

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this
newsletter is for
Probus members only

From the President

It is now 8 plus weeks since this current lockdown has been put in place with no indication that this will be relaxed any day soon. Gladys tells us that the solution to this is a vaccination rate reaching 80% which we should reach some time in October. She also has stated that after this target is reached, not all restrictions will be lifted. So, your guess is as good as mine as to when we will be holding our next member meeting.

The situation that is with us has prompted me and the PMC to think of what things we can do as a club and interact more. Things that we had initiated so far and doing are, the "are you ok" calls around to our members and the bi-monthly Newsletter.

One other idea I have come up with and put to the PMC is, to play "Trivial Pursuit" online.

Although this may seem a little daunting to you at first, I can assure you it will be a very easy thing for you to join and participate in. To do this, we will be engaging an outside firm to host the game.

I personally participated in playing this with my family who are staying with us, the game being put on by one of the kid's schools. I can honestly say it was fun and very enjoyable and so easy to use. Hence, the idea came to me to do this with our club members. The PMC will approach the membership and seek what level of interest there would be to do this.

Please refer to Mike's article (page 6) in this Newsletter for more detail.

Another fun thing Mike and I discussed was commence a new section in the Newsletter. We haven't come up with a name as yet but we're suggesting "Bloopers Corner". The idea is that members send in to Mike, our Newsletter Editor, some funny thing that has been said or taken place to you during the month.

For example, let me tell you what I did to gain entry into my own "Bloopers" of the month just recently.

As you know, I send out E-birthday cards to those members that are celebrating a birthday each month. It was Mike Allum's birthday on 29th August and I carefully went through selecting a card. I finally found a card and viewed it which I thought Mike would like. What I did not do is play the card right through to see the final product. When Mike received the card, at the top, where the writing is placed, it commenced "Happy Fathers day".

We did have a few laughs when we spoke about it.

What do you think about sending Mike items such as this, to include in the Newsletter, that took place to share with all your friends in Probus. These may be embarrassing but I am sure lots of fun.

In closing, I want to say, I miss our Thursday coffee mornings, Dean's lunches, and our member meetings. I also know that we will soon be able to do this again.

Stay safe, get exercise, and communicate with friends and family whilst we go through this period of time. It will soon be over.

Jim.

Here's My "Bloopers"

No sooner said than done. While discussing Jim's "bloopers" above we changed subject and were well into a new conversation.

Jim asked me question and I said that I needed to check the answer and said, "hang on a minute, I need to check but can't find my "d..ned" phone.

Fortunately, before asking Ashlyn if she'd seen it, where did she put it and "why have you lost my phone", it struck me (not Ashlyn), but the answer, in my hand, talking to Jim!!!!

The conversation with Jim continued and I said, "Sorry mate, what was the question?"

Mike

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 5th October

General Meeting
 Gladesville Sporties Club Guest
 Speaker
 Tom Sweeney
 Pres. Willoughby Theatre

Thursday 7th October

Scenic Roaming
 TBA
 Rick Collins

Friday 8th October

Exotic Lunch
 TBA
 Dean: 9816 5357

Wednesday 13th October

Scenic Lunch
 TBA
 Dean: 9816 5357

Friday 15th October

Book Club
 Hunters Hill Museum 14:00
 Book TBA

Tuesday 19th October

Movies - TBA
 Sandy Mower

Tuesday 19th October

Technical Outing
 Anzac Memorial
 David Lorsch

Friday 22nd October

Art Group - TBA
 Margaret Timbs

Saturday 30th October

Sydney Welsh Choir
 Villa Maria

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

Reprinted below is our second article to be published the The Weekly Times (TWT) on Wednesday 25th August 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

500 MEETINGS YOUNG: HUNTERS HILL PROBUS CLUB

The Hunters Hill Probus Club will celebrate its five hundredth meeting in August (Covid permitting). The first Probus club to be established in Australia, it has been supported by the enthusiasm and commitment of its membership through many years. It started as a men's club with sixteen members in 1976. A campaign to include women was successful and in 1995, way ahead of many other organisations, the club became 'mixed'. Women were accepted wholeheartedly and became a valued asset. Many have served terms as president, many have been involved as office bearers on the committee.

Four Probus People booklets have been published, the last in 2016. These recorded the personal profiles of members, who were given the opportunity to tell their own stories in any way they wanted. The resulting books have showcased the backgrounds of many diverse and interesting lives.

Presidency is limited to one year or, under special circumstances, two. This keeps new ideas circulating, and opens up opportunities for new initiatives. One of the first special interest groups to be organised, of the many now in place, was the Book Club. This has powered on for many years with a dedicated bunch of readers. Now we offer many other activities such as movies, fishing, walking, dining, golf, visits to art exhibitions and to technical exhibits like ANSTO at Lucas Heights.

A significant change has occurred since the development of IT, with computers, mobile phones and the internet now a major part of our lives. Instead of hard copy, our monthly newsletter is emailed to most of the members, with a few printouts still available at the meetings, and we have a bright new website complete with news and photographs.

Small changes have also made a big difference. A 'meet and greet' group was formed to greet members, friends and prospective members at the entry door before every meeting. A friendly 'hallo', a few happy words, a smile make everyone feel instantly at home. Another informal weekly event is for coffee and a chat in 'The Sunroom' café in Hunters Hill at 10am every Thursday morning.

Small changes, big changes; the future is ours and we mean to make the most of it. Come along and judge for yourself. First Tuesday of the month at 9.30 am at The Gladesville Sporties Club in Gladesville. You can contact us Jim Likidis (0412090400) or Kevin Manie (0412349270) website www.huntershillprobus.org

Wendell Watt

Activity Update

As you can imagine, trying to schedule and organise activities over the last 18 months has been difficult to say the least. I'm sure you'll all agree with me that Barbara Banner and those other members responsible for the many and varied arrangements, scheduling and rescheduling have done a great job in trying times.,

All the activities for September have been cancelled. However, at the time of going to press, the column to the left for October's program is still accurate.

Our collective fingers remain crossed.

Mike

Book Club



Anna Karenina
by
Leo Tolstoy

Perhaps it is pretentious to attempt to review purportedly the greatest novel ever written by the greatest novelist, Leo Tolstoy, but please bear with me. We are on a voyeurs guide to the Russian aristocracy

This is not so much the biography of Anna, a not very desirable Russian beauty, as a story about Russia in the mid-19th century, of social issues, the whispering of communism and the land rights of the peasants.

Most of the characters are aristocrats who partake of those pastimes so familiar and popular with the nobility. There is much shooting of birds, lavish parties with the consumption of copious white seal champagne (or is that Shampanskoye by Putin?), horse races and steeplechases, where one of our heroes miscalculates the last jump and causes his mount to fracture its back. But these are side issues to the characterisation of the participants, Levin, Dolly, Kitty, Vronsky, Oblonsky and many others with difficult to pronounce names.

I only wished I could read it in Russian as there is this pervading impression that much is lost in translation. These elites are multilingual, their conversations swinging between French German and English and of course Russian. As one said "I may speak French, it's easier".

Anna makes the fatal mistake of marrying Alexei, 20 years her senior who only kisses her on her hand and is probably impotent. According to Alexei Kalenin "all women, simply as women, were terrible and distasteful to him". Well Vronsky, an elitist military noble comes along. He seems to have affairs with anyone in a skirt and firstly attempts to seduce Kitty whom Levin had (unsuccessfully) proposed to, then the disillusioned Anna is easy meat for him.

There is illicit sex, couched in beautiful innuendos and eventually Anna is pregnant to Vronsky. There are hints of domestic violence and a tangled web of deceit; Kalenin professing his religion with an imaginary philosophy of delusional salvation has Anna isolated and loathed by her peers. She is an outcast pariah, is not offered a divorce and heads into exile in Italy.

Meanwhile Levin gets his Kitty and despite his inferiority complex manages to sire a son. Apart from his grand residence he has many acres of farms with grain and livestock. He has great compassion for the peasants and toys with ideas of land dispersal somewhat at odds with his peers. Levin's book "Seeds of Revolution" advances theories of capital, wages, and rent (serfdom to peasantry, share farming and land ownership).

There is much padding out of prose, we are taken to a Provincial Election - very boring; the death of Levin's alcoholic brother Nikolay - very drawn out and painful and the birth of Kitty's baby - excruciating in its detail.

But back to the story. Anna and Alexei continue on their pathway of deceit while Anna and Vronsky play a charade where love fades as her belly grows. Hypocrites profess Christianity whilst practicing profligacy. Anna becomes delusional and paranoid. Levin finds God but wonders about the relationship of Mohammedans, Buddhists, Hindus and others to the divinity.

And I suppose Anna has her revenge.

"The book club has not met of late and the convenor Margaret Timbs has kindly agreed to allow publication of my critique of Anna Karenina"

Richard Jones

Some feedback from our most recent issue.

I was entertained by Gordon Sanson's account (in the mid-August edition) of his search into his mother's family history. While my searches, during this ever-so-long lockdown, have been of relatively more recent times and have been nowhere near as ambitious, nevertheless one of the results may be of interest.

The belief in our family was that my great-grandfather, on my mother's side, had been a Professor of English at the University of Melbourne in the 1870's and/or 1880's. I found that interesting, but puzzling. The National Library of Australia lists in its *Australian Libraries of Australia Collections* three handbooks of examination papers published under his name; which is fine as far as it goes, except that those three publications were in relation to " - - - examination papers in arithmetic and algebra: being questions proposed to candidates at the matriculation examinations at the University of Melbourne".

The puzzle? Why would a Professor of English be writing books dealing with the solving of Mathematical problems? I had already established that my great-grandfather, wife and young babe had emigrated from San Francisco to Melbourne in the late 1870's and that he had died in 1885. With this information to hand I went to the very obliging people in the University's archives section. And while their advice was that the University's websites may not be particularly helpful, being " - - - not very fine grained" I was directed to the minutes of meetings of the University Council, volumes 4 and 5 (mid 1870's to late 1880's). With unbridled enthusiasm I went to site and found - not a skerrick of information about my relative, despite a close scrutiny of countless boring meetings (and I should

know, given my career in local government).

What I did find – the University Council was seemingly transfixed by the importance of deciding the style, cost and likely future location of a bust, still to be commissioned, of a recently retired Council chairman. It also had problems, arising on numerous occasions, of allegations from students that one or another Professor would turn up to lectures in an inebriated state, so much so that the Council felt obliged to pass a resolution in December, 1880:- That *the following resolution be sent to every Professor and Lecturer –*

The Council desires to express its regret that there has been so much irregularity in the delivery of lectures during 1879 and 1880 and further to record its opinion that the reasons assigned are in many cases utterly inadequate. The Council hopes the Professors and Lecturers will, during the next academic year, pay strict attention to their statutory duties.

My goodness! I was beginning to be pleased I couldn't find any reference to tenure by my great-grandfather. Then, there was the problem of allowing females to take up studies at the University. Evidently, in 1861, the Council had taken a decision to refuse the right of females to enter the student body, hiding behind by-law requirements and general policy. It was not until 1878 that the earlier decision was formally rescinded and courses were opened to both sexes. But even so, for the next few years those pesky young women and their demands continued to cause acrimonious debate – on numbers to be admitted and to which courses.

I have yet to solve the mysteries of my great-grandfather and his life's work, except to say two things. He was never a Professor of English, and any mathematics flair he may have possessed has not come down through the family.

Mike Regnis

More Feedback

"Well done to Diane (Drew) and Brian on the canal trip.

Spoke about our canal trip to you some time ago and we are jealous. Dawn and I did a UK canal boat hire about 7 years ago and followed it up a few years later with hiring a boat on the Norfolk Broads. Both great, but the Canal boat was the best. Every night you can tie up next to a pub if you want. Everything at leisure, the boat moves at walking pace.

Fascinating people you meet. The permanent "liveaboards" cruising the country. Met one fellow in Llangollen (Wales) aboard his boat, a journalist, working on his laptop. This was in June and he told us he was about to head to London arriving in November and would bunker down for the winter around Camden. No hurry! What a life.

Our boat was a 40 footer with four of us on board, so a 57 footer, Diane, would be heaven. Interesting living in something only 8 feet wide isn't it!

Enjoy."

Tony Saunders

We the Survivors - (for those born before 1940)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastics, contact lenses, videos, Frisbees, the Pill and faxes.

We were before radar, credit cards, laser beams and ballpoint pens – before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air fresheners, drip dry clothes ... and before a man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought "fast food" was what you ate in Lent, a "Big Mac" was an oversized raincoat and "crumpet" was what you had for tea.

We existed before househusbands, computer dating, dual careers and when a "meaningful relationship" meant getting along with your cousins, and "sheltered accommodation" was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We'd never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, word processors, artificial hearts, yoghurts and young men wearing earrings.

When we said "brilliant" or "fabulous" it meant something really outstanding and not just reasonably good.

For us, "time sharing" meant togetherness, a chip was a bit of wood or a fried potato, "hardware" meant nuts and bolts and software had never been heard of and was not even a word.

"Making out" referred to how your exam results were, "stud" was something that held a collar on a shirt and "going all the way" meant staying on the bus until the terminus. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee had not been heard of.

We the Survivors (cont'd)

In our day cigarette smoking was "fashionable", "grass" was something you mowed, "coke" was kept in the coal shed, a "joint" was a piece of meat you ate on a Sunday and "pot" was something you cooked in.

"Rock Music" was a Grandmother's lullaby, Eldorado was an ice cream and being "gay" meant lively and merry.

We, who were born before 1940, must be a hardy bunch when you consider how the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are confused and that there is a generation gap

But, by the grace of God - we have survived.

Richard Jones

Walking is Good for You - Update

Dean has provided an update on his suggestions for independent walks for our fellow members, specifically addressing the 5 km from homer restrictions.

Mike

NEW WALKS WITHIN 5 KILOMETRES OF HUNTERS HILL

1 Figtree Bridge Reserve: 'Cunningham's Reach':

Go north over the Figtree Bridge and take the first turn right to do a quasilegal U-turn and go back towards the bridge and turn left into the Linley Point road which loops under the bridge to a nice reserve with parking on the river bank. Walk to the end of the cleared area (thank you Lane Cove council) and back with pleasant views across Lane Cove River and park benches, BBQ plates and rubbish bins but no toilets.

2 Tambourine Bay Reserve:

Go further north along Burns Bay Road, right into River Road then right into Tambourine Bay Road [if you reach Longueville Road you have come too far] and STOP at the coffee shop (York's Corner) after about 150 metres for pastries and coffees. Continue along Tambourine Bay Road, past Riverview College and down to the reserve and good parking. Nice grassed area, seats, BBQ plates and paved paths to the left or unpaved (but with a toilet) to the right. Interesting left track to water and 4 km track in a rainforested sandstone scenic valley potentially back to River Road but interesting as far as you want (and for as many steps up and down as you want). The right unpaved but level track to the right goes along the bay right to the point and the Riverview rowing shed with nice water views and beautiful trees every inch of the way.

3 Burns Bay Reserve:

Always keen to provide alternatives for both the adventurous and the more faint-hearted, this is for YOU whatever your inclination. First option is to go north over Figtree Bridge and then at the first intersection go left then U-turn and turn right back into Burns Bay Road and turn into the Linley Point Reserve entry [which is also the Thynne Reid rowing shed of Sydney University] and park in the unreserved carparking area. Walk left around the bay past overshadowed home units (albeit with nice Bay views) to Burns Bay Reserve with large grasses playing fields, creek valley walk and good seats for river views [plus toilets at change rooms for the players]

ALTERNATIVELY, go up Burns Bay Road and right into River road then right into Tambourine Bay Road [stop for coffee at York's Corner] then continue on and turn RIGHT at the Riverview College roundabout and find your way to Kooyong Road which leads to Burns Bay Reserve without any walking.

TO BE CONTINUED.....

Dean Letcher

**Probus Club of
Hunters Hill**

**PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110**



Some Sad News

It is with much sadness that we have to report the passing of Basil Macree on 13th August, aged 96 years.

Basil and Gwen both joined our club in April 2015 and resigned in February this year due to health issues.

Also, we advise the passing of Beverley Nieuwenhuizen on 17th August. Although not a member of the club she was often seen at our activities with husband Adrian. Adrian was a member from 2006 until he resigned in 2020.

Our sincere condolences and thoughts go to Gwen and Adrian at this very sad time.

Mike

September Birthdays

Judith Dewsnap	4
Tony Saunders	4
Judith Dunstan	5
Pat Cox	5
Bob Mostyn	18
James Hemmings	23
Caye Higgs	25
Mike Regnis	25

Online Trivia Pursuit

As I'm sure you know, the management committee is concerned that our activities are being hit hard and have been several weeks now. There is a fair amount of discussion at committee and individual levels to come up with ideas.

As you have read (hopefully) in Jim's article at the beginning of this issue, we are looking at an online Trivial Pursuit option. He has some first-hand experience as you read. It was a lot of fun and so easy to use the technology.

If we go ahead, we don't need to worry about any set up; hosting etc. it is all done by the company providing the service.

The game goes for 90 minutes. There a two breaks during the session for you to top up your drinks, go to the bathroom or "chat" to each other.

This is how it works.

You will need 2 devices, i.e. a computer, laptop, iPad, iPhone, Android phone e.g. Samsung etc etc.

Once you, each individual, signs up you are sent a link.

Part 1 of the link will take you to the Zoom meeting where you will be able to see and hear the host and all the other participants

Part 2 of the link will take you to the interactive game on your phone and allows you to answer the questions as they are asked.

Some questions are multiple choice, some answers will need to be typed in.

The company organising the process keeps tab of the scores by person. The game goes for 5 sessions, 50 questions in total, at the end which a winner is announced.

The questions are not too hard and are varied general knowledge questions. There are musical hints or pictures for each question to give hints as to the answer. The emphasis is on **FUN**.

Your committee would very much like as many members as possible to be involved in order for us to enjoy, albeit online, a feeling of friendship, fellowship and fun in the true tradition of Probus.

During the next few day, a member of the committee will be contacting you to gauge your level of interest and willingness to be involved.

On behalf of the committee,

Mike

Pre internet chat room using
An old version of windows...



Your Choice



They'll be singing this soon at kindergartens and primary schools:
 "Baa Baa non-specified coloured grain fed halal-certified sheep
 Have you any cruelty free wool? Yes gender-neutral person, yes gender-neutral person,
 three recycled, eco-friendly bags full"

They should put more money in the ATM's. I'm getting really irritated. This is the tenth ATM I've been to in the last week that's had "insufficient funds".



New Generation of Terrorist

A school teacher was arrested today at John F. Kennedy International airport as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a compass, an ancient wooden device called a "slide-rule" as well as a code device called an "abacus" that he claimed was a calculator. At a morning press conference, the Attorney General said he believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-Gebra movement. He did not identify the man, who has been charged by the FBI with carrying weapons of math's instruction.

"Al-Gebra is a problem for us," the Attorney General said. "Al-Gebra has terrorized many young people for years. They derive solutions by means and extremes and sometimes go off on tangents in search of "absolute values". "They use secret code names like 'X' and 'Y' and refer to themselves as 'unknowns,' but we've determined that they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country."

As the Greek philosopher Isosceles used to say, "There are 3 sides to every triangle." When asked to comment on the arrest, President Biden said, "If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math's instruction, he would have given us more fingers and toes."

White House aides told reporters they could not recall a more intelligent or profound statement by a President.