

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this
Newsletter is for
Probus members only



FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 7th December

General Meeting
Gladesville Sporties Club
Guest Speaker Graham Sims
"Funny Dummies"

Deb Wallace rebooked for April meeting

Thursday 9th December

Scenic Roaming
See page 5 for details
Rick Collins

Friday 10th December

Exotic Lunch
Little Sicily Restaurant
Leichhardt
Dean: 9816 5357

Monday 13th December

New Small Group Activity
Botanic Gardens
See page 4 for details

Tuesday 14th December

President's Christmas Lunch
Gladesville Sporties
Barbara Banner

Thursday 16th December

Scenic Lunch
RSYS Kirribilli
Tony Saunders

Friday 17th December

Book Club Xmas Lunch
Ironwood Woolwich
Margaret Timbs

Tuesday 21st December

Movies
Sandy Mower
Tel: 0478 630 620

From the President

It was so pleasing to hear from a number of you that the Club's 500th Meeting celebration in November was a great success, leaving me with a feeling of confidence that it was enjoyed by everyone.

Another activity held on Tuesday 30th November, was the annual Sausage Sizzle at **The Kokoda Track** memorial park. Thank goodness the weather was kind to us. It was reasonably well attended with approx. 30 people that came. I am certain if the weather had been better, we would have had more in attendance.

It was still a great day at a wonderful venue with great food provided by several members who volunteered to do so. My many thanks go to all and in particular our Activity Officer, Barbara Banner for her hard work in making this happen.

So, what else do we have coming up for the rest of the year.

At our next member meeting on Tuesday, 7th December we will be inducting 3 new members and presenting Service award to another of our long time members.

Then, wrapping up the year, the big event on December 14th, is the Club's Christmas lunch, renamed for this year only, to the President's Christmas Lunch, in recognition of the fact that, due to the Covid situation earlier in the year, we were unable to hold the annual President's lunch.

I believe that there will in attendance around 77 people which I feel certain will be a record for this function. A lot of work is going on by the committee to ensure that our members have a great time.

On the business front for the Club, I wish to remind everyone that nominations for all Probus Management Committee positions are to be properly completed and received by the Club Secretary no later than the February 1st Member meeting.

Unfortunately, at the time of going to press, we still have not yet received any expressions of interest in the Activity Officer role. This now becoming a serious issue for 2022.

Again, please, come and enquire about this role and do your bit to contribute to the future success of the club.

See you all at our next meeting.

Jim

500th Meeting

The November meeting was a great day of celebrations. Not only was it the first meeting since the big COVID lockdown started, but it was our much delayed 500th meeting. Twenty one members attended the first meeting in 1976 and the 500th, 45 plus years later, saw seventy two members join together for the celebratory meeting and the lunch that followed.

The event saw the induction of 9 new members, believed to be a record since the founding group back in 1976.

In addition, the membership recognised the 15 years of service of Wendell Watt. Wendell had served in many positions including President for two successive terms, convenor of the Book Club, regular contributor to the Club Newsletter and worked on cataloguing and archiving the Club records.

A ceremonial cake cutting took place at morning tea flowed by the speaker for the month. Tom Sweeney, as ex-president, spoke about the Willoughby Theatre Company, a very professional

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 4th January

General Meeting
 Guest Speaker Nicolas Cowdrey
 "Issues in Justice"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
 Sunroom 10:00 am

Thursday 6th January

Scenic Walk
 TBA
 Rick Collins

Friday 7th January

Exotic Lunch
 TBA

Monday 10th January

Botanic Gardens
 TBA
 Dean Letcher

Tuesday 11th January

Movies
 TBA
 Sandy Mower

Wednesday 12th January

Scenic Lunch TBA
 Dean Letcher

Friday 21st January

Book Club
 TBA
 Margaret Timbs

Friday 28th January

Art Gallery
 TBA.
 Margaret Timbs

Tuesday 8th February

Technical Outing
 Anzac War Memorial
 13:00 - 14:30
 David Lorsch

27th March – 4th April, 2022

Tasmania trip
 Jill Regnis
 9808 2482 or 0467 322 244.
 Email: regnis@bigpond.com

Saturday 9th April 2022

Sydney Welsh Choir
 Villa Maria

500th Meeting

organization, relying entirely on volunteers for every aspect of its productions.

The presentation was followed by a lunch funded for the members in attendance in recognition of the absence of many of the planned activities cancelled due to the Covid-19 "lockdowns."



Welcome to Nine New Members

L/R: Harrie Hall, Henk and Deborah Lohman, John and Juliet Bishop, Monica Curley, Barbara Enright and Graham Holland. Christine Holland not in the picture but was inducted.

Mike Regnis Recognising Wendell's 15 Years Membership

Mike highlighted many of Wendell's "achievements", including her Presidency, not just for the usual one year term, but for 2 successive years.

She has been Convenor and an enthusiastic member of the Book Club, the writer of a regular news and comment column for our monthly newsletter.

Working with Ian Adair, marshalling all the club records – its archives – and cataloguing them for future ease of recovery/discovery (currently stored in Fairland Hall).

While John was still alive and in good health, both he and Wendell enjoyed many a day or longer trip with their fellow club members.

He also reminded members of a very special luncheon for club members – on the anniversary of the 1945 Japanese surrender in the Pacific and the end of World War 2.

Wendell's father, who had been a prisoner-of-war in Changi, had brought home with him a menu, one which had special significance to him and to others who had served in the 2/30th battalion of the 8th Division.

That "fantasy" menu, with all courses written in French as befits the best of cuisine, was used by those wonderful souls, as they sat down to their bowls of vermin-infested rice and green



500th Meeting (cont)

weeds, to take them away, just for a moment and on just the one occasion, from the privations of Changi.

During our luncheon Wendell read from her father's wartime diary (which had to be hidden from the Japanese) and from an account he had written on his return home. And we? We had a full 3 course meal. But to remind us, each table was graced with a ½ bowl of rice, the equivalent of what those brave diggers had to sustain them.

Ceremonial Cake Cutting



Current and Past Presidents including 4 Life Members

L/R Front: Ian Adair - Life, Vincie Wahlquist - Life, Pat Cox - Life, Wendell Watt,
Back: Jim Likidis, Mike Allum, Margaret Conley, Peter Kelly, Jill Regnis, Ross McBride - Life
Life Member Les Osborne not in attendance.



An Attentive Audience During Tom Sweeney's Presentation on the Willoughby Theatre Company

Book Club



Home Fire

By Kamila Shamsie

A review

Our enthusiastic book club met at Vincie's home and we thank her for her hospitality.

This novel presents a family tragedy, instigated by a young man from a migrant family in London interpreting the world order. Perhaps he got it wrong but gained our sympathy. Did he suffer from the loss of his father?

Your reviewer did not do well in this tense interplay of the virtues of the narrative and was so completely outvoted that he shrank worm like into his vermicomposter!

All members were of the opinion that it was a fascinating novel and to precis the thoughts expressed - it was depressing but well written (Juliet), powerful with expressive language tied up in violence a la Romeo and Juliet (Margaret T). Enlightening and providing an understanding of poor Muslims' experience of gender roles and justice (Margaret C). What was coming next?--a tight plot (Vincie).

Most found it interesting, with each chapter highlighting a member of the family (Deirdre).

A full page is devoted to variations of grief and all agreed that this was a very moving highlight of the book. Concerns were expressed alluding to religious loyalties which can have unforeseen consequences--does love conquer all?

It concludes with a decomposing stateless corpse in an ice "coffin" travelling the world seeking rest and the whole culminating in a big bang.

Is it a reimagining of Sophocles Greek tragedy - Antigone - the jury is out?

Richard Jones

There is no book review for December - our next event being the Christmas lunch on 17 December 12 noon at Ironwood

BOTANIC GARDENS GROUP

Starting Monday 13th December 10:30 am

Japanese Garden Auburn - an exquisite gem of serene reflective waters and manicured plants with high symbolic thought and traditional beauty. This is an interesting and unexpected fine representation of the highly skilled and deeply spiritual Japanese tradition and is very accessible and appealing to everyone.

Place Auburn Botanic Gardens 99 Chiswick Rd Auburn. Easy directions and excellent signs to the gardens. Twenty minutes drive from HH, carpooling advised, drop off less agile at entrance and ample parking off road 100 metres on left.

Refreshments Tea/coffee on arrival if wished from Turkish food van at entrance [no kiosk inside] , toilets well-signed. After garden inspection tea or lunch at Auburn Tennis Club 200 metres away, ample parking.

Sign up with Dean at the December 7th Meeting

Remembrance Day



Probus members Dellane and Rod Stewart pictured at the Remembrance Day service in Hunters Hill.

Hardship Collection

Vincie has reminded me, it's that time again

We will have our Hardship Gift Collection for Hunters Hill Community Aid at our December 1st meeting.

The following are suggestions for us to donate:-



- Longlife milk (Full Cream and Light) in one Litre cartons
- Vegemite
- 2 minute noodles
- Tins of Spam or other meals, casseroles etc, in tins
- Packets of instant potato and instant peas
- Packets of cereals
- Packets of pasta meals
- Shampoo, soap, toilet paper toothpaste

We will probably organise for you to drop your donations off in the car park to save carrying everything into the club and then back out again.

Thank you.

Did You Know?

In the old days, sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special.

When visitors came over they would hang up their bacon, to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, “bring home the bacon.” they would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around talking and “chew the fat.”

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and potentially, death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or “the upper crust.”

Barbara Gardner

Art Gallery

Friday, 26th November

We visited the S H Irvin Art Gallery today to view the Portia Geach Exhibition. We were excited to view 57 works, all painted by female artists, the subjects being males and females, distinguished in Art, Letters or the Sciences, OR, as quite a number were, self-portraits. There was much discussion post our viewing.

This exhibition also presented us with an added impetus, the option to vote online, for a People’s Choice Award. This can mean viewing the works from a more critical perspective.

Despite the very inclement weather our group totaled 11 Probi-ans, 8 of whom adjourned for lunch after Gallery visit to the Drummoyne Sailing Club.

There will not be a meeting in December, our next meeting will be Friday 28th January 2022, at a venue to be advised.

Margaret Timbs

Exotic Lunch

Before we were so rudely interrupted by Covid, Exotic Lunch was to return to European food and now does so on Friday 10 December at 12 noon at the Little Sicily restaurant 194 Marion Street Leichhardt 95602255.

Good on-street parking, at fruit market next door (entry from Foster Street) or at Market Place nearby, bus 438.

Sicily is the island at the toe of the boot of Italy. Sicilians speak dialect Italian but over centuries have been ruled by Romans, Moors from Morocco, Phoenicians and the Spanish.

The history and the surrounding Mediterranean show in the food. Arancini (“little oranges”) of creamy rice, Pasta Con le Sarde or Pasta a Beccafico (all sardines) Caponata (warm salad of eggplant, pinenuts, raisins and tomato with tang of vinegar), Pasta alla Norma (after Joan Sutherland’s famous role),

Sicilian blood orange salad, tuna carpaccio etc with Cannoli or Cassata desserts. This time we order and pay individually but there is no law against sharing and plates will be whizzing around the table with these taste sensations.

Bella!

Dean Letcher

Scenic Walk - 9th December

Circular Quay - Botanical Gardens - Circular Quay

An easy walking for members and friends.

We catch the 9.24 am ferry from the Valentia St, Woolwich Wharf (easy short walk from parking) arriving at Circular Quay at 9.47 am.

We then walk around the Opera House following the harbour-side path fronting the Botanical Gardens to arrive at Mrs. Macquarie’s Chair. Through the Domain into the Botanical Gardens and via different path through the gardens going back past the Opera House to Quay No. 5 to catch the 13.45 ferry back to Woolwich arriving at 2.09 pm.

We’ll stop for a coffee and there are plenty of toilets along the way.

The walk will not go ahead if raining. Contact Rick Collins **0411 023 473** if not sure.

Rick Collins

Movie Group



A group of “Bond” fans set off the the spectre of the United Cinema at Circular Quay to see *Die Another Day*,

From the Editor’s Desk

Well, another “Covid” disrupted year nearly over. Let’s all hope the coming year is a vast improvement on this one, virus wise.

My sincere thanks to all our Newsletter contributors over the last year, it certainly makes my job easier and in particular to Barbara Gardner for her “Thoughts of the Month” and more recently her “Did You Know” articles.

Finally, I’d like to acknowledge the production team working tirelessly behind the scenes assisting in the publication and delivery of this iconic publication.

Thanks Ash.

From both of us we wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and all you wish yourselves for the New Year.

Mike & Ashlyn

Sausage Sizzle

Much to Barbara Banner's and after one postponement due to the inclement weather, Tuesday, 30th November saw 27 members gather at the Kokoda Track Barbecue area for our annual sausage sizzle. The weather, albeit not perfect, was certainly bearable with the rain holding off for the duration.



Sausage Sizzle (Cont)



Our thanks go to all those who volunteered to provide salads, deserts, nibblies, cakes for our collective enjoyment.

Thanks also to Barbara Banner for organising the event. She must have influence on high as minutes after the final clearing up was complete, slight drizzle started.

Perfect timing.

We mustn't forget Les for his assistance and support and we look forward to receiving his application to join our Probus club.

Photographs supplied by Jim, Copies are available on request at reasonable prices from your Editor.

**Probus Club of
Hunters Hill
& District Inc**

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



December Birthdays

Carolyn Jolly	2
Paula Patterson	2
Gordon Sanson	4
Suzanne Fischer	9
David Lorsch	25

*Old age is an excellent time for outrage
My goal is to say or do at least
one outrageous thing every week*

Willoughby Theatre Company



Our Guest Speaker for the month was Tom Sweeney, ex President of the Willoughby Theatre Company, a very professional organisation relying entirely on volunteers for every aspect of its productions.-- Musical comedies are its specialities.

Tom described in detail the excitement of producing Priscilla Queen of the Desert and many of their other shows.

To keep costs down all the amateur theatres borrow sets and clothing from each other whenever possible and adapt them to their specific show, Tom mentioned that his wife, whom he met when they were both in the same show, many years ago, was a dab hand at manufacturing, altering, and adapting everything that was lent, hired or scavenged.

One of the exceptions was drag queen dresses for Priscilla as they were able to buy them new, including all the petticoats underneath- at \$23 each direct from China.

Tom illustrated his talk with slides and video clips and much laughter as he described some of the last minute panics of producing a show on time and how they were overcome.

On several occasions the showman in him surfaced as he broke out into song to "illustrate" his point.

His passion and enthusiasm was clear for all to see.

A truly memorable performance

Editor's Musings

- Why is it call "after dark" when it really is "after light"?
- How come when you call a wrong number, someone is always home?
- Does killing time damage eternity?
- Why is it that night falls but day breaks?
- Do people in Australia call the rest of the world 'up over'?
- Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?

**PROBUS CLUB OF HUNTERS and DISTRICT
PO BOX 1041 HUNTERS HILL 2110**

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Vice President	Dean Letcher	9816 5357
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