

# PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this  
Newsletter is for  
Probus members only

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**Tuesday 4th January**  
General Meeting  
Gladesville Sporties Club  
Guest Speaker: Nicolas Cowdrey  
"Issues in Justice"  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursdays**  
Coffee Morning  
Sunroom 10:00  
All Welcome  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursday 6th January**  
Scenic Roaming  
Cancelled  
Rick Collins  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 10th January**  
Botanic Gardens  
Japanese Gardens  
99 Chiswick Rd, Auburn  
See Page 5 for details  
Dean: 9816 5357  
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**Friday 14th January**  
Exotic Lunch  
Blue Chili Thai  
156 Victoria Rd, Gladesville.  
See Page 5 for more details.  
Dean: 9816 5357  
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**Wednesday 19th January**  
Scenic Lunch  
Sydney Flying Squadron  
76 McDougall St, Kirribilli  
See Page 6 for more details  
Dean: 9816 5357  
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**Friday 21st January**  
Book Club  
Book of Your Own Choosing  
Hunters Hill Museum 14:00  
Afternoon Tea - Sunroom  
Margaret Timbs  
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**Friday 28th January**  
Art Gallery  
White Rabbit Gallery 10:30  
See Page 5 for details

## From the President

I hope that everyone had a very enjoyable Christmas spent with family and friends. Personally, it is my favourite day of the year when Fay and I spend a whole day with all the family, talking, eating, drinking and watching the kids opening their many presents received.

As I reflect on the year that has just passed, it did go so quickly. I looked back on our Club year. It started with hope and optimism that Covid would not interrupt our lives too much. Despite having to miss five months of member meetings and a number of activities planned for the year, I feel we have come through the year as a Club very strongly and in a wonderful position.

I hope you did enjoy the meetings and activities that the committee and many other volunteers in the club had planned and did take place and that this did bring you enjoyment and pleasure.

Reflecting on the special functions we did manage to hold this year, namely the Birthday Lunch and the recent Christmas Party, feedback received from many of you suggested that both functions were greatly enjoyed by the members who attended.

Running a club like ours, does require some hard work. For this I would like to thank all the committee and all the volunteers that have assisted making our Club the club that it is.

It has been wonderful to see the member numbers grow back to the levels of 2019 of 100 members with 13 new members being inducted during the year.

Also, welcoming so many new guests over the past 12 months was so great to see. I think this bodes well for 2022.

So, on we go with the New Year commencing with our January Member meeting on 4th January. Due to personal reasons, unfortunately I will not be attending and the Club's VP, Dean Letcher will be chairing the meeting in my absence.

In closing, I want to wish you all a Happy New Year filled with lots of happiness, good health and a return to a more life and activities during 2022.

*Jim*

## Reminders

**No meeting on Tuesday 4th January.** Annual subscriptions are now due. If you are into Internet Banking feel free to use your system to pay for your Subscriptions:

The Club Bank Account details are as follows:  
**Account Name:** Probus Club of Hunters Hill  
**BSB:** 062 182  
**Account No:** 00902310

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The 46th AGM is to be held on Tuesday 1st March, 2022

If you wish to nominate for a position on the Management Committee you need to submit a completed "Nomination Form for the Election of Office Bearers", signed by yourself as the Nominee, your Proposer and your Seconder, to our Secretary, Margaret Bowman by the end of the February meeting.

If you have any queries, feel free to speak to any committee member.

That's it from me for what's been a very long year at the press desk. Here's hoping 2022 is an improvement on 2021. Stay healthy, have a Happy New Year and remember, fun friendship and fellowship for all.

*Mike*

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February**  
 General Meeting  
 Guest Speaker:  
 Harry Kimble  
 The Silk Road Overland  
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**Thursdays**  
 Coffee Morning  
 Sunroom 10:00 am

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January**  
 Scenic Walk  
 TBA  
 Rick Collins  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February**  
 Technical Tour  
 Anzac Memorial Hyde Park  
 See Page 4 for more details  
 David Lorsch 0428 247 708  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February**  
 Exotic Lunch  
 TBA  
 Dean Letcher  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February**  
 Botanic Gardens  
 TBA  
 Dean Letcher  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February**  
 46<sup>th</sup> Birthday Lunch  
 The Alcott, Lane Cove  
 Barbara Banner  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February**  
 Book Club  
 TBA  
 Margaret Timbs  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February**  
 Art Gallery  
 TBA.  
 Margaret Timbs  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**27<sup>th</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2022**  
 Tasmania trip  
 Jill Regnis  
 9808 2482 or 0467 322 244.  
 Email: regnis@bigpond.com  
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**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022**  
 Sydney Welsh Choir  
 Villa Maria  
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**December General Meeting**

We inducted our last three members for the year, bringing the total to 13 new members in 2021.



*John Ryan accepting membership into the Club on behalf of himself and wife Marea*



*President Jim presenting Robert Way with his membership documentation*

At 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 our membership comprises:

- \* 106 Total Membership.
- \* 58 Female
- \* 39 Male
- \* 97 Active Members
- \* 9 non-Active Members

Healthy figures I think you'd agree.

### President's Christmas Lunch

As the year 2021 had been problematic with Covid issues, it was decided early in the year to defer the President's lunch, normally held in July and combine it with the traditional Christmas lunch held in December.

Bookings were looking good and we seemed to be tracking toward 76 attendees, Unfortunately, several cancellations late in the piece reduced the number to 66 members and guests.

Nevertheless, I believe a good time was had by all.



To lighten up the proceedings the game "Who Am I?" was played. Five names were drawn "out of the hat" to establish candidates to wear a "label" on their heads. The labels were the names of famous individuals, alive or dead. The contestants were allowed to ask "yes" / "no" questions, in an attempt to identify themselves.

Left to right:

*Margaret (Maggie Thatcher), Bob Way (Elvis), Ross (Donald Trump), Barbara (The Queen), and Tony (Mickey Mouse).*

Ross came so close to winning once he'd established he was a US President. However, I suspect he was not comfortable to be Trump and went through a long list before being pipped at the post by Bob as Elvis.






President's Christmas Lunch



Following the main course Mike, conducted a Trivia competition. The combined intellect of the "Lorschy Collective", together with a greater source of bribery funds saw them the winners on the day.

Congratulations, as always ,to Barbara Banner for her organisational skills ably supported by husband, Les, and Ashlyn.

Mike

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Did You Know? (cont)</b></p> <p>In the old days in England, 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".</p> <p>Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around eat and drink and wait to see if they would wake up. Hence the expression "Holding a Wake".</p> <p>England is old and small and the locals started running out of places to bury people, so they would dig up coffins and take the bones to a bone house and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, thread it through the coffin up through the ground and tie it to a bell.</p> <p>Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "Dead Ringer".</p> <p>And that's the truth.</p> <p>Now whoever said history was boring !!!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Barbara Gardner</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Technical Tour</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Anzac Memorial Hyde Park South</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meet 12:45 pm at entrance from Liverpool Street, Sydney.</b></p> <p><b>Cost \$15 per person</b> includes 30 minutes "Devoted Service" sound and film presentation about experiences of W. W. 1 nurses.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The presentation will be followed by 45 minutes conducted tour of the Memorial, including parts opened in 2018.</p> <p>Group travel by Bus route 506 from Hunters Hill to Park Street, Sydney and light lunch in Liverpool Street café before tour will be arranged if interest sufficient.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>David Lorsch</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ph: 0428 247 708 email: lorschd@bigpond.net.au</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exotic Lunch - 10<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p>Lunch at Little Sicily restaurant Leichhardt was a relief because it had been postponed from July and there were still 12 starters enjoying tuna carpaccio, eggplant and ricotta rolls, squid ink spaghetti and other dishes reeking of the Mediterranean and the long tapestry of Sicilian history</p> <p>The <b>next</b> Exotic lunch Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January (keeping to the second Friday of the month) at 12:00 noon at Blue Chili Thai restaurant 156 Victoria Road Gladesville [opposite Cowell Street].</p> <p>We have struck a deal at \$35.00 per person including corkage [BYO - it is 2 doors from the Bayview Hotel and close to many bottle shops].</p> <p>The shared plates provide 3 tasty entrees (one is prawn in betel leaf) and 4 main dishes - Massaman beef curry, chicken with cashew, stir-fried king prawn, quinoa and BBQ chick plus dessert and coffee!</p> <p>A lifetime of bargaining in street markets pays off!</p> <p>Fight amongst yourselves over the fragrant chili pieces, no one will go hungry.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Dean Letcher</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Botanic Gardens</b></p> <p>An attempted start to this group was subverted by Christmas commitments and COVID but now everything is back to normal[?!]</p> <p>We are off to the Japanese Garden at 99 Chiswick Rd Auburn 10.30 on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January. Not to be missed! It is an exquisite gem of serene reflective waters and manicured trees with great symbolic value.</p>  <p>Established in 1977 it is an unexpectedly fine example of the deeply spiritual and finely executed Japanese tradition appealing to everyone. Easy directions and excellent local signs, 20 minutes from HH, carpooling advised, drop off less agile at entrance and ample parking off road 100 metre on left.</p> <p>Refreshments on arrival from friendly Turkish food van at the entrance, toilets are well-signed.</p> <p>After the gardens, lunch at Auburn Tennis Club 200 metres away, ample parking.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Dean Letcher</i></p>



Scenic Lunch	Art Gallery
<p>The next SCENIC is noon Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January (keeping to the third Wednesday of the month plan) at Sydney Flying Squadron 76 McDougall Street Kirribilli (next to Ensemble Theatre).</p> <p>The SFS is the naughty younger brother of the RSYS where sailors young and old, learned or not can front up and crew on a casual basis.</p> <p>Imagine – you too could be drenched in icy salt spray, foully abused and concussed by the boom and all for an annual membership of less than 1/30 of the RSYS fee!</p> <p>We, as visitors to the club restaurant (called Foys after the 1891 founder Mark Foy), do not have that opportunity but have to make do with a squillion dollar closeup view of Kirribilli Bay, sun shaded seats in the open balcony and a feeling of isolation and luxury.</p> <p>Varied mains from vegan to carnivore are \$24 to \$38 or a prawn roll for \$16, fully licensed. A lovely space and fascinating view. Carpooling recommended but parking is easier than RSYS. Fully licensed, no BYO.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Dean Letcher</b></p>	<p>The Art Gallery Group will be going to White Rabbit Gallery at 10.30 am on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022. It is at 30 Balfour St. (Cnr. Wellington St.) Chippendale.</p> <p>The exhibition is “Big in China”, and the artists works show us that it is not simply brute force that drives a nation, rather, it is the grand and overarching narratives, outstanding creativity and unique art practices that have the power to move a population en masse.</p> <p>There is a Tea House on site serving teas from China, and a gift shop. At Central Gardens, close by, there are a number of eateries, including a very interesting laneway with numerous places of spicy Asian influence.</p> <p>At Central Park there is an interesting venue to peruse, named the Phoenix Performance Space.</p> <p>Getting there:- Bus 501 from Parramatta along Victoria Rd. to Broadway, OR a short walk from Central Station OR if driving there is Parking at Broadway Shopping Centre and then a short walk to the Gallery. There is NO parking at Central Park Mall.</p> <p>Please register with Margaret Timbs if you are interested in attending. Phone: 0438 063 620</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Margaret Timbs</b></p>

**Funny Dummies**



Our December guest speaker, Graham Sims, proved that members have a good sense of humour by giving an hilarious history of Australian dunnies.

He explained the name originated in the 1790's in the UK as 'dunnig', an earth closet, and via convicts came to Australia where a 'Y' was added.

Thomas Crapper invented a flushing number in the 1800s in the UK and it became known as a crapper, and later still, terms such as “thunderbox”, loo, lav, la, wc, toot, john and, in the more refined atmosphere in Westminster Abbey, “ a manhole cover”.

How such names were converted by the yanks into the ultra polite “may I use the bathroom”, nobody knows. But an outside Ozzie Dunny is far removed from these and Graham showed us slides ranging from a basic lean to with no door in the chook yard, to a beautiful stone edifice covered by a rambling rose and overlooking the nearby lush green valley. The owner meditated in this east facing unit with no door until a local bus company ran tours past it.

He then took legal action on the grounds of his peace and quiet being disturbed.

No matter how humble or extravagant the edifice, the inside facilities were toilet paper made from squares of the Sydney Morning Herald, or an old telephone book tied with string hanging from a rusty nail, plus an old broom to chase the spiders away, etched in our culture by the good Ozzie song 'The redback on the toilet seat'.

As towns became more sophisticated, an 'A la carte' system provided by a local council developed. Once a week a 'Saniman' took the full can away and left a new one.

Woe betide the customer who forgot to leave a box of beer on the seat at Christmas time – no new can for New Year or a nasty spill on the side path.

**Deborah Lohman**



*Members “glued” to their seats so to speak*

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

PO BOX 1041  
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



**January Birthdays**

Jill Regnis	2
Margaret Timbs	2
Barbara Jago	6
Bill Patterson	6
Ian Adair	6
Judith Love	9
Deborah Lohman	19
Bambi Michael	22
Joe Stockreiter	25

*My Grandkids believe I'm the oldest thing in the world. And after two or three hours with them, I believe it too*

**How Montefiore Nursing Home Won World War II**

*Comment and a question from Dean:*

At the HH Historical Society Christmas lunch Probian veterans Tony Saunders delivered Rod Stewart's talk on the top secret signals station at Montefiore Boronia Park. All the personnel were sworn to secrecy so little information was publicly available until the duo went digging in the Archives. Over 100 staff, cryptographers, Morris West, underground bunkers....the story enthralled the audience and maybe it could be repeated at a Probus members meeting?

And does anyone know any more about the Station?

If you have any information please reply directly to Dean.

Thank you.

**Mike**

Courtesy of SMH Column 8, 27<sup>th</sup> December

*"Rachel Osborne of St Ives and her family had just 10 at their relaxed Christmas lunch under shady trees, but they "had an age range from little 14-month-old Polly to great grand-dad Les at 102 years and eight months, easily beating Sue Lugsdin's record claim (C8)."*

*Rachel also notes that "both Polly and Les are walking, albeit requiring occasional assistance."*

Classic.

**Go Les!**

**Editor's Musings**

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Brain cells come and brain cells go, but why do fat cells live forever?

How does the guy who drives the snowplow get to work in the mornings?

Is it true cannibals won't eat clowns because they taste funny?

How come abbreviated is such a long word?

Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?

**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
Secretary	Carolyn Jolly/Resigned	
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 Lorschy	0428 247 708
Book Club Convenor	Margaret Timbs	9816 2374
Newsletter Editor	Mike Allum	0417 596 300
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Honorary Auditor	Anthony Alexandrou	

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