correction to this and I am showing his photo below.

See you at the meeting next Tuesday.

Jim



FOR YOUR DIARY

General Meeting

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

Guest Speaker

Updated

John Donohoe
 "Ben Hall's Last Days"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning - The Sunroom
 10:00 am

Tuesday 8th June

Technical Activity -TBA
(watch this space)
 David Lorsch

Monday 7th and 21st June

Golf
 Call Jim 0412 090 400

Thursday 10th June

Scenic Walking
 TBA
 Rick Collins 0411 023 473

Friday 11th June

Exotic Dining
 Venue TBA
 Dean: 9816 5357

Wednesday 16th June

Scenic Dining
 Venue TBA
 Dean Letcher - 9816 5357

Friday 18th June

Book Club
 Hunters Hill Museum 14:00
 Book TBA
 Afternoon Tea at the Sunroom

Monday 21st June

Good Old Days Concert
 Sydney Town Hall 11:00 am
Last chance \$45

Friday 25th June

Art Group
 TBA
 Margaret Timbs

Friday 4th - 11th June

Cook Islands
 8 day OnCourse Tour
 \$3,950 pp
 Barbara Banner
Dates may be changing

Harrington Waters

Day 1 was a long day, especially for Jimmy, our driver and tour guide! Having left Hunters Hill PO at 8.30 we travelled via the M1 and the Old Pacific Highway to a first morning tea stop at Swansea, by the lake. Then it was into Newcastle and our lunch stop at Queens Wharf Hotel after the novelty of entering the city along the old highway, seeing places like Belmont and Merewether again after many years of the boring M1. The next comfort stop was Gloucester at the foot of the Barrington Tops, before turning onto the Taree road across to the M1 again, briefly, then the road to Harrington. We arrived at Harrigan's Resort at about 6.00 pm and darkness precluded any visual impression of the place to be our home for 3 days. Dinner in Harrigan's Irish Pub, a few drinks and bed were the most popular choices.

Day 2 dawned bright and sunny although cool early. We were able to see the beautiful place where we are staying! First stop after breakfast was the Pilot Station at Harrington with views across the water to the actual mouth of the Manning River and the long breakwater that defines the north shore. By this time, we were starting to notice signs of the damage from the floods in March - flotsam and jetsam along the waterline and trees bent or flattened.



Next it was on to Camden Haven, where a pilot



station used to operate. Some ventured down the steep track and steps to the board walk and the beach, others appreciated the view from the top. Next was Port Macquarie where we had lunch in a picnic spot beside the now-quiescent Manning River. After a brief walkabout in Port Macquarie, we headed out to the Koala Hospital and historic Roto House. Unfortunately, Roto House was not open to visitors but a lady nurse of the staff at the Koala Hospital gave us an interesting and informative tour of the hospital and their in-patients. The day ended with drinks and dinner back at the Resort.

Having spent Day 2 mainly on the north of the river, *Day 3* started with a drive to Old Bar on the south side. Jimmy intended to take us to the top of North Brother Mountain for morning tea but the road up the mountain was closed so we back-tracked to the main road and headed to Hallidays Point guided by the local knowledge of David Lorsch. After a short interlude at Halli-

days Point we drove to Wingham where we toured the historic town and had lunch in "Food on Bent" after an interesting visit to the Museum. Again, the damage caused by the floods was evident although the general tidiness was impressive. The Museum contained many reminders of the early days of the district and some odd bits, like a Rolls-Royce "Nene" jet turbine out of a Vampire fighter jet of the 1950's.

From Wingham we headed into Taree and, following a brief bus tour of the town, we had



Harrington Waters (cont)

a short walkabout. Getting out of the bus we noticed that a cold wind had sprung up, so the walkabout was noticeably in the sunny areas. Also, of note was the "street art" in various forms.

We got an early mark for being good tourists and arrived back at the Resort at 4.00 pm! This was followed by drinks and nibbles around the pool at 6.00 pm, in the gloom with the optimists waiting to see who would be the first to fall in. None did, so we moved over to dinner at 7.00 pm.

Day 4 was the return to Hunters Hill, so, with a couple of things to do along the way, we had an early start at 8.15. We headed out onto the Highway until the turnoff to The Lakes Way at Kiwarric. We followed Lakes Way through Tuncurry, over the Whistling Bridge and into Forster where we boarded the catamaran "Amaroo" for a delightful cruise along the coast as far as Cape Hawke. Along the way we saw numerous small pods of dolphins, a Grey Nurse shark, and a sea turtle. Sea conditions were smooth so there were no cases of mal-de-mer among our group. We returned at 12.00 and boarded the bus for the short drive to our lunch spot.

The lunch spot turned out to be the same place, One Mile Beach, where we had lunch on the trip to Forster ("Opera by the Sea") a few years ago. Still the same nice spot close to the beach and having a SLSC clubhouse with toilets! Here we had a wonderful seafood lunch that Jimmy had prepared while we were out at sea.



After lunch Jill made a presentation to Jimmy and thanked him for a great job, not only driving but as a good-humoured guide! Passed with acclamation!

After that great lunch we settled into the serious business of getting back to Sydney, or at least Jimmy did while most of the group examined the backs of their eyelids. We agreed on a brief stop at "the Caltex Servo", then resumed to arrive back at Hunters Hill PO tired but happy at 7.00 pm. A long day, especially for Jimmy.

There was general agreement that it had been a great tour and all those who participated thank Jill for organising it!



**Story and photographs:
Rod Stewart**

You will find many more photos on our website shortly. Ed

Exotic Lunching

Our last exotica was at “Essence of North India” on 1st April where, after a very slow start, our genial host served a very genuine array of food from the Moghuls and princely states.

When we arrived, the restaurant was open, dark and deserted – is this an April Fool’s joke? But no, just the leisurely ways of the sub-continent and all was well with a Kingfisher beer or Indian chai tea for all the happy Probians.

OUR NEXT Exotic is at 12 noon on Friday 14th May at “Bamiyan” Afghani restaurant 147-149 Great North Road Fivedock (parking in the nearby supermarket). It is a very stylish establishment, all glass and silver, not what might be expected after all the bad news out of Kabul.

Afghanistan is sandwiched between Iran and Pakistan, so the cuisine reflects a strong Persian influence blended with the spices and rich vegetable garnishes of India. As usual now, we do not order a full meal but instead have a selection of typical dishes to give an overview of what Afghani food has to offer – lamb and chicken with peas, yoghurt and tomato gravy, chickpeas, carrots, sultanas and almonds – all the ingredients your mother did not dream of mixing.

The desserts are VERY special particularly the delicious Carrot Halwa – don’t knock it until you try it! Expected price to be under \$35.

Be sure to sign up at the May meeting.

Dean Letcher

Scenic Lunching

On 14th April, 17 happy Probians enjoyed Italian - accented “Carmen’s on the Park” looking out over Canada Bay with a menu ranging from Lemon Sole to salads to Mussels with a Pizza Crust – which explains the large pie you see in the photo.

The happy staff were pleased to see our post-Covid faces and EVERYONE was happy. Good food and a cheery outlook .



Another feast for eye and tummy is 12 noon THIRD Wednesday of May – 19th May at “Drummoyne Sailing Club” in the Sailors Bistro [not ‘Ecco’ which is the flash eatery upstairs].

Here we are favoured with a super view down the harbor past Schnapper, Spectacle and Cockatoo islands, over to exotic Hunters Hill and then to the Bridge and New Zealand. Or if you prefer, south to Birchgrove.

The specialty is seafood hot, cold, raw or curried, but everything else is offered. Everyone orders and pays individually, there is a table reserved for DEAN and we have members to sign you in.

Situated at the end of Park Avenue, Drummoyne. Good parking in club grounds. By bus, 5 minute walk from the Park Avenue/ Victoria Road bus stop which also serves Birkenhead Point. For the frugal diners, “Seniors Fish & Chips “ at \$16 is the steal of the century.

Sign up with me at the May meeting. We need you to sign up so you are covered for accident insurance through Probus and to notify family members.

Dean Letcher

Editor’s Musings

Are part time band leaders called semi-conductors?

Why does mineral water that has “trickled through mountains for centuries” go out of date next year?

Why is it that people say they “slept like a baby” when babies wake up like every two hours?

Can you buy an entire chess set in a pawn shop?

If you arrest a mime does he have the right to remain silent?



Les Osbourne pictured at the Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium RSL Memorial site on the Thursday before Anzac Day.

He was one of two centenarian special guests, escorted by their sons.

Art Gallery

Last Friday, the 23rd April, eighteen fellow art lovers met at 10 am to view the paintings hanging in the Hunters Hill Museum. Some of these paintings were purchased by the HH Historical Society and the remainder by HH Council.



Tony Saunders was our guide and he had kindly put out chairs for us to be comfortably seated. His talk concentrated on the paintings of the three most well known artists.

The first work is titled Fig Tree House, Lane Cove River, an oil on canvas, painted by George de Tourcey Collingridge. The second painting, an oil on board, is titled Fig Tree Church, 1956, painted by Nora Heysen. Nora, at the age of 28, won the prestigious Archibald Art prize in 1938. She was at that time not only the youngest artist to win the competition but also the first woman to be awarded the prize. The third painting, an oil on canvas laid on board, is titled Fishing on the River, painted by William Charles Piquenit. We were then free to view and examine all the paintings at our leisure and enjoy discussing them amongst ourselves.

Then we crossed Alexandra St. and entered the domain of well known Marine artist, Ian Hansen and his wife, Kaylene. What an absolute visual delight then surrounded us, everywhere we looked. Beauty surrounded us in the forms of paintings, sculptures, artefacts and plants in their garden. Ian gave us his time so generously, showed us many paintings, explained in such interesting detail these works, and patiently answered all our questions. Wonderful revelations from a wonderful artist.

We then walked through the garden to Ian's studio, interesting architecture in itself. He told us he started painting at the age of eight and showed us his first painting done at the age of eleven which was entered in an open competition, and won first prize. Ian has never had formal art lessons, but rather paints from deep inside himself, and as he said this, he thumped his chest. He then proceeded to tell us about many of his paintings, which were mostly of ships, sailing boats, oceanscapes, if there is such a word, some still life and a few black ink wash works.

Lastly I asked Ian about a large painting of a full moon shining on and through large green waves. He told us he had intended entering it in the 2020 Wynne exhibition but covid intervened. I loved this painting, told him so, and now he said he will get the entry form and enter the 2021 Wynne Prize. Ian allowed us free rein with photographs and kindly posed in some of them.

Our Group then crossed over Alexandra St. yet again, where most of us enjoyed lunch and coffee at the Sunroom. The chatter

and discussion was naturally about the truly wonderful and inspiring experiences we had enjoyed.

A big thank you to Tony Saunders who was instrumental in the



visit to Ian Hansen's studio, and also our talk and visit to the Community Art Gallery.

Next month we will meet on Friday 28th May 2021 at 10.30 am



at Gallery Lane Cove, 164 Longueville Rd. Lane Cove. The exhibition is: "Of Man and Nature, Diverse journey of Guy Warren". It features works from the 1940's to 2020 with the recurring theme of man's place in the natural environment. Guy Warren is one of the founders of the Lane Cove Art Society.

For those who wish, we will then adjourn for lunch in one the many cafes and restaurants in the Lane Cove precinct.

PARKING is readily available in the Woolworths Car Park and it is sometimes possible to find parking in the outdoor area behind the main shopping area.

Please see me during morning tea at the May Probus meeting to put your name on list.

Margaret Timbs: 9816-2374.

Book Club



The Light Between Oceans
By M. L. Stedman

The convenor of the book club, Margaret Timbs welcomed Margaret Conley to our literary conclave.

Grief, gratitude and guilt, a scenario crafted to suit the author's desire to challenge the reader's ethics. (remember the hypotheticals?)

After a number of false starts and a gruelling still birth, Izzy has menopause, circa age thirty and, lo and behold, a fresh clean baby gets washed up on the lighthouse island where her husband, whom she successfully seduced, is the keeper. Meanwhile the birth mother, married to an outcast Germanic (set just after the Great War) grieves for the loss of her baby and her husband—conveniently dead and later buried—arrives at the Janus lighthouse with live baby daughter in a dinghy. Izzy wants to keep the baby to heal the laceration caused by two miscarriages and a stillbirth.

Tom, who had killed many in the war and was probably suffering PTSD got the guilts and “emailed” the birth mother that her daughter was being well nurtured.

Ouch! Things got really sticky as the constabulary became interested and Tom maintained the high ground and protected his wife who by now hated him. Right was ultimately served, and things improved until the end.

There are some marvellous pieces of poetic prose e.g. "The rain is falling more heavily , and in the distance, thunder grumbles at being left behind by the lightning".

There were a number of very strong opinions, but all of us entertained a lively intercourse. Terribly sad, with a few tears.....shared by Vincie and Deidre. An analysis of players in the plot.....could they possibly be real people? But some emotions we share thought Joan and Margaret T. Your reviewer's emotions were wrung out, hung out to dry and held to ransom!

Richard Jones

PROBUS CLUB OF HUNTERS 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	0405 427259
Speakers	-	Carol Pelham	9808 5020
Welfare Officer	-	Ashlyn Allum	0414 964 773
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

Outing to Sydney Observatory.

Don't doubt Jim Likidis' enthusiasm for recruiting new members for Probus – he brought a ten year old on this outing! (OK, so it was his grandson, Oliver, during school holidays.)



Oliver joined 11 somewhat more senior and established Probusians for about two hours inspecting the Observatory exhibits and grounds on a beautiful Sydney autumn morning on Tuesday 13th April 2021. Although there were no conducted tours during COVID-19 restrictions, the extensive static displays of historical astronomical and meteorological instruments and records were appreciated by the group members. Restricted access to the complex made viewing easier and less hurried than at other times.

After everyone had seen enough, many of the group enjoyed lunch and the art exhibition at the nearby S H Irvin Gallery before dispersing for private arrangements.



I intend to arrange the next Technical Outing on Tuesday 8th June 2021, so watch the Newsletters for details!

David Lorsch

**Probus Club of
Hunters Hill**

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



Barbara's Thought for the Month

After a while you learn that subtle difference between holding a hand and chaining a soul.

And you learn that love doesn't mean security, and you begin to learn that kisses aren't contracts and presents aren't promises, and you begin to accept your defeats with your head up and your eyes open with the grace of an adult, not the grief of a child.

And you learn to build all your roads today because tomorrow's ground is too uncertain for plans.

After a while you learn that even sunshine burns if you get too much. So plant your own garden and decorate your own soul, instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers. And you will learn that you really can endure....that you really are strong, and you really do have worth.

Author: Veronica A Shoffstall

May Birthdays

Kay Holt	8
Nina Stockreiter	11
John Saalfeld	15
Ross Dive	19
Chris Coulter	21
Jim Judge	26
Judith Butt	27

Scenic Walking - 13th May

Woolwich Wharf - Circular Quay - McMahon's Point - Lavender Bay - Harbour Bridge - Circular Quay - Woolwich Wharf

Walk is approximately 5 kilometers - easy walking for members and friends - some stairs

We catch the F3 9:24 am ferry from the Valentia St. Woolwich Wharf (easy short walk parking) arriving at Circular Quay at 9:47 am. We then catch the F4 10:17 am ferry from Circular Quay arriving at McMahons Point wharf at 10:25 am.

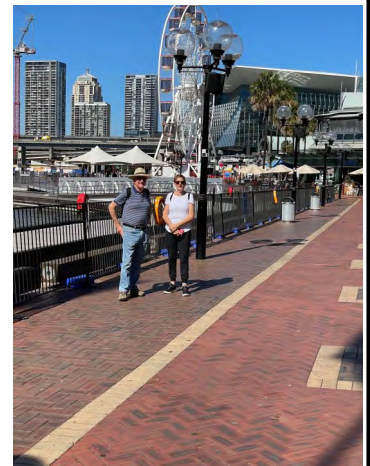
We then follow the harbour waterfront walkway around Lavender Bay and past Luna Park before walking over the Harbour Bridge to follow Argyle St. via The Rocks (and a coffee stop) to Circular Quay to catch the 1:45 (or 2:45) ferry back to Woolwich arriving at 2:09 pm (or 3:09 pm)



The walk will not go ahead if raining. There are toilets along the way

Contact Margaret Conley 0407 931 945 or Rick Collins 0411 023 473 if not sure. Members are welcome to bring a friend or friends.

Photos from our last walk.



Awesome conundrum:

If the woman is always right, and a man is always wrong. Then, if a man tells a woman that she's right. Is the man right or wrong?



Rick Collins