

# PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this Newsletter is for Probus members only

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**Tuesday 5th April**  
General Meeting  
Gladesville Sporties Club  
Guest Speaker:  
Deb Wallace  
"Women of Force"  
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**Thursdays**  
Coffee Morning  
Sunroom 10:00  
All Welcome  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 8th April**  
Exotic Dinner  
Lipari  
See Page 2  
Dean Letcher  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday 9th April**  
Sydney Welsh Choir  
Villa Maria  
Barbara Banner  
See Page 9  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 11th April**  
Botanic Gardens  
Dean Letcher  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday 19th April**  
Movies -TBA  
Dellane Stewart  
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**Wednesday 20th April**  
Scenic Dining  
Watsons Bay Hotel  
See Page 2  
Dean Letcher  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 22nd April**  
Book Club  
See Page 8  
Margaret Timbs  
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**Wednesday 27th April**  
SCG Tour  
See Page 9  
Barbara Banner  
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**Friday 29th April**  
Art Gallery  
Biennale at MCA.  
See Page 8  
Margaret Timbs  
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## From the President

Welcome to the 47<sup>th</sup> year of Probus at Hunters Hill – we are the first and the longest running Probus in Australia so we must be doing something right! The 46<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated at lunch on March 22<sup>nd</sup> although the actual founding was on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1976. A small group of Rotary-based men met in the Community Centre in Gladesville Road and there is a plaque there to mark it. That step came 3 months after The Dismissal of the Whitlam government on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1975 and just a month after the Family Law Act come into force – both events with big social impacts.

I wish to thank the last President Jim Likidis for his work over the last two years marred by COVID and the committee who kept going. There have been tributes to them all. One person whose efforts need more recognition and thanks is Fay Likidis – always present, willing and very able whether at a sausage sizzle, overseeing morning tea or backing up Jim.

Last year saw an expansion of small group activities and these have been generally very successful. I am hopeful of even more diverse interest groups from quilting to actual fishing to Scrabble. Any suggestions from members are gratefully received by the committee – in writing or face-to-face.

One new suggested group is a Wine Appreciation group with convenor Richard Jones. There are already five starters. Those interested (men and women) should see Richard at his table at morning tea time of the next meeting so that a first meeting can be arranged to discuss what such a group does – cellar door visit, tastings, who knows?

While we are all thankful to be away from the war in Ukraine, I should commend a Rotary fundraiser for Ukraine refugees at the Baytree, Greenwich with featured guests FRANK IFIELD AND COL JOYE. Did you ever think you would see them again!

I intend to give notice at the members meeting that I would like to amend the club standing resolution by adding to Resolution 2.a the words "Any ex officio member of the Club who is also an elected member of the Committee shall have the right to attend and discuss issues at Management Committee meetings but shall not have the right to vote on committee matters". The reasons will be explained at the meeting. No vote will be taken until May

*Dean*

## Reminder

Daylight Savings ends on Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Don't forget to put your clocks, watches, alarm clocks, oven and microwave clocks, aircon timers etc etc back one hour when you go to bed on Saturday night.

Hopefully I haven't forgotten anything

### Hate this time of year.

Busy night at Stonehenge as all the workers move the stones backward one hour...



*This message brought to you as a Probus of Hunters Hill community service.*

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**  
 General Meeting  
 Guest Speaker  
 Harry Kimble  
 The Silk Road Overland  
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**Thursdays**  
 Coffee Morning  
 Sunroom 10:00 am  
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**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**  
 Good Old Days Concert  
 Sydney Town Hall  
 See Page 9  
 Barbara Banner  
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**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
 Botanic Gardens  
 TBA  
 Dean Letcher  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May**  
 Exotic Lunch  
 TBA  
 Dean Letcher  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May**  
 Movies  
 Sandy Mower  
 TBA  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May**  
 Scenic Dining  
 TBA  
 Dean Letcher  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May**  
 Book Club  
 TBA  
 Margaret Timbs  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May**  
 Art Group  
 TBA  
 Margaret Timbs  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Exotic Lunch**

The genuine Vietnamese restaurant “Pho Sam” at Lane Cove was the venue on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March for our Exotic lunch when 12 Probian's arrived ready to fail/try/enjoy with chopsticks or spoon and fork.

Appetites were spiked by the spices and herbs with every meal. Dishes ranged from paper-thin sliced rare beef in rich stock to spicy pork chop and noodles.

Ian Adair outdid himself as the photo shows – crispy chicken with tomato rice main plus another main of 3 pork and papaya rolls and even more steamed rice – Bon Appetit!

Next month's Exotic lunch is not a lunch but an early dinner. Lipari is a tiny island just above the toe of the Italian boot and on the brow of Sicily. The Restuccia family had a business there using the plentiful Mediterranean seafood and the tasty Calabrian influence.

Now they are in the Hunters Hill village offering the best of southern Italian seafood and specialities above their popular takeaway pizzeria. Their entrees are delicately super (zucchini flowers or figs in prosciutto at last taste) and main courses from pizza to roast lamb. They are much recommended BUT not open for lunch, so the plan is to arrive at 6:00 pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April and head upstairs for the food and the view.

Fully licenced and very friendly staff. Ample parking in street, behind the Vintage Cellars liquor shop across the lane or under the Village shops. Everyone orders and pays separately.

*Dean*



**Scenic Lunch**

The March Scenic lunch was at “Acre” in Artarmon's Homemaker Centre, not in a paddock as the name implies but in a 3 storey high vast space with glass walls and lush foliage.

It is 'indoor scenic' because 'Acre' is so large that it makes its own scenery. Food was 'Modern Oz' with a good range and some eccentric ingredients such as a chicken schnitzel in the Caesar Salad. Service friendly and efficient.

Well worth a visit if only for the amazing imagination of the “indoor scenery” of which we will see more as Sydney is more densely populated.

Next months Scenic lunch on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April is an Opal trip to the Watsons Bay Hotel in the Beach Club open air space with superb Harbour views (indoors still with same view if it rains).

Watch the ferries come and go plus windsurfers and hardy swimmers. Transport proposed is ferry from Valentia Street 10.24 or Huntley's Point 10.34 to Circular Quay then the Watsons Bay ferry at 11.15 (half hourly)] and lunch commencing at noon.

Individual ordering and payment – the ever-popular fish and chips, seafood pie, salmon or lentils, oysters etc etc. Classical Sydney water views to Middle Head and the Bridge – and the big bonus is the beautiful ferry ride. Hardy drivers will find parking possible but difficult.

Make sure you do not get the Captain Cook hop-on-off Harbour Navigator - \$35 long roundtrip via Manly.

*Dean*

## Outgoing President's Report to the 46th AGM

Today marks the day that my Presidency of this great club, Probus Hunters Hill, comes to an end. To say that the past two years of leading this club have been a little hard would be an understatement. In saying this however, I can honestly say that the past two years have been a great honour and privilege to be the President of this club and I will always remember this. In the performance of this role the thing I enjoyed most was the interaction with all the members and getting to know a lot of you.

I now step down very satisfied that I am leaving the Club in the hands of the New Committee in a very good shape going forward.

It goes without saying that Covid during the past two years affected the normal operations of the Club. Many activities and meetings had to be cancelled with only 6 meetings held in 2020 and 7 in 2021.

Total membership was significantly affected, and as of October 21, this fell to a low level of only 86 members, although our pipeline for membership was in excess of 16. Our ceiling for members as you all know is 100 under the constitution. Unable to hold meetings resulted in not being able to induct new members. We held our first meeting back from lockdown in 2021, on 9 November. We inducted 9 new members at this meeting and in December a further 4.

The November meeting was special in that we finally got to celebrate the Club's 45<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The attendance for this meeting was big with 73 members attending and 9 guests. I am now looking forward to the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration.

In respect of activities these were also curtailed with several trips and functions cancelled but we did manage to get away in October 2020 to Mudgee and visited the Aviation centre at Albion Park in the same month. In 2021 we had a trip to Harrington in April and during the year held several lunches and other activities as and when we were allowed to do so. I never did get to hold the President's Lunch during my term as President thanks to Covid. I think I will go down in Probus history as the 1<sup>st</sup> President to not have done this.

Despite the effect of Probus on the Club's operations, this did not stop or effect the proper management of the Club. Your committee worked hard during this period, and we did achieve a lot in transforming the Club to what it is today. The year 2020 was the year of what I call the "Fix" Year.

We, as the PMC, needed to change a few things in the Club to set it up for future success and sustainability. During this year we got the Club's financial position to a very sound position, changed the financial reporting to be more automated, developed new policies in inducting new members, promoted the club, developed a new state of the art club website, purchase a new Club computer. For the year 2021, the PMC's main goal was to introduce a lot of fun in the club through introducing several "Special Interest groups", holding lunches and other various activities such as movies, walking groups, visits to Art Galleries and Technical exhibits, Golf and even fishing although this has not taken place for a while.

If one would ask me to describe the Probus Hunters Hill Club today in a few words, I would say it is now a modern and invigorated club and one that is a lot of fun to be a member of.

For what we have achieved in the past 2 years, my thanks go to all the volunteers in manning the doors, selling raffle tickets, organising morning tea, our club photographer and many others. But my main thanks go to the Management Committee. Each one of them worked hard in making the decisions we did have to make to get to where we wanted to get to. I thank them for their support given to me as President during the past 2 years and for working so well together in such a harmonious way always with the Club and the members in mind.

Unfortunately, of the current committee, 3 members resigned and will not be going around again.

Carolyn Jolly

Carol Pelham

Ashlyn Allum

Carolyn was Secretary for the Club, joined the committee in March 2019 as did Ashlyn who held the position of Welfare. Carol held the position of Speakers and first came on the Committee in March 2015.

Firstly, on Carolyn. She not only stepped down from the Committee but also resigned from the club as of December last year. Carolyn and her husband Bob decided to make a change in their lives and sell up and move to a Retirement Village a fair distance away from here, hence her resignation. As Club Secretary for the Club, Carolyn did an amazing job, writing the minutes each month and looking after the external affairs of the Club. However, her main attribute for me was her willingness for change and showing an open mind to all matters considered. She was never afraid to speak her mind. She was a strong contributor and having her on the committee was great.

Carolyn, thank you for your hard work and time spent doing this role and I wish you and Bob on behalf of all members of the Club all the very best going forward.

Carol Pelham. Carol joined the Club in 2014 and joined the Committee in 2015. Carol has held the very critical role of Speaker Co Ordinator all this time. In this role Carol provided the club with some amazing speakers and her contact list over this time is extensive. I found Carol so passionate in the performance of this role and always tried hard to find speakers that were interesting and entertaining. As a member of the PMC, she was a little quiet but, when she spoke, we listened. Carol was also instrumental in using her contacts with TWT to accept articles on our club to publish which is great promotion for the club.

Carol, on behalf of the members, the committee and myself, I thank you so much for your contribution in making this club the success

### Outgoing President's Report to the 46th AGM (cont)

it has enjoyed and is enjoying. I now look forward to enjoying your company over a drink going forward.

Ashlyn Allum. What can one say about Ashlyn? If there was a perfect person to do the role of Welfare, it was Ashlyn. She always has a smile on her face, knows everyone and is such a friendly person. In performing this role, she did it with so much care and passion. We will miss her in this role but Ash being Ash and the person she is will always be there when we need assistance in anything that is needed to be done. Ash, thank you so much for all your hard work and I look forward to continuing the friendship we have formed during your time on the committee.

There is one other person that is stepping down but not out of the Committee and that is Josephine McBride. Josephine will be stepping down from the Treasury role and taking over the role of Welfare from Ashlyn. Josephine worked very hard in doing the Treasury role and was so passionate in everything she took on. There was a learning curve as there always is in taking a new role such as Treasury but, she took this role on, showing great determination and interest. She did an amazing job writing up the books, doing the banking, all the activity record keeping, reporting and much more.

Josephine, thank you so much for all your efforts in the past 2 years, I very much appreciated what you did and your support. I did very much enjoy working with you a lot as a member of the PMC. Thank you and good luck in your new role as Welfare Officer.

Another person I want to specifically thank is Barbara Banner, who, initially resigned from her role of Activities, a role that I think she has now done for the past 2 years. When we could not find another member to take on the role, she did not want to let the club down, realising the importance of this role for the Club and decided to take it on for one more year. She does such an amazing job in this role Barbara, on behalf of the members, the committee and myself, thank you for doing this.

From a personal perspective, I would like to thank Mike Allum for his terrific support throughout my Presidency. Mike acted as my sounding board in anything I wanted to try out and his advice was very valuable to me. His work in doing so many things for the Club is invaluable especially the production of the Newsletter each month.

Thank you so much mate.

The other people that I would like to thank who helped me during my Presidency include Mike Regnis, the guru of constitutional matters and procedures. I don't know what we would do without him. I guess we would get by without him but, what we would end up doing may have been a little unconstitutional.

The other people would like to thank are David Lorsch, Greg Griffiths and Garth Juster who I used when I was seeking advice at different times. Thank you, guys.

In closing, I thank all you, the members for your support in the past 2 years in having me as your President and as I step down, I wish the new President, Dean Letcher every success going forward in continuing with the work required to keep this amazing Club, Hunters Hill Probuss, going successfully.

*Jim*

### Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting

**PROBUS CLUB OF HUNTERS HILL AND DISTRICT INC.  
MINUTES OF THE 46<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SPORTIES CLUB, GLADESVILLE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> 2022**

#### **WELCOME**

President Jim Likidis opened the 46th Annual General Meeting of the Probus of Hunters Hill and District.

#### **PRESENT & APOLOGIES**

Names of those present will be taken from the attendance sheet along with apologies

#### **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 2021 AGM**

Proposed: Mike Allum

Seconded: Joe Stockreiter

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

No matters arising.

#### **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The President tabled the Auditor's Report commending the Treasurer, Josephine McBride

## Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting (cont)

### REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

That the Report for 2021 be accepted. The Treasurer added that payments by credit card, banking transfer (online address provided) or cash are all accepted.

Proposed: Mike Regnis

Seconded: Ashlyn Allum

Mike Regnis moved that Josephine McBride be commended for her sterling work and congratulated the Management Committee for the position the Club is in to celebrate its Anniversary in 2026. Kevin Manie seconded the motion.

### APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITOR FOR 2022-23

That Anthony Alexandrou FCPA, Reg. Auditor, be appointed Hon. Auditor for 2022/23.

Proposed: Dean Letcher

Seconded: Margaret Conley

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Jim addressed the members that it has been a great honour and privilege to be President of the Club. He appreciated the interaction with the members and getting to know them. He was happy to step down in the knowledge that the Club is in good hands. The past two years have been hard, there were only 6 meetings in 2020 and 7 in 2021; however during this time the Committee continued to work assiduously. He commended their work in difficult circumstances, with a special thanks to Mike Allum and Mike Regnis for their advice and support.

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2022-23

President Jim made the following statement:

At this stage of the AGM the election of Office Bearers is now to be dealt with according to the Agenda. I can confirm that there have been no external nominations received for any position on the Management Committee.

In accordance with Clause 5 of the Club's Constitution, I now appoint Mike Regnis, him not being otherwise associated with the Committee, as Returning Officer.

Mike Regnis then read out the Statutory Positions and the names of the Office Bearers and declared that they are elected:

President	Dean Letcher
Vice-President	David Lorschy
Treasurer	Jim Likidis
Secretary	Margaret Bowman
Membership	Kevin Manie
Newsletter Editor/ Communications	Mike Allum
Welfare	Josephine McBride
Activities	Barbara Banner
Speakers	Deborah Lohman
* Ex-officio Past President	Jim Likidis

Jim Likidis presented new President Dean Letcher with the Chain of Office, who in response presented Jim with a lapel pin as Past President.

Dean gave a short address to members that the Committee will endeavour to be receptive to members' wishes and now that Covid has relatively gone, there will be activities to be enjoyed; we live in a privileged area and country in this turbulent world.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12:35 pm.



Dean

### 46<sup>th</sup> Birthday Lunch

The venue for this years event was "The Alcott" in Lane Cove. Fifty members were booked to attend, but after several cancellations, some at the last minute, only forty four were in attendance.

None of the photos are labelled. I think you know everybody.



46<sup>th</sup> Birthday Lunch (cont)



**Book Club**



**“ American Dirt”**

By Jeanine Cummins

It’s hard to get past the title. Could it be “hope”, a pejorative or a generic term for North

America ? We may never know.

The day started well, with Margaret welcoming Alison, a new member, who gently opined that she liked the book, but why didn’t the terminal asthmatic get an inhaler?

Things got a bit hairy then, as we promulgated our sometimes divergent views.

This novel starts with a massacre and is always on the cusp of another tragedy. Horrifying and heartbreaking. Mexico is a mecca for drug distribution and many criminals have made fortunes flogging these drugs to the suckers who are addicted. Thus supply is there, demand is there and so sales are made, controlled by violent cartels who eliminate anyone who dares to threaten them. And so the foundation for “American Dirt “ is laid.

Juliet found it powerful, horrific in lots of ways. She had an answer for all the questions raised by the “publishers”, had obviously analysed all the clues as well as finding it inciteful about borders.

Vincie found it gripping and a great book, well written and having empathy with characters. Dean thought it facile, an American pretending perhaps to be the soul of the Mexicans. Convenor Margaret found it well written, flowing coherently, empathetic and realistic. She particularly liked the use of metaphors.

Some have criticised content as “torture porn”

After Lydia’s family of 16 are gunned down because her journalist husband outed the cartel, ( in hind sight not the brightest thing to do) she and her son Luca hide in the loo and make their escape—and so begins an adventure of non documented migration to the North (USA) with its trials and tribulations.

The assassin is two faced and our heroine wife ,Lydia (one of two survivors with Luca her son—non verbal to age four) is conned by him and his love of books (Lydia operated a bookshop). The sadistic, violent and inhumane persona of the drug cartel, Javier, but also the inordinate sorrow of that very murderer when a tragedy visits him is palpable. His vendetta will not be complete until the family are completely annihilated.

Survival seemed unlikely as the two made and lost friendships.

Through Mexico on train rooftops like a limpet, people smugglers, the constant fear of betrayal and a rat informer in their midst, despatched after a sordid interlude, to the harshest and driest of deserts and onward.

Will they make it? I didn’t think so, but this is fiction so anything is possible!

A worthwhile read.

**Richard Jones**

Next Book Club is Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April as the 15th is Good Friday. Our book is “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens. Please bring your coffee mug for afternoon tea in the Museum

**Margaret**

**Your New Committee**



*Kevin Manie (Membership), Mike Allum (Newsletter & Communications), Barbara Banner (Activities), Josephine McBride (Welfare), Dean Letcher (President), Margaret Bowman (Secretary), David Lorschy (Vice President), Jim Likidis (Treasurer), Missing (Deborah Lohman (Speakers)*

**Art Group**

Last Friday morning, the 25<sup>th</sup> March, at 10.30 am, 6 members met at Eden Gardens to view “*Unearthed – Art in the Gardens*”.

What a revelation unfolded as we meandered at leisure through the gardens never quite knowing when we would encounter the next art work, be it sculpture or painting.

The recent heavy rains had caused some of the pieces of sculpture to lose a little of their original freshness. However, not only could we absorb these works, but also the sculpted gardens, and I must add some of Mother Nature’s sculpture in the form of beautiful insects and large water dragons sunning themselves.

The only “sculpture” I was very pleased to not see was a resident snake which a sign on path warned about.

These sculptures hidden in gardens surrounded by suburbia presented each of us with peace, serenity and beauty.

We completed our experience by having coffee and lunch, on site, and we discussed how calming the effect of many kinds of beauty had been.

Our next outing will be on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April to see the 23<sup>rd</sup> Biennale of Sydney at Museum of Contemporary Art at Circular Quay.

The Art Gallery Group will view works including a fish fossil from Canowindra NSW, quirky paintings by Brazilian artist Alex Cerveny; interesting drawings by Inuit artist Qavavau Manumie; drawings by Argentina’s Matias Duville and tapestries by American artist Kiki Smith and many others.

We will catch the 10.24 am ferry from Woolwich to enable us to join a free guided tour at 11:00 am.

For those who wish, we could have lunch/coffee after viewing, at either the MCA restaurant or elsewhere at Circular Quay.

Please see me during morning tea at meeting to put name on list.

**Margaret**



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

PO BOX 1041  
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



**April Birthdays**

Neville Davey	6
Rod Stewart	7
Dellane Stewart	12
Nan Barbour	13
Les Osborne - 103	16
Ann Juster	25
Sandy Mower	27
Fran Williams	28

*Old age isn't for sissies*

**Laughter is the  
best medicine.  
Or wine.  
It might be  
wine.**

**Message from Barbara**

Anyone interested in attending the **SCG Guided Tour**, 11:00 am Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April please advise Barbara and pay \$22.00 at meeting April 5<sup>th</sup>.

She will have details for the best way to get there by public transport.

Also, the same applies for the **Good Old Days Concert**, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at the Sydney Town Hall 11:00 am. Names and payment of \$49 on Tuesday as Barbara needs to book the tickets.

**Mike**



Jean Fong receiving her 15 year service pin and Certificate from Mike Regnis

**Barbara's Thought for the Month**

A slightly different but topical item this month.

*Woke up warm and safe in my bed.  
While someone else heard bombs over their head.  
I jumped into a nice hot shower,  
while someone else had lost all power.  
I hugged my family, we were all together,  
while others said goodbye, possibly forever.  
While I fear that the money I will spend,  
others worry of losing the country they defend.  
In the time it took for me to write this post,  
many have lost the things they love the most.  
So, when I start to bitch and want to complain,  
I will stop myself and pray for Ukraine.*

**Art Smith**

**Editors Musings**

- Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life we could simply press 'Ctrl Alt Delete' and start all over?
- If nothing ever sticks to TEFLON, how do they make TEFLON stick to the pan?
- What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- Where does the light go when the light goes out?
- If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
- Why is it called lipstick if you can still move your lips?
- Why do we put suits in garment bags and garments in a suitcase?

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

President	Dean Letcher	9816 5357
Vice President	David Lorschy	0428 247 708
Secretary	Margaret Bowman	0438 165 016
Treasurer	Jim Likidis	0412 090 400
Activities Convenor	Barbara Banner	0405 427 259
Speakers	Deborah Lohman	0404 865 621
Welfare Officer	Josephine McBride	9817 5632
Membership Officer	Kevin Manie	0412 349 270
Newsletter Ed / Comms	Mike Allum	0417 596 300

(email: [mike.allum@bigpond.com](mailto:mike.allum@bigpond.com))

Honorary Auditor Anthony Alexandrou

**WEBSITE: [www.huntershillprobus.org](http://www.huntershillprobus.org)**