

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this newsletter is for Probus members only

JULY

Tuesday 3rd August

General Meeting

Gladesville Sporties Club

Cancelled

Thursday

Dinner at the Hunters Hill Club

6 pm in the week of the Meeting

Thursdays

Coffee Morning—The Sunroom

10:00 am

Monday 2nd 16th August

Golf

Call Jim 0412 090 400

Tuesday 10th August

Technical Outing

Anzac War Memorial

Re-scheduled October 19th

Thursday 12th August

Scenic Walking

Friday 13th August

Exotic Lunching

Tuesday 17th August

Movies

Wednesday 18th August

Scenic Lunching

Friday 20th August

Book Club

Sunday 22nd August

Sydney Welsh Choir

Postponed to September

Date TBA

Tuesday 24th August

President's Lunch

Postponed to September 21st

Friday 27th August

Art Group

From the President

What an insane and uncertain period we are going through at the moment. It wasn't that long ago that I, and I would think most of you, felt we were returning to living our lives in a normal manner, free to go and do whatever we wanted.

Unfortunately, the recent hard lockdown restrictions caused by the more contagious Delta strain very quickly put an end to this. After four long weeks of lockdown, unfortunately no improvement in the number of cases has resulted with the lockdown extended until August 28th.

However, it is what it is, and I do hope that you are finding ways to cope with it. Personally, Fay and I are busy each day doing home schooling with our two grandchildren which, if I am totally honest with you, is doing our heads in.

We go for walks each day just to get out of the house, meet some friends on the way with some who are walking their dogs. They all tell me that even their dogs are getting sick of doing so much walking.

On the Club front, the PMC decided to re-commence the "Call out Program" to our members, have a chat and check everyone is ok. By now, you would have heard from the committee during these calls that our August 3rd member meeting has been cancelled and that the President's Lunch has been moved to September 21st. Regarding all other activities, please refer to the update included in this Newsletter.

I would also like to advise that the PMC was pleased to endorse applications from 2 new members namely Barbara Enright and Monica Curley. They will be inducted at our next meeting which I hope will be on September 7th. We have currently 16 potential members with several them lodging applications to join the club.

As you are aware, we have a number of the PMC members stepping down this year. We are looking to fill two vacant positions in 2021 namely, Activities and Speakers. I don't need to tell you that these two positions are critical to the future success of our club.

I know that there is much talent among members, so I urge you to not be reluctant and to volunteer and make the most of your skills and knowledge. Getting to know all the members much better and the satisfaction of contributing will, I hope, encourage you to put up your hand.

In closing, please keep your chins up, stay active and most of all stay safe.

Jim.

Editor's Desk

I have to apologise upfront in this issue. With the uncertainty regarding lockdowns and the ongoing effect on our Activities schedule, we have nothing much to report on for the month of July. As you can see from the column on the left there are a large number of activities in red, either cancelled or postponed. As of Wednesday 28th the same will apply for this month.

Since last year's "lockdown" I have retained some articles submitted by your fellow members and will be publishing them as space permits. One appears in this issue.

Jill Regnis has provided some information about the Tasmania trip as follows: *"at this stage, and depending on Covid-19 (isn't everything!), our planned trip to Tasmania in November is still going ahead. Tasmania has not had a case of the pandemic since last year apparently. So let's keep our fingers crossed that the outbreaks in Sydney will be under control well before then. A couple of places have opened up so please call Jill Regnis on 9808 2482 or 0467 322 244 for any information regarding this special trip."*

Finally, on page 2, is the article written for the TWT by Deborah Lohman, a "member in waiting". You may have seen this already but I want to acknowledge Deborah's effort in submitting an article before becoming a member. Well done.

Ed

FOR YOUR DIARY

General Meeting

Tuesday 7th September
 Gladesville Sporties Club
 181a Ryde Rd, Gladesville
 9:30

Guest Speaker

Harry Kimble - Silk Road

Thursday 9th September

Scenic Roaming
 TBA

Rick Collins

Friday 10th September

Exotic Lunch
 Little Sicily
 194 Marion St, Leichhardt
 Dean: 9816 5357

Monday 13th September

Sausage Sizzle
 Venue TBA

Tuesday 14th September

Movies - TBA
 Sandy Mower

Wednesday 15th September

Scenic Lunch
 Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron
 Kirribilli
 Dean: 9816 5357

Friday 17th September

Book Club
 Hunters Hill Museum 14:00
 Book TBA

Tuesday 21st September

President's Lunch

Wednesday 22nd September

Technical Outing
 Royal Navy Museum
 David Lorschy

Friday 24th September

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

TWT Article

What I thought of my first Probus visit

By Deborah Lohman

Well, there I was, on a chilly Tuesday, in Gladesville Sporties Club car park. Why?

Well, a friend said I must join Hunters Hill Probus Club. Being rather shy and cautious, I blinked and said, "What's that". He said, "it's a club for retired Professional and Businesspeople, who like to have fun, friendship and fantastic times". I thought of the advice "if it sounds too good to be true it probably is".

I'm always uncertain about joining things, having been caught out and finding it was a bit of an in group and people didn't want to talk to me, or their idea of fun wasn't mine.

It couldn't have been more different. As we parked there were "Hello's, bit nippy this morning" from members arriving. Then, the door member said "Oh you're a visitor- you're very welcome".

Inside more introductions and, clutching raffle tickets and name badge, I was escorted to a table of 10, that immediately welcomed me and explained the meeting was held first, then morning tea and a Guest Speaker.

During the meeting we were invited to upcoming events. An excursion on the Hawkesbury River by steamboat; regular morning coffee each Thursday at The Sunroom Hunters Hill; dinner the last Friday of the month; lunch at a Weiger restaurant (no alcohol but BYO milk unless black tea or coffee OK); an excursion to the Maritime Museum. Further there were regular Groups to join: book club, art gallery, movie and fine dining, walking and fishing. To top it all a Christmas in July dinner.

COVID, has restricted recent travel, but previously there were trips to Kangaroo Island, Herron Island, Coorong National Park and Tasmania.

Mingling at morning tea, I met and related to interesting people. I learnt PROBUS had a history of interesting guest speakers, ranging from international spies to Sydney's heritage fleet sailors. That morning Mr Tom Ware, gave a fascinating history of the hard and dangerous working life for the colliers plying the Newcastle/Wollongong route from 1800 on.

I must say, my hesitations about joining Probus were wrong. It was a warm, friendly group of interesting people who related to "Fun, friendship and fantastic times". Can barely wait until meeting again!

Probus meets first Tuesday of each month at Sporties, 181A Ryde Rd Gladesville 9.30am (plenty of parking, COVID rules observed). Visitors welcome. For further information, visit huntershillprobus.org or contact Kevin Marie 0412 349 270 or Jim Likidis 0412090400

Guest Article

This article was prompted by an article published from Tony Saunders on his PNG experiences back in September, 2020 during our last "lockdown". I received an email with the following introduction. I thank Richard for his contribution.

Ed

"Having enjoyed and been inspired by Tony Saunders PNG reminiscences, I thought that you may enjoy my story—"

A Humanitarian Visit to PNG

The hospital (part of Japanese reparations after World War II) in Kundiawa had a problem. Because of the large number of spinal cord injuries, the surgical ward was bursting at the seams and the verandahs were overflowing with patients and relatives bringing food. Because of my knowledge of Rehabilitation and resettlement of the spinally injured, Rotary asked if we could help out. So as a volunteer, self-funded, a surgical colleague and I set out in 2004 for PNG.

Arrived in Port Moresby where the friendly staff welcomed us to country at the airport terminal, terminal referring possibly to the outcome for the long suffering delayed travellers.

The local priest picked us up from the airport. I noticed that the dashboard of the Toyota was missing and it was explained that the "rascals" had used a chain saw to remove the radio.

We were accommodated in a security compound and next day the priest drove us to Kundiawa along a highway constructed by Australia and which had fallen into serious disrepair as was my head which continuously encountered the roof. One noted many wrecked cars strewn on the roadside where the rivers and creeks had reclaimed much of the road.

Knowing that there was an airport at Kundiawa I asked as to why we were not flying. It was explained that the runway is a challenge being on a slope with a valley at one end and a mountain at the other where one could see the remains of a number of unsuccessful landings/take-offs. The runway is used as the rugby league field at weekends (the locals are very enthusiastic bare footed proponents of the game) so the surface is pretty bumpy and also they have to remember to remove the goalposts after the match!

The two of us were accommodated in a hut on stilts next to the mortuary (more on that later) under which the locals would have evening soirees. The stilts we were informed were to discourage migratory wildlife. We were self-catering, so every weekend we braved the red spittle from the betel nut chewers and attended the local markets - that was great fun dodging rampant chickens and pigs. However the chickens were delicious and the potatoes and vegetables were so fresh - we roasted the yellow flesh chickens along with the vegetables and so ate well.

But work called and I noted that the wards were filled to overcapacity with paralysed locals from the beautiful hillside villages. There were X-rays, some pathology and that was it. Utterly different from the Australian scene and very challenging. We had TB, HIV aids, osteomyelitis, abscesses, malaria and machete injuries (lovely people, but they do get excited with a meat cleaver). There was no chance of rehabilitating these people to home in a wheelchair, because the villages in the highlands are perched on beautiful, lush mountainsides, so I suggested that an unused school in the hospital grounds might be modified for accommodation, gymnasium and a social workshop (they are very competent artisans).

Australian rehab hospitals had sent a number of containers with wheelchairs, parallel bars and rehab equipment to the hospital, but they had disappeared enroute, the only stuff received being obsolete technical equipment that was unusable. The hospital CEO had apparently bought a new Holden Commodore and now signs his name - CEO (suspended).

Sometimes the telephone worked (if the hospital had paid the bill) and the electricity was more off than on. The emergency generator would eventually click on.

A visit to Goroka and its hospital was cut short as the rascals had stolen equipment from the maternity ward and admin said the wards were closed until the gear was returned!

At weekends the Polish Surgeon Priest would conduct a service in Pidgin and the relatives of deceased patients would wail pitifully outside our window.

Finally I assisted some very bright locals to initiate rehabilitation programs and we left PNG probably in the mistaken belief that we had achieved something permanently valuable.

Richard Jones

Book Club



St Kilda Blues
By
Geoffrey McGeachin

This is a story of the serial sadistic destroyer of pretty young girls. Charlie Berlin, the detective has had a few problems in his professional life being demoted to the fraud squad. He has a vivid and haunting memory of the execution of a young girl in Poland by a World War II German SS Officer whom he may recognise in later life.

He and his somewhat dubious mate Bob Roberts, the reckless driver of fast cars, are drafted to the case.

Many young women are missing, one has been found mutilated in a lake and the daughter of a prominent German refugee has now gone missing: strings are being pulled.

The author sets the scene of 60's Melbourne by referencing culture, cars, appliances and the lifestyle referable to the period. (Did we "run" red lights in the 60's?). The vernacular is woven into the tapestry of tales.

In a parallel universe we see the evolution of a young psychopathic killer himself abused in his nurture years by his carers.

There is much erudite discussion of cameras, Rebecca, Charlie's wife being an aficionado and photographer whose blinding flash gun saves his life

Things culminate with the discovery of one of the victims chained to the rafters as per a Japanese cult.

The finale blends retribution, reward and tragedy. It may have been more meaningful if the previous Berlin novels had been read

Richard Jones

(locked down and without the wonderful Book Club members inputting)

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 a better place; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived, this is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Quote of the day

This follows recent publicity regarding Richard Branston and Jeff Bezos attempting to become astronauts

'If we wanted to send billionaires where no billionaires have been before, we could have just sent them to the tax office.'

Ashlyn's Easy and Yummy Recipe

French Carrot Soup

Serves 4-6 (45 Minutes)

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 6 medium carrots, peeled, sliced
- 1 onion chopped
- 1.5 litres (6 cups) boiling water or chicken stock
- 3 tablespoons rice
- Salt and ground black pepper

Melt the butter in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the carrots and onion and cook, tossing, until onions soften. Reduce heat to medium-low, cover and cook gently for 10 minutes. Add boiling water or stock and rice.

Cover and cook for a further 20 minutes or until rice is tender.

Transfer soup mixture into the bowl of a food processor and process until smooth. To serve, return soup to saucepan over medium-low heat and cook until heated through. Season to taste.

Ladle the soup into bowls and top with chervil.

Serve immediately, or, can be frozen.

ENJOY

Editors Musings

What would a chair look like if your knees bent the other way?

Why are we afraid of falling? Shouldn't we be afraid of the sudden stop?

How do you know when it's time to tune your bagpipes?

Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

**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	

WEBSITE: www.huntershillprobus.org

Probus Club of Hunters Hill

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



August Birthdays

Julie Gahan	6
Robyn Hogan	6
Jim Likidis	9
John Sorensen	14
Bronwyn Ellens	21
Mike Allum	29



Tony Saunders campaigning for Trent Zimmerman in Hunters Hill Village recently

Covid Pictures



THE ONE THING THE CORONAVIRUS HAS TAUGHT US IS, THAT IT'S AMAZING HOW DEEP INTO SOMEONES HEAD, YOU CAN REACH WITH A COTTON SWAB THROUGH THE NOSE



This page is intentionally left blank for you to utilise in any way you see fit.

However, our suggestion to you is to make notes of all your lockdown activities and prepare notes for submission to the Editor, details Page 4, for consideration for publication in a future issue.