

# PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this Newsletter is for Probus members only

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March**  
 General Meeting  
 Gladesville Sporties Club  
 No Guest Speaker:  
 Followed by the 46<sup>th</sup> AGM  
 \*\*\*\*\*

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

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

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March**  
 Exotic Lunch  
 "Pho Sam" - Vietnamese  
 Lane Cove  
 See Page 4  
 Dean Letcher  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March**  
 Botanic Gardens  
 Postponed see Page 3  
 Dean Letcher  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March**  
 Movies -TBA  
 Sandy Mower  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**  
 Scenic Dining - "ACRE" Artarmon  
 See Page 4  
 Dean Letcher  
 \*\*\*\*\*

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

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**  
 46<sup>th</sup> Birthday Lunch  
 The Alcott \$75  
 Barbara Banner  
 \*\*\*\*\*

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

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March**  
 Tasmania Trip  
 Jill Regnis

## From the President

Our first General Meeting for 2022 on 1<sup>st</sup> February was held outside for the first time probably ever. It was well attended with 42 members and 3 guests that came to hear the speaker Nicholas Cowdrey, retired Director of Public Prosecutions who spoke about justice reform. A lot of members enjoyed the talk and found it interesting with some commenting that he spoke for too long on COVID.

I thought he was good but, to be honest, I was a little disappointed he did not cover some of the famous cases he prosecuted.

As you know, immediately following the the March meeting, we hold the AGM, hence we do not have a speaker. However, at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, we have the very popular Deb Wallace talking about "Women of Force". I am sure most of you will be looking forward to her speaking.

This is the last General Meeting for me as President and the current PMC, with a new President and committee being installed at the AGM. We will be saying goodbye to some of the current committee members who have worked so hard for the past three or more years for some, to make this club what it is today. I will be saying a few more words at the AGM but for now, I would like to thank them and wish them lots of enjoyment in the times ahead as members of our Club.

By now you would have received the Financial reports for the 12 months to 31 December, 2022. What they show is that the Club is in a very healthy financial position and the job ahead is to continue to be in this position

You will also note that we now have \$3,500 accumulated in the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Reserve. The objective is to get this figure as close as possible to the target set by the 50<sup>th</sup> BC task force of \$12,000 by 2026 when the Club turns 50 years old. Irrespective if we do reach this target or not, even if we get close to it, I know we will have a hell of a party for the members of our Club.

See you all at the March 1<sup>st</sup> General Member meeting.

*Jim*

## Situation Vacant

The Newsletter Editorial team is looking for an enthusiastic camera person to take on the role of "Volunteer" Club Photographer.

Over the years we have had several budding Antony Armstrong-Jones, the most recent being Rod Stewart. Rod had decided to hang up his camera let someone else have a go.

The role is to take photos at Club functions, be they outings, activities or meetings. For example, at the upcoming meeting(s) on March 1<sup>st</sup>, we expect to induct 3 new members and present a 15 Year Service certificate.

At the following AGM a new President and Committee will be "elected" and we usually send a photo to TWT (as well as the Newsletter)

- Requirements:
- \* must have own camera or phone
  - \* must have steady hand

Multiple photographers would be an advantage to cover the spread of activities.

If you are interested, please turn up on Tuesday and start "snapping" ..

Thanks,

*Mike*

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April**  
 General Meeting  
 Guest Speaker  
 Deb Wallace  
 "Women of Force"  
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**Thursdays**  
 Coffee Morning  
 Sunroom 10:00 am  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April**  
 Exotic Lunch  
 TBA  
 Dean Letcher  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April**  
 Sydney Welsh Choir  
 Villa Maria  
 \$20 due Mar 1<sup>st</sup> meeting  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April**  
 Botanic Gardens  
 TBA  
 Dean Letcher  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April**  
 Technical Outing  
 TBA  
 David Lorsch  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April**  
 Book Club  
 TBA  
 Margaret Timbs  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April**  
 Movies  
 Sandy Mower  
 TBA  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April**  
 Scenic Dining  
 TBA  
 Dean Letcher  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April**  
 SCG & Hyde Park Barracks  
 \$22  
 Barbara Banner  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**A Double Birthday Celebration**



It's not often we get to share Member's family or social life articles with you, but on this occasion, I was sent a small collection of photos of a "Griffiths "family event.

The occasion was to celebrate Greg's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday up on the Central Coast. To make the event complete it was also an occasion to celebrate Jan's XX<sup>th</sup> birthday (I'm too much of a gentleman to divulge the number).

I like the one on the left of Greg showing off the cake he baked for the party.

Congratulations to both of you and we hope you enjoyed celebrating with your family.

*Ed*

**Visit to ANZAC Memorial Sydney**

On 8<sup>th</sup> February, 15 members of the Club visited the Memorial after a light lunch at a cafe in Liverpool Street, opposite the entrance to the Memorial.



The visit started with a video, followed by a single actress dramatisation, of the experiences of four nurses who served in the First World War. The drama was expertly presented and showed that its title, "Devoted Service", was thoroughly justified in representing the service given by the nurses.

It was followed by a discussion between the Club visitors, the actress, Emma, and other Memorial staff about the experiences that had been represented.

Most Club visitors were surprised to learn that, although the nurses were transported by troop ship from Australia to the places where they served on the other side of the World, they were mostly left to arrange their own repatriation, at their own cost, after the War ended.

Memorial staff then guided the visitors on a tour of the recently added galleries on the lower level before proceeding through the older sections of the Memorial on both the lower and upper levels.

The tour showed that the Memorial is a dignified but sombre tribute to the sacrifice and service given by men and women, particularly from NSW.

*David Lorsch*

**Book Club**



**“The Museum of Modern Love”  
By Heather Rose”**

The book club met on Friday with sadly depleted numbers but much willing participation.

Below is my (mostly) spin on things.

“Art is in the eye of the beholder”—an aphorism with particular resonance in the Museum of Modern Love. Dean prosecuted his views by proxy and they encapsulated the feelings of our small but vocal group—it must however be pointed out that there were diverse interpretations of art which will be promulgated today. Dean was clearly upset by the contrived activity of sitting and looking at people, this deemed to be art motivated by love. So his jury was of the view that for something to be “art” it has to give a new perspective on something, induce a different feeling or see something new in a scene or object.

It was not however a unanimous verdict, Margaret T conceded that she likes modern art, but had to push herself to complete, suggesting that the first half resonated with her feelings of illness, death and dying and championed “The Artist is Present” as a form of modern art, but decried the self mutilation.

Juliet opined that it’s not a bad book, but a difficult read—and what is good writing anyway???when the genre deals with staring interminably into the artist’s eyes.

But Vincie brought us back to earth— very difficult and stupid, she said, much body abuse but some interesting characters. This widely acclaimed, quasi historical novel left the reviewer in a quandary. Perhaps one of us is in a parallel universe!

This is the story of new art with many facets—masochism, self harm, nudity and is partly factual where Marina Abramovic sits at a table all day for 75 days whilst thousands of people queue up daily to sit opposite and stare or voyeuristically watch CCTV. Woven amongst the factual bits are a number of domestic tribulations and love stories gone wrong or sadly amiss. These vignettes play out while Marina sits with legs tightly crossed staring at her willing partners across the table.

There is a common theme of dysfunctional childhood and domestic unhappiness and a sad terminal illness. Things get pretty messy and we are unsure as to when reality ends and fantasy begins.

I found this book to be deeply disturbing. And to make matters worse the male partners do not emerge unscathed, so here are five tips for a woman:

1. It is important that a man helps you around the house and has a job.
2. It is important that a man makes you laugh
3. It is important to find a man you can count on and doesn’t lie to you
4. It is important that a man loves you and spoils you
5. It is important that these four men don’t know each other

**Richard Jones**

**Botanic Gardens**

In this subtropical city with climate change, La Nina and summer the rain is ruining everything outside except for the plants themselves. I am postponing the Botanic group outings until Autumn is truly here – hopefully April will see a cool change and a dry spell.

*Dean*

**Another Birthday Celebration**



*23rd February*

*Nancy,*

*Belated Birthday  
Greetings*

*It’s good to see  
Bruce looing well*

**Barbara’s Thoughts for the Month**

You don’t know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have.

*Author Unknown*

Wherever you have friends, that’s your country and wherever you receive love, that’s your home.

*A Tibetan saying*

Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness, and the word “happiness” would lose it’s meaning if it were not balanced by sadness.

*Carl Jung*

**Celebrity Artist**

Ann Juster recently had a selection of her artwork on display at the Sunroom, our regular coffee mornings location.





**Exotic Lunch**

There was a lot of tea-drinking, sucking on chicken feet and fumbling with dumplings as 20 Probians explored Cantonese Yum Cha at lunch. The Rhodes Phoenix restaurant is large and almost entirely patronized by the Chinese residents of the Rhodes area, with incursions by the few 'white ghosts' and Chinese from other suburbs. Some preferred spoon-and-fork, some chopsticks but a fine feast was had by all.

NEXT UP is An atmospheric Vietnamese restaurant 12 noon Friday 11 March "Pho Sam" in the Lane Cove Plaza between the ANZ Bank and the newsagent. Phone 9427 1655 but expect Viet accented directions.

Best parking is in the council carpark although there is some in Longueville Road. Everyone will order and pay separately. Special recommendations are the Pho (brisket beef noodle soup) which is a staple of Viet cuisine, Crispy skin chicken with tomato rice, anything with flat rice noodle – actually it is hard to go wrong. Not licensed, very reasonable prices. Do try the hot Viet coffee with condensed milk

*Dean*

**Scenic Lunch**

The 'Deckhouse' restaurant at Clarke's Point has a fabulous view of a sparkling summer harbor and 16 Probians enjoyed the view and the lunch on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February with choices from slow-roasted beef cheeks to ricotta- filled wraps made of zucchini slices. Mains were all \$39. But the ambience made the price worthwhile!



The next Scenic lunch is on Wednesday 16th March, 12:00 at "ACRE" 1 Frederick Street Artarmon, off Reserve Road just after Bunnings and before North Shore Hospital parking station.

This is our first non-water view but still a Scenic choice – open and green, if you want to bring a dog then you can sit outside, but the internal views are very soothing .

The menu is equally appealing with heavy vegetarian content but salmon and other non vegan options.

As to location, be warned! While the address is 1 Frederick the entry is slightly complicated and will be explained at the Meeting.

Access is really only by car so pooling is advised. Licensed.

*Dean*

**Movie Time**

*Death on the Nile* is a work of detective fiction by British writer Agatha Christie, published in the UK by the Collins Crime Club on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1937.



The book features the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. The action takes place in Egypt, mostly on the River Nile.

Ten movie buff members went to see "Death on the Nile", the movie and really enjoyed it. The cinematography was fantastic.

After the movie seven of us had lunch at City Extra. A pleasant day was had by all.

*Sandy Mower*

*This space intentionally left blank in case of late arriving articles, albeit small ones*

**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	0438 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](http://www.huntershillprobus.org)**

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

PO BOX 1041  
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



**March Birthdays**

Monica Curley	1
Vincie Wahlquist	1
Fay Likidis	6
John Ryan	9
Harrie Hall	11
Carole Clancy O'Hehir	28
Dean Letcher	31

*Age is a matter of feeling, not of years*

**Editors Musings**

Why is an electrical outlet called an outlet when you plug things into it? Shouldn't it be called an inlet?

How come you press harder on a remote control when you know the battery is dead?

Did Adam and Eve have navels?

Could someone ever get addicted to counseling? If so, how could you treat them?

Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?

**Nicholas Cowdery - Issues in Justice**

At February's Probus meeting our guest speaker was Nicholas Cowdery AO, QC, who served as the Director of Public Prosecutions for NSW from 1994 to 2011. He also served as President of the International Association of Prosecutors from 1999 to 2005.

He spoke broadly about justice reform and of the effect of COVID on the system.

He explained the 19<sup>th</sup> century criminal and justice system focused only on crime and imprisonment, neither resulting in fewer prisoners. He considered it was time for change in the way First Nation people and juveniles were treated by the system; and that legislation for euthanasia, use of drugs, a Federal ICAC, a Bill of Rights and abolition of imprisonment of women, was important.

He explained the health orders for COVID were the greatest in number of health orders issued since the Public Health Act began.

Unfortunately, some had more severe fines than the same offence under existing legislation and should be changed.

In just two months between July – August 2021 there were 36,997 breaches of health orders. Ninety five percent of those charged were non-aboriginal males aged 18-39 of whom about half had been charged for other offences in the last 5 years.

However, crime rates due to lockdown plus other factors decreased to the lowest levels ever. For example, for murder (improvements in medicines increasing victims' survival rate and stricter gun laws), assault (drink driving laws and social media opinion on drugs), robbery (people carrying cards not cash), break and entry, car theft (immobilizers), retail theft (shops closed), and malicious damage. Sadly, domestic violence increased, as incompatible couples spent more time together.

Unfortunately, despite the fall in crime, the number in prison awaiting trial increased, as the availability of courts halved as COVID distancing rules forced the jury, the defendant and others to use two courtrooms for the proceedings which were visually linked.



*Deborah Lohman (and others)*