

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this newsletter is for Probus members only

JULY

Tuesday 6th July
General Meeting

Gladesville Sporties Club
Cancelled

Guest Speaker

Thursday

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

Thursdays

Coffee Morning - The Sunroom
10:00 am

Monday 19th July

Golf
Call Jim 0412 090 400

Tuesday 8th July

Scenic Walking
Cancelled

Friday 9th July

Exotic Lunching
Little Sicily Restaurant
194 Marion St Leichhardt
Dean: 9816 5357

Tuesday 24th August

President's Lunch
The Alcott Lane Cove
Rescheduled

Friday 16th July

Book Club
"St Kilda Blues"
By Geoffrey McGeachin
Hunters Hill Museum 14:00
Afternoon Tea at the Sunroom

Wednesday 21st July

Scenic Lunching
Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron,
33 Peel St, Kirribilli.
Dean Letcher - 9816 5357

Friday 23rd July

Art Group
Details - Page 2
Margaret Timbs

Thu/Fri 29/30th July

Yulefest
Camden Valley Inn

From the President

Unfortunately, the disastrous COVID epidemic has hit us again with NSW going into lock down until 9th July. This should serve as a reminder to all of us that COVID is very much around and there is no room for complacency. My hope is that this is contained quickly.

One thing of which I feel certain is that this epidemic will be with us for some time to come. We need to accept and live with it by taking all the precautions we can to protect ourselves and our families.

As already advised, the July 6th member meeting has been cancelled, a big disappointment, this being the 500th meeting in the history of our Club and one for which we had a few fun things planned to celebrate the occasion. We will now be celebrating the event at the August 3rd meeting.

In addition, the President's Lunch will now take place on 24th August, assuming restrictions in place now are sufficiently relaxed.

Let's hope all returns to normal in the not too distant future.

Some other club matters I would like to inform you about are:

- * Special Interest activity- Table tennis. Unfortunately, we will not be proceeding with this activity due to cost constraints and lack of interest by members. I do want to thank Tony Saunders for his work in researching the organisation of this activity and what it entailed.
- * You may recall my concern in taking advantage of the TWT opportunity, organised by Carol Pelham for our Club, to publish an article each month promoting the club. I am extremely happy to announce that we now have a TWT team made up of three members, namely Garth Juster who will be acting as the co-ordinator, Wendell Watt a long standing and valued member of the Club and Deborah Lohan who is not a member yet but will be shortly. The team has already prepared the first article, written by Deborah, who I feel will be amazing member after she joins.
- * We are considering and under discussion the possible change of the current travel provider OnCourse. We think it is time to seek alternative providers, our aim always being to maximise our member satisfaction on ongoing trips. More on this later.

In closing, please look after yourselves, stay safe and hope to see you at our next meeting in August if not before this.

Jim

Message from Your Committee

Further to recent comments in the media, we feel it is appropriate to include the following in this issue.

1. The Committee notes with concern, media reports that people of the Probus demographic are hesitant about getting vaccinated against COVID-19;
2. The Committee accepts and supports Government advice that our demographic should get vaccinated with Astra/Zenica as soon as possible;
3. There may be a future requirement for people to be vaccinated against COVID-19 before being admitted to events such as Probus meetings;
4. The Committee encourages members to get vaccinated as soon as possible unless they have personal medical advice otherwise;
5. If requested, the Committee is prepared to arrange a presentation at a meeting about vaccination, considerations etc; and
6. If requested, some Committee members will assist members getting to a vaccination centre.

However, the Committee does respect the fact that to vaccinate or not is your own personal decision.

Ed.

FOR YOUR DIARY

General Meeting

Tuesday 3rd August
 Gladesville Sporties Club
 181a Ryde Rd, Gladesville
 9:30

Guest Speaker
 Nicholas Cowdrey

Tuesday 10th August

Technical Activity
 ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park
 See page 5
 David Lorsch

Thursday 12th August

Scenic Roaming
 TBA
 Rick Collins

Friday 13th July

Exotic Lunch
 Venue TBA
 Dean: 9816 5357

Tuesday 17th August

Movies
 TBA
 Sandy Mower

Wednesday 18th August

Scenic Lunch
 Venue TBA
 Dean: 9816 5357

Friday 20th August

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

Sunday 22nd August

Sydney Welsh Choir
 Villa Maria Hall 14:00
 \$20 Names to Barbara

Friday 27th August

Art Group
 TBA
 Margaret Timbs

17th - 29th November

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

Anybody interested in a Private
 Group Walking Tour of the SCG
 See Barbara. Cost \$22 pp

Art Group - May

Our latest Art Gallery Group attended Gallery Lane Cove on Friday 28th May. Ten art lovers attended the exhibition titled "Of Man and Nature: The Diverse Journey of Guy Warren".

We were given an excellent guided tour of his paintings by the curator of the exhibition, Rachael Kiang. She expertly helped his works come alive and speak to each of us in different ways. She also answered our questions re any and all of the works which were quite diverse, spanning more than 75 years of Guy's artistic practice.

This included different sized canvasses and different mediums, including watercolours, oils and acrylics.



It goes without saying there is also a marked difference of painting styles over this time, yet there is a mostly constant theme of man in nature.

It is barely a week since we were immersed in Guy's works and we now learn that it is his portrait painted by Peter Wegner which won the 2021 Archibald prize. How fitting that a centenarian painter featured in the 100th Archibald prize.

Most of us then walked to the Canopy area in Lane Cove where we sat in a circle in the beautiful warm sun and shared lunch and coffee. It was a most enjoyable way to finish our Art Gallery morning.

Margaret Timbs

Art Group - July

As with the scenic Roaming activity, this month's Art group visit White Rabbit Gallery on June 25th was cancelled due to the Covid lockdown situation.

The next Art Gallery Group will be on Friday 23rd. July, meeting at 11 am at the S.H. Irvin Gallery located in Observatory Hill Park. The current exhibition is Salon des Refuses, which is the alternative Archibald and Wynne selection. There is a General admission fee of \$12.00 or a Seniors concession of \$10.00.

There is the Trust Cafe on site for those who may wish to have lunch or coffee.

If travelling by car there is some free parking available on site. If travelling by bus, Route 311 terminates at Argyle St. and there is a short walk up Watson Rd. to the Gallery. Catch this bus in Park St. City. You will need to check the timetable. It is also possible to walk from Circular Quay if travelling by ferry from Vincentia St. Wharf.

This exhibition is reputedly an interesting "off-shoot" to the annual Archibald and well worth a visit and experience.

Margaret Timbs
 9816 2374

Photo Time



Flashback from an earlier coffee morning day



Judy and Neville acknowledging their 10 year service pins



Bambi and her Breakfast - gin and fruit, yogurt on toast



Scenic Roaming update



The Word on Lunches



It's Art Time



Off to the Movies with Sandy



It's For Your Own Welfare



The All Important Raffle Draw

Technical Outing - Australian National Maritime Museum

Ten Hunters Hill Probus members enjoyed the outing on 8th June, 2021.



Luckily those who went were fit enough to be able to walk from the bus stop in Druiett Street, Sydney across the old Pyrmont Bridge to the Museum. The bridge walk made a much less complicated bus trip than had been planned and gave us a nice nautical view on approach to the Museum.

Unfortunately, the Museum opened later than usual that day because of a private function about which I wasn't alerted, so we had to go elsewhere nearby for coffee to fill in half an hour.

The Museum volunteer guides were welcoming and enthusiastic to show us some of the public galleries and to escort us through the upper decks of the former HMAS Vampire destroyer. Two of the taller members of our group were thankful that they hadn't been tempted to join the Navy in their youth because the passageway headroom was seriously deficient for them. And now the ladders (stairs ?) between decks are steeper than desirable for our age group.

seum and on its moored vessels, most of the group decided that they had seen and stood enough for the day and departed home-wards. A couple of us stayed to enjoy the now-finished temporary display in a Museum gallery of internationally award winning photographs of wildlife. The photos were amazing!

We enjoyed a light lunch in the Museum cafe. Although there was much more to see in the Mu-

I think that the Museum has enough to offer to plan another future trip there.

David Lorsch

Scenic Roaming - July

Unfortunately, due to the Covid lockdown our scenic walk for the 8th of July has now been cancelled. Our August scenic walk is planned to be on the Thursday, 12th. August.

Rick Collins

July Hardship Collection

The "Hardship Collection" planned for the July meeting has been moved to the August 3rd meeting. All donations will be gratefully accepted.

Ed



This photograph recently found it's way across my desk doubtless having been "leaked" from the social pages of a competitive publication.

It came with the following text:

"This is the happy group celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron today!

Great day, great location and great occasion!

Many thanks to Tony and Dawn for the invitation!!!

Rod and Dellane"

Exotic Lunching News

Burwood Road shopping area is almost end-to-end Chinese restaurants – Szechuan, Hunan, Cantonese, Shantung – and right at the far end is the Apandim Uyghur Restaurant.

That is fitting because the Uyghur people are found at the far western end of China, just north of Tibet and next to Tajikistan. And what irks the Chinese communist party is that they do not look Chinese and they don't particularly like Chinese communism.

The Uyghurs are more Central Asian than Far Eastern and their cuisine reflects the difference.



Two old Uyghurs with tea and lamb skewers

Our Exotic Lunching group of 15 Probians on June 11th found the Burwood Uyghurs friendly and efficient - first the steamed dumplings stuffed with chive and lamb, then a dish of richly sauced chicken with thick, chewy noodles, cumin-chili lamb on skewers and a unique plate of cooked but somehow crunchy potato shreds. Enjoyed by all!

The next Exotic Lunch will be on at 12 noon on Friday 9th July when we will lurch into Europe at **Little Sicily** restaurant 194 Marion St Leichhardt. Good parking at the fruit market next door [entry Foster St], Market Place nearby or on-street, bus 436- 438.

Sicilians speak dialect Italian but have been ruled by Phoenicians, Moors from Morocco, Romans and Spain – the history and the surrounding Mediterranean show in the food.

Eggplant rolls, pinenuts, raisins and tomato plus lots of seafood. From Bruschetta with tuna, Pasta with clams [vongole], squid-ink pasta and on to Palette di Ricotta [balls of ricotta and herbs in gorgonzola sauce] Sicilian salad, desserts of panna cotta and tiramisu.

This time we order and pay individually but there is no law against sharing and plates will be whizzing around the table with taste sensations. The entrées are big and the main courses bigger. Viva !

Dean Letcher

Scenic Lunching News

Some uncultured people (like me, for one) thought of the Museum of Contemporary Art café as a nice view with 3 floors of wasted space underneath.

The MCA is 3 storeys of “art” with a gorgeous rooftop view from the café on the 4th. There the Bridge, there the Opera House and the harbour beyond.

On a sunny Wednesday, June 16th, the outlook was enjoyed by a baker's dozen of “lunchers” – can you see the Opera House reflected in the photo?



The next Scenic Lunch, courtesy of TS (Tony Saunders), will be at 12.30 on Wednesday 21st July at the Bistro in Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, 33 Peel St, Kirribilli.

Car-pooling is highly desirable unless you like feral street parking or fairly long walks from bus, ferry or train. Arrange transport with Dean, Peter Kelly or Richard Jones but do it at the Probus meeting or you are on your own.

There is a squillion dollar view from a graciously elegant area with excellent food and wine at low to high prices. Highly recommended but an absolute limit of 19 plus TS. Sign up is essential and early notice to Dean appreciated if you are subsequently incapacitated and cannot attend.

Dean Letcher

Technical Outing - August

Fellow Probian Rod Stewart has facilitated a tour of the Anzac Memorial on August 10th. The memorial was renovated and extended about a year ago, including a fountain and water cascade to the Liverpool Street entrance.

There is much new to see, including a special exhibition for this centenary year of the formation of the Royal Australian Air Force. If you haven't been to the Memorial before, it is a very moving experience.

It is intended to travel by public bus from Hunters Hill to Park Street, Sydney, and to walk through Hyde Park South to the Memorial, arriving for a light lunch before the tour, starting at 1:30 pm.

Please save the date and watch for further details in the August Newsletter. Please add your name to the attendance list at the August General Meeting.

David Lorsch - 0428 247 708

Book Club



“Wolf Winter”
by Cecilia Ekbach

Gruesome ! Especially in a Wolf Winter (the very long cold dark winter of 1717 with starvation—all of which come to pass).

Our heroine (Maija ? sorcerer) has moved her family from Finland (excluding husband, the “provider” who has gone fishing to the coast), to a relative’s hut at Blackasen, the holy mountain region. The very same mountain that possibly consumes people and may be haunted and whose rocks contain amazing relics.

Maija has two daughters, the older of whom is undoubtedly bewitched and the younger of whom is rather cute.

Well, not long after arriving at the hut, Maija learns of the displacement of the indigenous Lapps by the Swedish farmers who burn and pillage to extend their farmland.

Exploring near the mountain Maija and her family come across the decomposing body (along with clues of blue glass and lusted reducing seeds) of not so nice Ericsson, the farmer, who has been sliced open rather viciously by a blade, so the wolves are exonerated. Maija, who is a little obsessive, decides to reveal the culprit, but in the process uncovers many of the dark secrets of the village.

Sorcerers abound, families have been lost, children abused and those of faith turn out to be not so worthy. There is a hint of child sexual abuse and coverups.

The wife of the decomposed kills herself and her children—Maija takes her children with the “priest” out towards the mountain in a devilish blizzard and the little one gets severe frostbite of her feet.

Much of the naughtiness of this community is inferred rather than proven.

The deceased grandmother participates in thought and ghostly reality, the decomposed one returns and slashes the eldest daughter with a blade, ghost wolves attack Maija and the intangible intermingles with the surreal.

The reader is led down spooky Nordic pathways, some leading to unforeseen consequences.

We come to the conclusion that this is a very dysfunctional community, there are people with suspicious activities and paranormal attributes!

There is a sort of denouement at the end.

And we adjourned to the “Sunroom” for coffee and further deliberations.

Richard Jones

Scams

Over the last few weeks I have received my fair share of scam calls. Two from someone saying they were from Government security telling me that I was about to go to jail if I didn’t pay, another from Amazon saying my account (which I do not have) was about to be debited with \$39.99.; I recognised these calls as scams so just hung up!

However recently with a group of friends the question of scams was raised as all were experiencing similar call to me. During the discussion the question was asked, “How do people cope with this”.

So I set out to try and find an answer.

When I asked Mr Google about scams, I found that the Federal Government Department of the Treasury has a web site – www.scamwatch.gov.au. The web site is very informative listing all types of scams, how to report a scam, where to get help if needed and so much more.

So if you have any concerns about scams you may like to have a look at www.scamwatch.gov.au .

Garth Juster

From a Recent (SMH) Column 8

The vigneron owners of Botobolar Vineyard in Mudjee in the 1970s, Gil and Vincie Wahlquist, were forward thinking in more ways than one, according to Jennifer Tidey of Mudjee.

“Botobolar Vineyard was the first fully certified organic vineyard in Australia ... and there was a sign (C8) on their property which stated: ‘trespassers will be composted’.”

So is that the secret meaning of a horizontal wine-tasting?

**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
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Treasurer	-	Josephine McBride	9817 5632
Activities Convenor	-	Barbara Banner	0405 427259
Speakers	-	Carol Pelham	9808 5020
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Committee	-	David Lorsch	0428 247 708
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Honorary Auditor	-	Anthony Alexandrou	

WEBSITE: www.huntershillprobus.org

**Probus Club of
Hunters Hill**

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



July Birthdays

Gus Green	5
John Johnson	6
Ross McBride	7
Chris Schofield	8
Richard Jones	9
Judy Davey	12
Helen Earp	20
Kevin Manie	23
Margaret Conley	23
Carol Pelham	31

Speaking of Birthdays

**HAPPY 73RD BIRTHDAY, IKE!
HERE'S YOUR CAKE!**



The Last Days of Ben Hall

John Donohoe, author and speaker, joined us at the May meeting to give a talk entitled *Ben Hall's Last Days*, based on his latest book. He had given a talk in April 2017 entitled *Ben Hall's Treasure*, based on his book of that name.

John passed briefly over Hall's early life, born in Maitland in 1837, the son of transportees; his marriage at 19 and settling on a leased property south of Forbes. In 1862 his wife left him for another man, taking their three-year-old son, Henry. Hall's life fell to pieces and he began an association with Frank Gardiner and other bushrangers. He lost his property and cattle and fell into a full-time life of crime.

Fast forward to Saturday 29 April 1865.

According to evidence given by Sub-Inspector James Davidson of Forbes police at a magisterial enquiry held at the Forbes police barracks, as reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 May 1865, he left Forbes with five other police officers and two black trackers. They had been informed that Hall, in the company of John Gilbert and John Dunn, was in the area. About 10 pm on Thursday 4 May they came upon two horses hobbled in the scrub about 12 miles from Forbes.

A man appeared, moved the horses to another position, re-hobbled them and returned to the scrub where he appeared to be sleeping. They couldn't get near him for fear of disturbing the horses.

They waited until 6 am the next morning, when they saw a man holding a bridle walking towards the horses. Three of the police party recognized him as Hall and ran towards him, forcing him to run towards the other five and Davidson ordered him to stop. He got within forty yards of Hall and fired a shot from a double-barrel shotgun, hitting him. Another police officer and a black tracker fired immediately afterwards. Hall ran sixty yards toward some trees and stopped, wounded.



The other four police and the other blacktracker began firing; Davidson estimated that about thirty

shots were fired. Hall fell to the ground, mortally wounded. The police searched him and found seventy-four pounds in notes, three gold chains and a gold watch, a portrait of a woman, three revolvers and some bullets. His clothes were perforated with bullet holes.

The police captured the two horses, loaded Hall's body onto one and took them to their camp and then into Forbes. A storekeeper and a publican from Forbes identified the body as that of Hall.

Hall's accomplices, Gilbert and Dunn, escaped and headed towards Binalong where Dunn had relatives. John Gilbert was shot dead by police on 9 May 1865 when he and Dunn held up a woolshed near Binalong. John Dunn escaped and was captured and hung on 19 March 1866.

Ian Adair

Barbara's Thought for the Month

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to leave the world better place; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived, this is to have succeeded."

Author: Ralph Waldo Emerson

Editors Musings

Can you be a closet claustrophobic?

If quitters never win, and winners never quit, who came up with, "Quit while you're still ahead?"

Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school, but they can in prison?

Does anyone ever vanish with a trace? Or disappear in fat air instead of thin air?

If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?