

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this newsletter is for Probus members only

DIARY

Tuesday 1st June

General Meeting

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

Guest Speaker

John Donohoe
"Ben Hall's Last Days"

Thursday

Dinner at the Hunters Hill Club
6 pm in the week of the General Meeting

Thursdays

Coffee Morning - The Sunroom
10:00 am

Tuesday 8th June

Technical Outing
National Maritime Museum
see [page 5](#)

Monday 7th and 21st June

Golf
Jim 0412 090 400

Thursday 10th June

Scenic Walking - [see page 3](#)
Rick Collins 0411 023 473

Friday 11th June

Exotic Dining - 12 noon
Apandim Uyghur Restaurant
189 Burwood Road, Burwood
Dean: 9816 5357

Wednesday 16th June

Scenic Dining 12 noon
Museum of Contemporary Art
Circular quay
Dean Letcher - 9816 5357

Friday 18th June

Book Club
"Wolf Winter" by Cecilia Ekbach
Hunters Hill Museum 14:00
Afternoon Tea at the Sunroom

Monday 21st June

Good Old Days Concert Sydney Town
Hall 11:00 am

Friday 25th June

Art Group
White Rabbit Gallery - [see page 4](#)
Margaret Timbs - 9816 2374

Cook Islands Cancelled

From the President

During the month of May the number of activities that took place were all well attended.

As you all know, the Scenic Walking group has been slow to be taken up by members. However, I am particularly happy to report that interest is now picking up with 6 participants doing the walk around Lavender Bay, Harbour Bridge and the Rocks.

I am so looking forward to hearing from Jim Hemmings and Peter Kelly as to how the new activity introduced at the May meeting of Fishing went.

On a more serious matter, at the May Management Committee meeting, I asked the team to state their intentions regarding nominating to continue as an office bearer for 2022. My reason for doing so was to identify the number of potential vacancies to be filled so I can invite members to fill them in time for next year.

As I alluded in my President's speech at the AGM in March this year, a significant number of MC members will step down at the end of this year. In total, there will be 4-5 vacancies to be filled. To this end I invite all members, especially those that have joined the club in the past three years, to express their interest in joining the PMC next year.

In doing so, these members will be invited to attend future PMC meetings, obtain an understanding of what this entails and hence be prepared as they come on board as a PMC member in 2022.

I cannot stress enough the importance of receiving this support from the members. The downside is that without member involvement in the running of the club the future operation of this amazing club is impaired going forward.

I am looking forward to our June meeting, seeing you all and our speaker John Donohoe, his topic being "Ben Hall's Last Days".

Jim

Nepean Belle and Lindt Chocolate Outlet

Tuesday, 25th May saw 36 members gather at the Post Office and board a coach to take us on a tour of the Penrith Valley with a cruise on the Nepean Belle and later to the The Lindt Chocolate Factory Outlet. We left Hunters Hill in glorious sunshine and then the fog came down and a gloom came over us.



Our driver, Jim of Harrington fame, promised us clearing fog and a warm sunny day on the water.

Thankfully by the time we arrived at our first stop, The International Regatta Centre for morning tea, the sun had reappeared. The centre was the venue for kayaking and canoeing at the Sydney Olympics. We also visited the White Water Rafting Centre, but unfortunately we didn't see any action.

Nepean Belle and Lindt Chocolate Outlet



We then embarked on our cruise on the paddle wheeler "The Nepean Belle". Travelling up stream through the picturesque Nepean Gorge. The cruise included a delicious buffet lunch and a superb dessert. Our skipper provided us with a commentary of the region.

After disembarking, we travelled to the Lindt Chocolate Factory Outlet at Marsden Park. I think most of us came away with some delicious bags of chocs.

Compulsory Group Photo Prior to Boarding



Boarding Underway



Lunch is Served



Progressing up the Nepean Gorge

We arrived back at HH Post office around 5 pm. I think, all in all, we had a thoroughly lovely day.

Barbara Banner

Agreed, we did.

ED.

FOR YOUR DIARY

General Meeting

Tuesday 6th July
 Gladesville Sporties Club
 181a Ryde Rd, Gladesville
 9:30

Guest Speaker

Deb Wallace
 "Women of Force"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning - The Sunroom
 10:00 am

Monday 5th and 19th July

Golf
 Call Jim 0412 090 400

Tuesday 8th July

Scenic Walking
 TBA
 Rick Collins 0411 023 473

Friday 9th July

Exotic Lunching
 Venue TBA
 Dean: 9816 5357

Tuesday 13th July

President's Lunch
 The Alcott Lane Cove
 12 for 12:30
 \$70 pp - 3 course lunch

Friday 16th July

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

Wednesday 21st July

Scenic Lunching
 Venue TBA
 Dean Letcher - 9816 5357

Friday 23rd July

Art Group
 TBA
 Margaret Timbs

Thu/Fri 29/30th July

Yulefest
 Camden Valley Inn
 \$460 pp \$90 SS
 Payment due end of June

17th - 29th November

Tour of Tasmania
 \$4,795
 If interested see Jill Regnis

Scenic Walking

We had a wonderful sunny morning to again explore the beautiful sites of Sydney Harbour. We started off with ferry rides to Circular Quay then onto McMahons Point. From there we walked around the Lavender Bay foreshore and observed the Luna Park and North Sydney pool rebuilding before walking up and over the Harbour Bridge to view the busy working harbour.

From there we walked through the tunnel up to the Sydney Observatory before walking through The Rocks where we stopped for coffee and a snack before catching the ferry back the Woolwich.



Our next walk is on Thursday 10th June.

WOOLWICH WHARF - CIRCULAR QUAY - THE ROCKS - QUAY VIEW OVERHEAD HARBOUR WALKWAY - DOMAIN - BOTANICAL GARDENS - OPERA HOUSE - CIRCULAR QUAY- WOOLWICH WHARF

The walk is approximately 5 kilometers - easy walking for members and friends.

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. Then walk through the The Rocks going past the Sydney Observatory, over the quay view overhead harbour walkway to the Domain, through the Botanical Gardens to the Opera House and Circular Quay with a coffee stop along the way.

Spectacular views of Sydney Harbour from all angles. We then catch the 12:45 (or 1:45) ferry back to Woolwich arriving at 1:09 pm. (or 2:09 pm.) There are toilets along the way.

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

Rick Collins

'Botticelli to Van Gough Exhibition' - Canberra

Some of our Probus members went by coach to Canberra last Wednesday to see the 'Botticelli to Van Gough Exhibition' plus the Portrait Gallery & highlights of the city.

We stayed overnight and returned Thursday evening. A good trip with people from other Probus Clubs.

Pictured is Gordon and his "harem" of art aficionados.



Barbara Gardener

Scenic Lunching - May

Seafood was all the rage for the 15 Probians at the latest Scenic Lunch at picturesque Drummoyne Sailing Club on May 19th.

Mussels to garlic prawns to oysters Kilpatrick on a sunny day with views to the Harbour Bridge.

Who wants to cruise when the vista and the menu are like this? "Not me" said Ian Adair, hiding his whole snapper, "Nor me" said Tony Saunders [defiantly showing his Pommie pot pie with mash and peas] nor Judith 'Garlic Prawns' Butt.



Ian, Tony and Judith with their chosen dishes

All good, not to mention the very large lady displaying topless on the adjacent beach!

Our next Scenic Lunch is at the Museum of Contemporary Art ("MCA") Circular Quay, in the old Maritime Services building on Wednesday 16th June 12 noon.

Fabulous view across the Quay to the Opera House and beyond plus a very modish menu. Free entry to the art exhibition for all you modern aesthetes.

Dean

Exotic Lunching - May

Continuing our exploration of the byways of Asia, on May 14th, 20 people went to the very stylish 'Bamiyan' Afghani restaurant for three courses plus carrot halwa and tea - all for \$25.00!

Dumplings, a spicy stuffed naan, cumin/coriander lamb with rice and the very popular carrot dessert....enough to pacify the very aggressive horsemen of the apocalypse.



Afghani cavalry about to do to us what we have done to the food.

NEXT time on Friday 11th June at 12 noon, we go to far western China where the repressed Muslim minority of over 1 million people are the Uyghur.

Racially different from the other 1.39 billion Han Chinese the Uyghur are being imprisoned, forcibly 're-educated' and harassed by the government but they are sticking to their cultural guns.

They bring a Central Asian influence to Chinese cuisine in a delicious blend you have never seen before. Our venue is the "Apandim Uyghur Restaurant" 189 Burwood Road, Burwood.

It is in the last block of Burwood shopping strip going up the hill south, on the right hand side opposite Clarence Street and next door to a big fishing tackle shop.

Being Muslim, no alcohol is permitted. No coffee available and if you want milk in your tea, then bring it with you. You will not go hungry - novel noodles, spicy lamb and succulent Sumanta gow gee.

Dean

A Reminder for the July 6th Meeting

Vincie has reminded me that we will have our Hardship Gift Collection for Hunters Hill Community Aid at our July 6th meeting.

The following includes some 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

Thank you

Art Group

The next Art Gallery Group is going to White Rabbit Gallery at 10:30 am. on Friday 25th June at 30 Balfour St. (Cnr. Wellington St.) Chippendale. The gallery exhibition is "Lumen", showing glimmering works by 25 artists from China and Taiwan. In these times of somewhat darkness, the artists are using the mediums of light as a gift of optimism. There is a Tea House on site serving teas from China, and a gift shop.

Bus 501 from Parramatta along Victoria Rd to Broadway. OR a short walk from Central Station OR if driving, please check out Parking Stations, though none at Central Gardens.

At Central Gardens, close by, there is a number of eateries, including a very interesting laneway with numerous places of spicy Asian influence.

Margaret Timbs

Book Club



"Milkman"
by Anna Burns

There are no first names—only "maybes". Perhaps we are all mad and it's just a matter of degree—anyway who reads books while walking and being spied on by the creepy, threatening Milkman with a capital "M".

The characters' personalities perhaps are incomplete? There are rumoured to be tristes between saints, nuns and all manner of pseudonyms, orgasms, anti-orgasms, poisonings and loads of guilt, paranoia and being miserable! It was dark and menacing. (Where were the priests?)

Da (father) is depressed and before bowing out of the narrative opines " must get down on knees and give thanks that others of the world are suffering more than me"

"Maybe reviewer " remembers advice—"Smile for things could be worse," and so I did smile and lo, things did get worse!

Is this nonsense literature, prolix circumlocutions or rather a deeply psychologically disturbing book? Whatever the rationale of the book, the theme of the "Troubles" in Northern Ireland is spelled out in graphic detail and so the tribes of neighbours became alike and thus survived in their society.

The heroine fears the gossips, the nightmares and the poltergeists and there is the spectre of "over there" and "over the water" and anyway who wants to buy a Bentley Blower with a Union Jack?

There are overtones of the feminist movement, homosexual intercourse and abortions with a twist at the end! Is it delusional and contrived or are the prize givers for this very lauded book suffering from the "Emperor with no clothes on" syndrome?

A challenge for the reader, I think, not a "can't put down read", but perhaps it is the Irish condition or at least it was fifty or so years ago and so sad in many ways—religion has much to answer for.

Maybe reviewer and convenor Margaret Timbs

Off the Deep End

Wednesday 26th May was the inaugural day of the Probus Fishing Group. Oh what a day it was. That is if you don't measure success by the number of fish caught.

Jim Hemmings was incredibly generous with his time rigging rods and teaching us how to target blackfish. Dean Letcher was chef (4 hats) and sizzled our sausages to perfection. Ross Dive was the leader of fashion and Kevin Manie helped carry all the gear and burley.



Although five attended, two of our lady members were with us in spirit as they had other commitments.

The weather was great and the company even better.

Here's hoping many of you outdoor lovers join us next time.

Peter Kelly
Angler in Chief

.....
The speed of set up of the fishing group, their first activity and a report sure puts the pressure on Tony Saunders to get his table tennis group up and running doesn't it?

You are to be congratulated. Well done guys.

Ed.

Technical Outing.

The National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour

Tuesday 8th June 2021.

We plan to meet at 09:20 at the bus stop at Hunters Hill Hotel for 09:25 506 bus. Travelling by buses and light rail, using gold Opal Card, we arrive at the Museum at 10:15.

Admission to Museum is \$16 payable at entry and includes a 30 minutes conducted tour of Museum galleries, 45 minutes tour of destroyer HMAS Vampire and free time to visit all Museum galleries including admission to the "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" exhibit.

A café is available for morning tea or coffee and lunch at own cost.

Return travel by mutual agreement with the group or individually as preferred.

David Lorsch, Leader, Technical Outings.

Ph. 0428 247 708 or email lorschyd@bigpond.net.au

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

**Probus Club of
Hunters Hill**

**PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110**



June Birthdays

Margaret Bowman	1
Lew Grace	3
Lorraine Kongats	6
Lyn Benson	6
Josephine McBride	20
Joan Gai	24

**Barbara's Thoughts for the
Month**

When you have exhausted all the possibilities, remember this: you haven't

Author: Thomas Edison

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.

Author: Dali Lama (b. 1935)

Editors Musings

Why is it called a "drive through" if you have to stop?

Since bread is square, then why is sandwich meat round?

and

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

If you were invited to a party by a psychic...would you have to RSVP?

The Sixty-Milers and the Sinking of the Birchgrove Park

At the May meeting David Lorsch introduced Tom Ware, who is a public speaker, storyteller and writer. Tom chose as his subject the Sixty-Milers and in particular the sinking of the collier Birchgrove Park.

Sixty-miler was the colloquial name for the ships that were used in the 19th and 20th centuries in the coastal coal trade of New South Wales. Known as colliers, they delivered coal to Sydney from ports and ocean jetties to the north and south of Sydney. The coal was mainly for local consumption and bunkering (refueling) steam ships. The name refers to the approximate distance by sea from the Hunter River and Illawarra to Sydney.

The last real shipwreck to occur in the Sydney area was the loss of the SS Birchgrove Park on 2nd August 1956 in a terrible storm off the northern beaches while on a trip from Newcastle.

The Birchgrove Park was built in Aberdeen, Scotland for R.W. Miller and launched in November 1930. She was of 640 tons and was 47 metres long. She arrived in Sydney in January 1931 and within two weeks began working from Bulli and Newcastle.

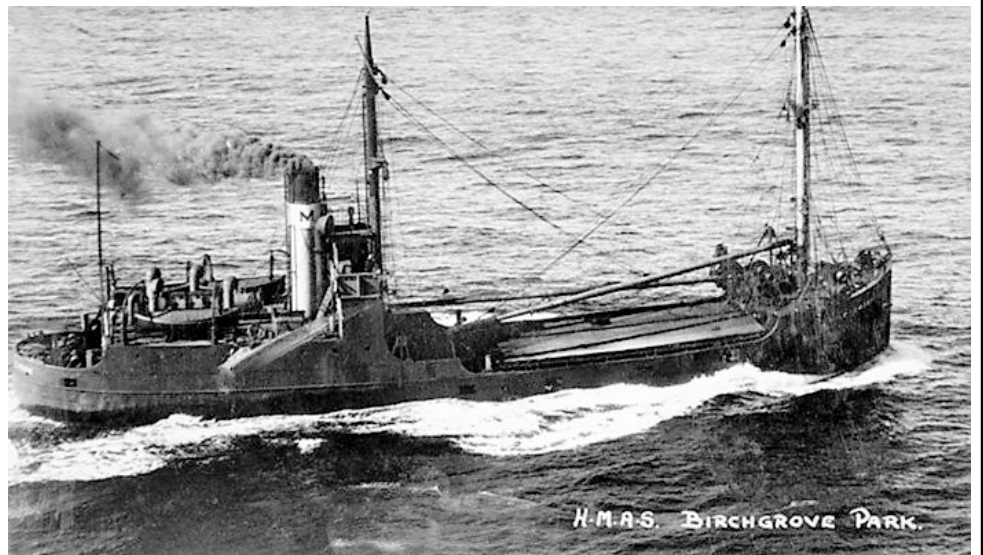
Newcastle – Sydney run but by 1956 her condition had deteriorated, and she was expected to be scrapped. But in August 1956, the Birchgrove Park left Newcastle; she was listing to port, however it was ignored. Half an hour



after leaving Newcastle a southerly buster hit. Water washed over the deck and entered the holds through loose hatch covers.

The vessel was now off Broken Bay, but the captain, Laurence Lynch, didn't seek safety in the bay. By midnight water was threatening to flood the boiler fires. The crew was ordered to abandon ship, but due to the list the lifeboats couldn't be launched. SOS calls were sent but were never heard because the transmission aerial hadn't been put up. An SOS lamp signal was eventually sent to the South Head Signal Station.

At 2:45 am the Birchgrove Park turned over and sank. Another collier, William Macarthur, heading north was informed and the pilot steamer Captain Cook left Sydney Harbour at 3:30 am but they searched in the wrong place. At first light three RAN ships and a submarine were sent, and later two RAAF Neptunes.



In May 1941 she was requisitioned by the RAN for conversion to an auxiliary minesweeper. She was recommissioned in 1942 as a stores carrier and for the next two years served in various New Guinea ports before going to Indonesia. She was paid off at the end of the war and returned to R.W. Miller and Co in February 1946. She went back to the regular

When the rescue was completed, ten crew had died, including Captain Lawrence Lynch; two bodies were never found. There were four survivors.

Ian Adair