

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this
Newsletter is for
Probus members only

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 1st February

General Meeting
Gladesville Sporties Club
Guest Speaker: Nicholas Cowdrey
"Issues in Justice"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
Sunroom 10:00
All Welcome

Tuesday 8th February

Technical Tour
Anzac Memorial Hyde Park
See Page 3 for more details
David Lorsch 0428 247 708

Friday 11th February

Exotic Lunch
Rhodes Phoenix Restaurant
Dean: 9816 5357

Monday 14th February

Sydney Botanic Gardens
Dean: 9816 5357

Tuesday 15th February

Movies
Sandy Mower
TBA

Wednesday 16th February

Scenic Lunch
Deckhouse
Dean: 9816 5357

Friday 18th February

Book Club
Hunters Hill Museum 14:00
Afternoon Tea - Sunroom
Margaret Timbs

Friday 25th February

Art Gallery
TBA
Margaret Timbs

From the President

The decision to cancel the January Member meeting, made by the PMC, was made in the hope that the Omicron spread would reach a peak and be in decline by the end of the month. As you know, unfortunately this did not take place with the spread reaching explosive highs with record cases. This made the decision to hold the February meeting a difficult one.

As previously stated, the members safety is and always will be the PMC's major responsibility. Hence, I decided to go to you, our members and seek the level of desire as to whether we do meet or not.

The number of responses received were 62, with 19 for Yes hold a meeting, 2 undecided and 41 No's.

At the same time, the realisation of not holding a February meeting and the resulting administrative issues with the AGM due in March under the Club's Constitution was also very much in my mind. Despite this, I was ready to approach the committee with the strong recommendation to cancel the Member meeting.

Soon after, in speaking with Carol Pelham, the Club's Speaker Officer, she advised me that the speaker in February, Mr. Nicholas Cowdrey did not require a computer to do his talk. He only needed a lectern and microphone. Suddenly the thought to hold the meeting outside became a viable option.

To do this and if we followed the right protocols, it would lessen the risk of transmission and overcome the Club Constitutional issues that may arise if we did not hold a meeting. After checking with Sporties, this proposal was put to the PMC, and it was decided to proceed with holding the meeting.

This will take place at the undercover veranda outside. The microphone works the same as inside and the tables can be arranged in a manner that will be properly spaced out. We unfortunately are back to 2 Sq. meter and movement will be restricted.

I hope you can forgive me for going against your wishes on this matter. In the end it is entirely your own decision whether to attend or not, but in saying that, I do hope you attend, it will be a great meeting with a very highly regarded speaker.

At the meeting we will induct a new member, Robyn Beckhaus and if we can convince Jean Fong to attend, a presentation of a 15 year service award will be made to her.

As to the speaker, we are so lucky to have him and he comes with a great reputation. Nicholas Cowdrey was the Director of Public Prosecutions for NSW from 1994-2011. Some of the notable successful prosecutions include Ivan Milat, Gordon Wood and Keli Lane.

His topic is "Issues in Justice".

Before I close, may I remind everyone once again, that all nominations for positions on the PMC will need to be in the hands of the Club's Secretary, Margaret Bowman, no later than the February meeting.

In the meantime, stay safe and I hope to see you at the meeting on Tuesday, 1st February.

Jim

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 1st March
 General Meeting
 Followed by 47th AGM

Thursdays
 Coffee Morning
 Sunroom 10:00 am

Thursday 10th March
 NSW Art Gallery
 9:15 Private Guided Tour \$32
 Matisse Exhibition
 Barbara Banner

Friday 11th March
 Exotic Lunch
 TBA
 Dean Letcher

Monday 14th March
 Botanic Gardens
 TBA
 Dean Letcher

Tuesday 15th March
 Movies
 Sandy Mower
 TBA

Wednesday 16th March
 Scenic Dining
 TBA
 Deal Letcher

Friday 18th March
 Book Club
 TBA
 Margaret Timbs

Tuesday 22nd March
 46th Birthday Lunch
 The Alcott \$75
 Barbara Banner

Friday 25th March
 Art Gallery
 TBA.
 Margaret Timbs

27th March – 4th April, 2022
 Tasmania trip
 See Page 3
 Jill Regnis

Saturday 9th April 2022
 Sydney Welsh Choir
 Villa Maria

Exotic Lunch

On Friday, 14th January, a cheery 14 Probusians were titillated in the tastebuds and fed to exhaustion with excellent Thai dishes at the Blue Chili Restaurant, Gladesville (formerly “Star of Thailand”).

Super value and great variety from Massaman Curry, Helen’s favourite, to BBQ Chicken with Quinoa and on to spicy king prawns.

No need to fly to Phuket!



February Scenic Lunch

On Wednesday, 16th February we meet close to home, and on very familiar ground for most members, at the Deckhouse restaurant Clarke Road, Clarks Point next to the Woolwich Dock at 12 noon.

Parking in the council carpark nearby before the end of the road – about 50 metres level walk. There is no special menu and every member will pay separately, preferably by card.

This is a gloriously situated site with harbour views to beyond the Bridge, or Valentia Street wharf and Greenwich Point if you wish, and stylish food.

Reservations have been made, fully licensed.

Please sign up at the February 1st meeting. Outside on the balconies or inside according to preference .

Dean

Botanic Gardens

It was a small enthusiastic group at the Auburn Japanese Garden on 11th January what with COVID and the hot weather.

Quite apart from the mounded azaleas, cloud-pruned black pines and the golden cypresses they enjoyed resting in the teahouse overlooking the lake and the multicoloured carp, native tortoises and the incredibly noisy but perfect peacocks.



Then lunch in the nearby Tennis Club – suitably air-conditioned so that even Djokovic would have felt at home (where he probably is now).

There will be another visit there for the autumn leaves and again for spring cherry blossom time. Very Japanese and charming

Our February Botanic outing is to the Culinary Section of Royal Sydney Botanic Gardens on Monday 14 February meeting at the Opera House entrance to the garden at about 10.30 am.

Best transport option is Opal ferry either from Huntley’s Point at 9.34 am or Valentia Street at 9.24 am. Parking is available at a price under the Opera House.

We will stroll, this is a ‘strollout’ not a workout, through the lower Gardens and look most closely at the nicely shaded section with everything from yams to coriander to bottle gourds and all our familiar vegetables with explanations of history and uses.

Then, morning tea and lunch at the central café, or another of the kiosks in the Gardens. Depending on whim, stamina and weather, return the same way.

Important to sign on at the February meeting but late decisions are fine – just notify Dean - dean.letcher@bigpond.com.

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 it to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Update from Jill Regnis

An update on 2 of the trips for 2022.

- * The trip to Tasmania (27th March – 4th April), is fully subscribed at this time but I am prepared to run a waiting list as closer to time sometimes a room or two will become available.
- * The balance of payment is due to be paid by 22nd February.
- * Reminder invoices will be sent from ‘On Course Tours’.

The planned trip to King Island and the Great Ocean Road 10th to 17th November – fly both ways.

The cost is \$3,395 pp double or twin share. There are no single rooms available at this time. However, I am happy to run a waiting list since it is many months away at present.

I hope to have brochures available, including the day by day itinerary, at the February meeting.

Accommodation on King Island is very limited and as the trip has been partly booked by another Club, please let me know ASAP is you wish to join this trip.

My contact details are:

Phone: 9808 2482
 Mobile: 0467 322 244
 Email: regnis@bigpond.com

Jill

**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
A/Secretary	Margaret Bowman	0439 165 016
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

February Exotic Lunch

Most early Chinese arrivals in Australia, 'The Great Gold Land', came from the southeastern corner of China – think Hainan Chicken Rice named after the southern island and Yum Cha, 'Drink Tea', from Guangzhou, Canton province next to Hong Kong .

Friday, 11th February, we are off to Rhodes Phoenix restaurant arriving at 11.30 - 12:00 noon, Level 5 in Rhodes Shopping Centre, 1 Rider Boulevard if you want to program the satnav. Best parking is on Level 5, near Bing Lee and for Ikea, but the restaurant is at the opposite end of the floor from Ikea.

Follow the signs to the Cinemas and take the escalator up to Phoenix. The restaurant is huge and has a fabulous array of all the Yum Cha dishes from gow gee dumplings to chooks feet to roast duck and beyond. We will be at tables of four and the staff wheel trolleys of small dishes around and when you choose a dish they stamp a paper sheet in the appropriate place according to price.

At the end, ONE person from each table pays for the table WHICH MEANS you should take cash if possible and settle up with your one person. **No split bills** here but the staff are very understanding and helpful.



The Phoenix is fully licensed – Tsingtao beer and good wine by glass or bottle available and Chinese tea always provided. Estimate is about \$40 per person but we will give warnings about the more expensive of the offerings on arrival – for instance the beautiful Pippies in Black Bean Sauce which allow a generous taste to four people are \$28.

This an unhurried process meant to be a leisurely chat with tea and nibbly bits for discussion and enjoyment, so allow at least 1 ½ hours if not 2.

The people watching is excellent! If you choose and regret the choice, don't worry. Someone else is sure to like the dish, trading and sharing is the idea.

Dean

Technical Outing

Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park South

Tuesday 8th February 2022.

Meet 12:45 pm at entrance from Liverpool Street, Sydney.

Cost \$15 per person includes 30 minutes “Devoted Service” sound and film presentation about experiences of WW1 nurses. Taking actual words and personal accounts written by three nurses and a matron in their diaries and letters, you will witness how, from the moment the last ribbon connecting them to Sydney breaks, through to the end and aftermath of the Great War in 1918/19, the courage and conviction of these women endures.

The presentation will be followed by 45 minutes conducted tour of the Memorial, including parts opened in 2018.

Travel by Bus route 506 from Hunters Hill to Park Street, Sydney for snack and drink in Liverpool Street café before tour. Bus departs Hunters Hill Hotel stop 10:59 am.

Please phone or email David to arrange participation if not done by Probus meeting 1st February 2022.

Ph: 0428 247 708
email: lorschyd@bigpond.net.au

David Lorsch

January Scenic Lunch

The Sydney Flying Squadron had no aircraft or runway. The name dates from a time when the only fast things in squadrons were ships. In this time the Sydney “Eighteen Footer” was the fastest thing on the water. They are skiffs carrying a huge amount of sail and with crews of five or more they roared around the harbour in races followed by ferries packed with punters betting on the results.

Now the Sydney Flying Squadron is still at its traditional base but less prominent. To make up for that it, has a good restaurant and an excellent view into Kirribilli Bay.



A baker's dozen of Probusians enjoyed oyster, the views, child size spaghetti (you know who you are) and gossip on Wednesday 19th January at yet another fine venue, of which there may be a completely inexhaustible supply in Sydney.

Dean

Art Group

The White Rabbit Gallery

A very select group of art aficionados visited (or immersed themselves in) the White Rabbit gallery recently to be accosted by a kaleidoscopic electronic presentation of hills and waves (at least that was according to the explanatory note) – we had given the interactive “Pac-Man” a miss.



Somewhat surreal you might say was Mickey Mouse and friends in a colourful fibreglass montage or two with an entry into urban pollution (a la Beijing) and what looked like a black asteroid.



We were severely pricked by a Bayeux Tapestry style landscape entirely created by pinholes (we wonder if he had delusions of torture!) and to end there was a giant Corinthian column writhing like a dissatisfied phallus over the top of us as we finally escaped for a refreshing caffeine hit.

Anonymous

Barbara's Thought for the Month

To laugh often and much; to win respect of the 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, that is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Editor's Musings

Why are you IN a movie, but you are ON TV?

If a tree falls in the forest and no one is around to see it, do the other trees make fun of it?

Why are they called “stands” when they are made for sitting?

What would happen if you put a slinky on the “up” escalator?

Why do “overlook” and “oversee” mean opposite things?

Why does “fat chance” and “slim chance” mean the same thing?

Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to win.

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

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



February Birthdays

Ada Radovan	5
Norbert Snashall	7
Ashlyn Allum	8
Jean Fong	9
John Malone	9
Merle Denton	13
Alison O'Neill	16
Dawn Saunders	19
Deirdre Page	19
Juliet Bishop	19
Greg Griffiths	22
Nancy Hattersley	23
Charles Kent	26

Age is just a number. It is totally irrelevant unless, of course, you happen to be a bottle of wine.

Book Club



A Mélange of Literary "amuse-bouche"

The book club met recently with a small but enthusiastic quorum. In the absence of our unfortunately indisposed convenor Margaret T , Margaret C chaired the meeting and we all shared the highlights of our personally chosen books.

Vincie mentioned in passing her desire to delve into the "List of books that changed my life". Returning to earth she treated us to her enthusiasm for "Dark Emu" by Bruce Pascoe which she believed was an admirably researched treatise on the peoples of Australia before the European invasion. She quoted the author's view that the first peoples built houses, cultivated the land, sowed crops and reaped them and were not just hunter gatherers. They sewed their clothes, had a pan continental government and established peace.

Our depleted numbers were almost lost for words!

Juliet breezed through a number of recent reads-or those to be read-including "A Lesson in Secrets" by Jacqueline Winspear where in 1932 women were conscripted to the British Secret Service to create a harmonious society and to monitor activities viz. Nazis, not in the interests of His Majesty's Government.

Another, "The Swift and the Harrier" by Minette Walters set around 1642 and the Civil War in England related the goings on at a plague hospital where a female doctor would treat all comers (? Reminiscent of "no vaxxers" and Medicare—reviewer).

Then our co-opted convenor Margaret reminisced around "The Island of Missing Trees" by Elif Shafaf a story of love between a Greek and a Turkish Cypriot teenager—fertile grounds for disharmony! They had met in a typical taverna under garlic and chilli, run by two "boys" where the food was wonderful. However the lovers become unstuck and Mum sends the Greek Cypriot to London. Later, he returns to Cyprus and finds his love and together they have a daughter. The fig tree in all this is a central character. Mixed marriages can lead to alienation— perhaps a book for our times.

Richard waxed lyrical about the author C. J. Sansom and his photographic knowledge of the London of 1543. "Revelation" is a serial murder mystery for lawyer character Shardlake "the crook back" to solve.

This is the time of Henry VIII and the dissolution of the monasteries leading to mass unemployment of displaced monks, much burning at the stake and a fundamental schism of Christianity—there is rampant extremism and recidivism all of which lead to unpleasantness and a reenactment of the seven plagues of Revelation chapters 15 and 16. (worth reading) by the seven angels with multiple grisly murders for Shardlake to solve.

We share Shardlake's London of 1543, his friends and enemies and walk and ride the streets of Tudor London with its stench and poverty and if you are a reformer then a recanting will not save you from the barbecue. The book is one of Sansom's Shardlake Tudor series and is a good read.

Our next book is "The Museum of Modern Love" by Heather Rose.

Richard Jones