

What I thought of my first Probus visit

Well, there I was, on a chilly Tuesday, in Gladesville's Sporties Club carpark. 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 Sportie's, 181A Ryde Rd Gladesville at 9:30 am (plenty of parking, COVID rules observed). Visitors welcome.

Further information from Kevin Marnie: 0412 349 270 or Jim Likidis: 0412 090 400

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