

# PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this  
Newsletter is for  
Probus members only

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

**500<sup>th</sup> General Meeting**

Gladesville Sporties Club  
Guest Speaker - Tom Sweeney  
Pres. Willoughby Theatre Company  
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**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Scenic Roaming  
TBA  
Rick Collins  
Tel: 0411 023 473  
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**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

Exotic Lunch  
TBA  
Dean: 9816 5357  
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**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

~~Good Old Days Concert~~  
**Cancelled**  
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**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

Movies - TBA  
Sandy Mower  
Tel: 0478 630 620  
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**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

Scenic Lunch  
TBA  
Dean: 9816 5357  
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**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

Book Club  
"Home Fire" by Kamila Shamsie  
Venue TBA 14:00  
Margaret Timbs  
Tel: 0438 063 620  
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**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

Sausage Sizzle  
Kokoda Walkway  
(1a Killoola St, Concord)  
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**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

Art Group  
11:00 am  
S.H. Erwin Gallery at Watson Rd,  
Observatory Hill, The Rocks  
Margaret Timbs  
See Page 3

## From the President

By now I feel certain that you are all enjoying some degree of social interaction with family and friends.

Life is nearly back to normal or close to it. Speaking for myself, what I have realised since the relaxation of restrictions is how much I missed our friends and doing the simple things of having coffee at a coffee lounge, going to a restaurant or just visiting friends at their home.

It was wonderful to see so many members of our club attend the first activity we have held since our last meeting way back in June. This was the Thursday Morning Coffee on 21 October, when we saw 24 members come and enjoy a coffee and see friends they haven't seen face to face for a while. One could see the enjoyment on peoples faces and it was so good to observe. This is certainly one very popular activity which I feel will continue for some time to come.

I hope by now you have marked the date of our next Probus member meeting to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> November. This will be a special event, as we will be celebrating the Club's 500<sup>th</sup> member meeting. The duration of this meeting will be a little longer than usual with the induction of nine new members and the presentation of a Service Award.

During the meeting you will hear from all the Activity Coordinators of what activities will be on to the end of the year and other club news.

Our speaker will be Tom Sweeney who is the President of Willoughby Theatre Company. Both Tom and his wife Joy have been members of WTC for 49 years and during that time Tom has directed over 40 musicals for that company and directed plays and musicals for other companies in Sydney. I know he will be very entertaining and a lot of fun to have at our meeting.

To celebrate the occasion of our Club reaching such a milestone of 500 meetings, on behalf of your Management Committee, I would like to invite all members to stay on for lunch at Sporties, sponsored by your Club. Further details are on Page 4. Please join us and enjoy the wonderful food that will be on offer.

This should be a fun meeting and I so much hope you will be able to attend.

Until then.

*Jim*

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What Jim hasn't mentioned here is that he applied to Hunters Hill Council for a grant for the club to purchase a projector. Having our own projector gives us flexibility to use it at any location, including Sporties, for any presentation, for example at a lunch in another site.

Jim has since been advise that the application was successful.

*Mike*

## Activities Update

Many members have paid for the Christmas lunch, originally scheduled for the Alcott Club at a cost of \$70. As you know, the Alcott have advised that they do not have a Christmas menu. We have therefore decided to have our President's Christmas lunch at Sporties on Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$50. Those of you that have paid \$70 will be receiving a refund of \$20. If you are now **unable** to attend the lunch please advise Barbara 0405 427 259.

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Sausage Sizzle 23rd November - we are looking for help from some volunteers among you to assist with the preparation of some salads, desserts, nibbles, bread/rolls. If you can help please talk with Barbara Banner at the next meeting so we can coordinate who is doing what.

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Tuesday 7th December**

General Meeting  
 Gladesville Sporties Club  
 Guest Speaker - Deb Wallace  
 "Women of Force"  
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**Thursday 9th December**

Scenic Roaming  
 TBA  
 Rick Collins  
 Tel: 0411 023 473  
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**Friday 10th December**

Exotic Lunch  
 TBA  
 Dean: 9816 5357  
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**Tuesday 14th December**

President's Christmas Lunch  
 Gladesville Sporties  
 12:00 for 12:30  
 Barbara Banner  
 Tel: 0405 427 259  
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**Friday 17th December**

Book Club  
 Hunters Hill Museum 14:00  
 Book TBA  
 Margaret Timbs  
 Tel: 0438 063 620  
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**2022**

**Tuesday 8th February**

Technical Outing  
 Anzac War Memorial  
 13:00 - 14:30  
 David Lorsch  
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**Saturday 9th April 2022**

Sydney Welsh Choir  
 Villa Maria  
 14:00 - \$20  
 Barbara - 0405 427 259  
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Anybody interested in a Private  
 Group Walking Tour of the SCG  
 See Barbara Banner. Cost \$22 pp

**TWT Article**

Reprinted below is our third article to be published in The Weekly Times (TWT) on Wednesday 6th October under an arrangement orchestrated by Carol Pelham and TWT management.

I've included it as I'm sure there are many of you that don't have access to, or don't get to see, TWT each week.

**Mike**

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**Famous Guest Speakers at Hunters Hill Probus**

Many children dream of an exciting life. However most end up getting educated, joining the workforce, marriage, bringing up a family and maybe, before grandchildren arrive, sneaking in an overseas trip. Well, here are two Probus speakers who had exciting lives, but on reflection you'll probably think perhaps, the life you led wasn't too bad.

Take Nick Gleeson and his life of extreme adventures. Climbing to the base camp at Everest, and the top of Mt Kilimanjaro. Running in 3 NY marathons, trekking across the Simpson Desert, and sky diving. In between times gaining a degree in English Literature, making a career as a motivational speaker and published author. He was blind from 7 when an automatic supermarket door hit his head, and detached both retinas.

Tony Saunders, a young engineer, was on Cloud 9 in 1953, joining Avro Canada (an aircraft and engineering company). He was engaged in design, and manufacture of aircraft to protect Canada from Russian attacks across the Arctic Circle during the Cold War. He spoke of the exhilaration of working on the CF 100 jet fighter, the Avro Jetliner, Avro Arrow and Flying Saucer. Six years later he was jobless with 50,000 others as Prime Minister Diefenbaker, at the height of the Cold War, put the company out of business by cancelling the Avro Arrow and ordering the factory, all designs and machinery to be destroyed. Where to next?

If you thought these stories offered the exciting life you had dreamed of, perhaps you'd think the path less travelled, that most have had would be fine

Most Probus speakers described interesting aspects of life rather than dangerous and adventurous lives. Including a discussion of 'John Macarthur, Visionary or Villain'; a history of colliers between Newcastle and Wollongong since 1890; Australian poetry and ballads; becoming comedians or motivational speakers; and for those like me, who only dreamed of an exciting life a description of a trip on the Rocky Mountaineer train?

Probus meets first Tuesday of each month at Sportie's, 181A Ryde Rd Gladesville 9.30am (free parking, COVID rules observed).

Visitors welcome. Enquiries, - Jim Likidis (0412090400) or Kevin Manie ( 0412349270) .

Check our website [www.huntershillprobus.org](http://www.huntershillprobus.org).

**Deborah Lohman**

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*There has been much debate as to whether Tony Saunders does, in fact, fit in the category of "Famous Guest Speakers" but a collective decision by a cabal of the Club's elders decided to give him the benefit of the doubt.*

**Mike**

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Also from Deborah while researching the topic of what people do during lockdown:

*"My cousins Susie, like all of us, hates vacuuming. As most of the house has boards, she got out the leaf blower, set herself up in a strategic position in each room and blew all the dust out the back door.. Isn't it wonderful to have cousins with common sense!"*

**Did you Know?**

There is an old Hotel/Pub in Marble Arch, London, which used to have a gallows adjacent to it. Prisoners were taken to the gallows (after a fair trial of course) to be hung.

The horse drawn dray, caring the prisoner, was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like one last drink.

If he said yes, it was referred to as "one for the road". If he declined, that prisoner was "on the wagon"

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Back in the 1500's most people got married in June, because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide any body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying bouquets when getting married.

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Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the sons, then the women and finally the children.

Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it.

Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

More in the next issue.

**Art Group**

There will be NO Art Gallery Group in October as very few small galleries have yet opened to the public.

However, following is the information for November.

The S.H. Erwin Gallery at Watson Rd. Observatory Hill, The Rocks at 11:00 am.

The exhibition is the Portia Geach Memorial Award 2021.

This award is Australia's most prestigious art prize for portraiture by women artists. There are works by 57 women from across the nation.

There is an entry charge of \$12 or \$10 concession/seniors. Payment by card ONLY, NO cash accepted.

There is a small free car park.

The Trust Café is next door where coffee and/or lunch is available.

Please put your name on list at morning tea break at November meeting.

**Margaret Timbs.**

**Book Club**



The first Probus Book club for 4 months was such a great "social" event that I decided to send a photo for the Newsletter and a short report.

Everybody attended, all eager to share reviews about the many and varied books that had been read.

The air was one of excitement, laughter and real joy at being together again. We are an eclectic group as evidenced by the discussion of the variety of books devoured during lockdown.



**Margaret Timbs**

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So eloquently penned Margaret and what an event it was as she welcomed back our diaspora into her home for high tea, immaculately poured into vintage cups and saucers, (were we at the Savoy?) as we nibbled on petit fours.

Apologies all, but the conversations were so frenetic I could not scribble a cogent comment from our eager participants so with your indulgence one review may entertain.

It was "The Vintners Luck" by Elizabeth Knox. This is the life story of a wine maker and his family in Burgundy early to late 1800s. Each chapter is headed with a French title e.g. 1824 VIN TRANQUILLE.

There are the usual hardships of the vintners, murder and madness, but the vineyard thrives thanks to the arrival of XAS a fallen angel with large white wings. He visits each year and has a tryst with the vintner much to the chagrin of the devil who cuts off his wings--so what! XAS can't feel pain and doesn't age, and so the story concludes with the vintners exit being helped into eternity by the fallen angel. Credulity is stretched!

And so we move on to our next challenge, "HOME FIRE" by Kamila Shamsie. This novel should elicit some animated debate

**Richard Jones**

**Post “Freedom” Coffee Morning**

Of all the many benefits of Probus membership, one that we really missed during lockdown, was our Thursday coffee morning at “The Sunroom”.

So, on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October, it was with real anticipation that 24 of us headed to “The Sunroom” for our first coffee morning since the lifting of lockdown.

We were not disappointed.

It was a beautiful sunny morning & the many Probians present just “picked up” where we had left off all those months ago. Plenty of conversation, laughter as well as delicious coffee & muffins.

Can’t wait until next Thursday!



Garth

**500th Meeting Lunch - Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

I’m still awaiting the updated Menu from Sporties.

If I don’t have the menu at the time of going to press I will send it to you all separately. Select your choice from the menu before arriving at the club to save time on the day.

The entry process for Sporties on the Nov 9<sup>th</sup> will be:

- \* Sign in as usual, i.e. scan the Q-code
- \* Be ready to show proof of double vaccination
- \* Collect a coloured wrist band
- \* Indicate on the sheet provided your lunchtime choice

Enjoy the meeting and lunch.

*Mike*

**President’s Christmas Lunch - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**Menu**

**Entrée:**

- 2 choices; Smoked salmon bruschetta  
Crumbed camembert wedges, lightly fried

**Main:** Roast Turkey with all the trimmings

**Dessert:**

- 2 choices Christmas Pudding and brandy custard  
Warm Spiced apple cake with vanilla ice cream

Serves for Entrée and Dessert will be alternate drop.

There is also a dietary option for main course if required.

Please advise Barbara Banner at the Nov 9<sup>th</sup> meeting if you require the dietary option.

*Mike*