

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this
Newsletter is for
Probus members only

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 3rd May

General Meeting
Gladesville Sporties Club - 09:30
Guest Speaker:
Garth Juster

"Funny Things That Happened in My Life"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
Sunroom 10:00
All Welcome

Monday 2nd May

Good Old Days Concert
Postponed to 27th June

Monday 9th May

Botanic Gardens
Cancelled until June
Dean Letcher

Friday 13th May

Exotic Lunch
Patchai Thai
See Page 7
Dean Letcher

Tuesday 17th May

Movies
Sandy Mower
TBA

Wednesday 18th May

Scenic Dining
Sydney Rowers, Abbotsford
See Page 7
Dean Letcher

Friday 20th May

Book Club
A Gentleman in Moscow
by Amor Towles
Margaret Timbs
Remember your coffee mug!

Friday 27th May

Art Group
Brett Whitely Gallery
See Page 5
Margaret Timbs

From the President

Many of you know that our President, Dean, went overseas on 11th April. He expects to return on 4th May. Consequently, I am acting as President in his absence, including at the General Meeting on 3rd May. Another consequence of Dean's absence is that action is again deferred until after his return with his proposal, notified in the April Newsletter, to amend Club Standing Resolution 2a.

It was reported at the General Meeting last April that many of the group of Club members who went on the tour to Tasmania late in February were ill with COVID, either while in Tasmania or on their return home. I understand, happily, that all are now recovered.

Part of the business of the April General Meeting could not be completed because of absence due to COVID by Treasurer, Jim, and Membership Officer, Kevin. However, the biggest disappointment of the meeting was the unforeseen and unexplained failure to arrive by the programmed Guest Speaker, Deborah Wallace. The Committee has now arranged substitute speakers to be available on short notice if a programmed speaker fails to arrive.

I remind members of Dean's call for volunteers to suggest and form new special interest groups, to give extra value to Probus membership by providing new activities for extra fellowship and fun. Dean's call is particularly for the benefit of those members who don't now engage in Club activities outside General Meetings. There are many suitable activities possible, such as card playing, trivia night teams, theatre outings and craft groups. All that is needed is an enthusiastic volunteer to propose an activity and to start the arrangements. Richard Jones sets a good example with his proposed Wine Appreciation Group that was delayed temporally by his COVID affliction early in April. However, I expect that the Group will become active on 3 May.

Many people in the wider community are resuming activities that were suspended while stringent restrictions by Government were in place to avoid the spread of COVID. Following the removal of most restrictions, I encourage Club members to again actively engage in and expand what the Club offers, while continuing appropriate precautions for individual good health.

I look forward to welcoming you to the General Meeting on 3 May.

David Lorsch

A Tasmanian Pilgrimage

Team Leader Jill Regnis

Our flight from Sydney was an enormous success as we landed safely in Hobart! The flight was smooth which is more than can be said for the cruise on Wineglass Bay when we nearly lost your scribe over the front railing and others lost their breakfast. There were no fires in the Bay of Fires—only red algae.



FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 7th June

General Meeting
Gladesville Sporties - 09:30
Guest Speaker: Kim Oates
Professor of Paediatrics

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
Sunroom 10:00 am

Friday 10th June

Exotic Lunch
TBA
Dean Letcher

Tuesday 21st June

Movies
Sandy Mower
TBA

Wednesday 15th June

Scenic Dining
TBA
Dean Letcher

Friday 17th June

Book Club
TBA
Margaret Timbs

Friday 24th June

Art Group
TBA
Margaret Timbs

Monday 27th June

Good Old Days Concert
Sydney Town Hall 11:00 am
Names and \$49 to Barbara at
the May meeting

Tuesday 29th June

President's Lunch
TBA
Barbara Banner

Thursday 20th October

Ballina & the Margaret Olley Gallery
Previously Postponed
See Page 9

A Tasmanian Pilgrimage (cont)

However, things became really exciting on the Bruny Island cruise when we hugged the rugged shore in a tinny with outboard—actually a 40 foot Zodiac with three 250 HP outboards! The seals had it easy basking on the rocks as we bashed the Southern Ocean.



From the startling to the sublime our final cruise on the Derwent was gentle as we surveyed historic Hobart from the water.

The town of Legerwood lost their children to the "Great War". In memory, cedar trees were planted and 80 years later they were cut down like the soldiers before them. Their trunks, as memorials were carved with a chain saw, depicting the young men, their town and their stories — very emotional.



In cold drizzle we ticked the box of Salamanca markets before, in brilliant sunshine, heading into the rain forest at Russell Falls.



Hans, our esteemed driver anecdotally related the story of the tardy Americans whom he punished with a teaspoonful of Vegemite.

Fortunately the three packets of Vegemite on the dashboard were not required. At Russell Falls he said to the lady at the counter "I've got one missing" to which she replied "You've done better than most!"

A Tasmanian Pilgrimage (cont)

Tame wild life was on the agenda and yours truly kissed a seahorse, we ogled Platypuses (is that correct?), were frightened by the tiger snake and snarling Tasmanian devils. Friendly kangaroos in abundance were there to be patted.



We walked a plenty and into Cataract Gorge trundled across the suspension bridge which swayed from side to side like “Galloping Gertie”. Others braved the chair lift.



A Tasmanian Pilgrimage (cont)

We all adored the glorious colonial stone villages with their cute cottages and magnificent stone bridges in such places as Oatlands and Ross culminating in a guided tour of the self-contained homestead / village of Woolmers, a time capsule of privileged life in the 19th century (there were even old cars including a ?1912 Wolseley. The cellar was atmospheric but sadly no wine (although we did get

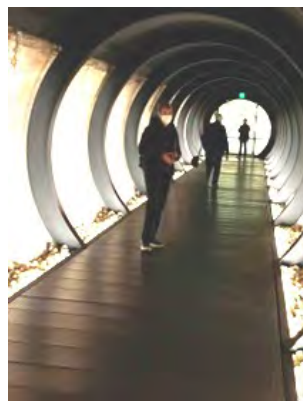


to taste wine at Tamar Ridge).

Having preloaded us with a delicious riparian repast of oysters and prawns, Hans drove up the winding road to the summit of Mt Wellington where the misty view was as opaque as a politician's promises on budget night.



We were a chummy crew surviving all the challenges that were thrown at us - Richard leant on a door near the lift at WestPoint Casino and disappeared into the construction edifice and Sue disappeared out the fire exit of the Platypus house.



And then there was the gastroenterological and gynaecological master class at MONA—the experience surreal.

Tasmania (cont)

Our final challenges were the curried scallop pies at Richmond, the convict bridge surviving the weight of our bus and post prandial indulgence before we were homeward bound.



Text: *Richard Jones*

Art Group

Biennale at the Museum of Contemporary Art

On Friday, 29th April, a small group of enthusiastic art lovers visited the Sydney Biennale at the MCA at Circular Quay.

What a feast of varied artworks was presented to us by our Guide who ably informed us about each work and fielded our numerous questions. I shall mention only a few works as they were many and varied. The title of this International art event is RIVUS, which is Latin for 'stream', which explains the two huge works on the walls on level 1.

They are thought provoking, involving nature in our world. Our Guide explained that in a few countries in the world the entity of a river has been given legal rights to sue in Law Courts, for survival. Not only can Art be visual but it is also able to educate. The artist Marjetica Potrc's work literally drew comparisons and similarities between the River Soca in Slovenia and the Lachlan River in NSW. Powerful!

We gazed at, but were not permitted to touch, the 365 million year old fish fossil from Canowindra in NSW. What does that show about our country, Australia?



Art Group (cont)

The Inuit artist, Qavavau Manumie, presented gentle drawings from his lived experience of the effects that climate warming is having in his part of the globe.



Last, but not least, the American artist of world renown, Kiki Smith, exhibited large, intricate tapestries of varied and beautiful scenes, some quite whimsical. She created these works employing the Jacquard style of tapestry.



This is only a small sample of the morning, exploring and viewing art works. We then went upstairs to the Café overlooking beautiful Sydney Harbour, gleaming in the Indian Summer warmth and sunlight, where we enjoyed lunch, before the ferry ride back to reality, and Woolwich.

On Friday 27th May we will be visiting the Brett Whiteley Studio at 10:30 am, 2 Raper Street, Surrey Hills. Free Entry. The exhibition is "Blue and White", a look at his ceramics and the importance of the colour blue in his ceramics. Also, there are related prints and drawings, augmented by selected paintings, many of which include depictions of the blue-and-white ware.

Getting there: Light rail in George Street, City and alight at Surrey Hills stop it is a 5 minute walk from there. There is a small gallery shop and numerous cafes and restaurants close by.

Please register your attendance with me at morning tea at the meeting.

Margaret Timbs: 0438 063 620

We Don't Like Cricket We Love it!CG

Despite a weather forecast of biblical proportions the HH Probus contingent: 11 intrepid members of the Hunters Hill Probus Club "First Eleven" were taken on a guided tour of the SCG, Moore Park on Wednesday 27th April. We were "bowled over" by the knowledge of our wonderful guide Gayle, what she doesn't know about the SCG and all its history would not be worth knowing.

We lined up at 11:00 am outside Gate A at the mighty Sydney Cricket Ground. One contingent parked a car in the multi-level car park and then were challenged navigating their good selves to Driver Street and the elusive gate but managed to arrive just as our amazing guide for the day: Gayle, rounded us all up and headed for the interiors of the ground.

First stop was the Sheffield Shield room with large name boards of bowlers who claimed 5 wickets in an inning and batsmen who scored a ton. From there our party inspected larger-than-life bronze statues of Richie Benaud and Stan McCabe pulling a ball to leg with the ball fair square to rearrange his face. And with no hard hats and guards to boot!

Next was a journey into N A Noble stand where we took in all the statistics of the ground conveniently sheltered from the downpour taking place. Then we ventured into the broadcasting complex: radio, TV and briefing rooms.

We then ventured down onto hallowed turf and got up close and friendly with the two senior grounds men. They explained how the playing surface, which by now was a lake, would drain all the water off in half an hour. Luckily the storm held off until we navigated the boundary and up into the member's stand.

The historic members and ladies stands (both Heritage Listed) were a stand out. Here we were in almost a religious environment. We saw the name boards of all the famous batsmen and bowler's achievements on this hallowed turf. We sat in the dressing room where legends of the game once cast their shadow and a bit of graffiti as well! The changing rooms are steeped in tradition with Gayle informing us which players, present and past, sat on which seat during the game, it seems to be a tradition by both the home and visiting teams that they always sit in their preferred seats".

Finally, we left the stand on the path that batsmen strode confidently to the wicket and perhaps not so joyously returning to the locker room. Our exit was via the famous "Long Room" where famous memorabilia could be inspected including that of Royalty. Departing for the SCG Museum we noted that indeed that in 30 minutes all the water on the playing field had drained away!

The museum was a cornucopia of cricketing artefacts including quite a few baggy greens one of which (Sir Donald Bradman's) was valued in 7 figures. Shane Warne's white floppy hat and playing shirt was also on display.

Despite the weather quite a great and memorable day. Made so by our remarkable and knowledgeable guide, Gayle and all topped off by lunch at Watsons Restaurant in the Fox Studio complex of eateries.



A panoramic shot of Jim

The First Eleven



The Long Bar



**Text: Kevin Manie & Les Banner
Photos: Ashlyn**

Scenic Lunch

On Wednesday April 25th, the weather was wonderful as seven of us waited for the ferry at Woolwich wharf. After an enjoyable trip to Circular Quay we were confronted by huge crowds waiting to board the ferry to Watsons Bay.



This didn't deter Margaret Timbs. She tucked her elbows in and shoved her way to the head of the queue. Naturally, we had no option but to follow her and as a result we were first to board.

After another great trip we alighted at Watsons Bay wharf and had a short walk to our venue, the Watson's Bay Beach Club.

Then we settled down to a very enjoyable lunch and just soaked up the view. Some of us chose to seek out the sun while others seated themselves at the shaded end of our table.

As we set out on our trip home Margaret insisted on leading the way. We were first to board again but the ferry soon filled up and many people were left behind, much to Margaret's absolute joy.

Arriving back at Circular Quay some of us enjoyed a coffee while the pudgier ones went off for ice cream. Obviously slim Margaret was a coffee drinker.

Again there was an almighty queue waiting for the ferry to Woolwich. Because I am a very discreet person I won't divulge how we were first to board again.

I don't think any of our group would disagree that we had a marvellous day out with great food and excellent company.

Peter Kelly

Our May Scenic lunch is 12 noon on Wednesday 18th May at Sydney Rowers Club, Abbotsford.

Best transport is by Huntleys Point ferry at 11.37 up-river but parking is available at Great North Road.

Yes, we have been before and it is always good value, popular and a squillion dollar view. Everyone orders and pays separately and the ferry trip is half the ambience. Diners order and pay at the food or drinks counter and it is delivered to the table. Should be a table for 12-16 reserved.

Dean

Exotic Lunch

In April, our Exotic lunch was at Lipari Italian. Good food but marred by an owner who broke the agreement about payment and made a beast of himself.

The Exotic lunch for May is 12 noon Friday 13th May at "Pachai Thai", 92B Longueville Road in Lane Cove shops, at the northern/Centennial Ave end.

Mine host, Paa, agrees on separates bills for all, payable by card or cash and I will be there to maintain our friendly and trusting relationship.

There is a lunch special but even big eaters and gourmands are not going to spend much no matter what their aspirations are. Unlicensed. Great parking in council carpark but beware 1 hour floor and 3 hour floors. From Crying Tiger to classic mild Tom Kha Gai, salads and noodles.

Dean

Book Club

**Where the Crawdads Sing**

By Delia Owens

An entertaining novel in the American idiom, where bigotry and intolerance are the foundations for the story.

We land with excruciating pain in a dysfunctional, down on their luck family. Pa is a wounded veteran who blows his pension on grog and Ma and the siblings are belted senseless as they try to eke out a living in the bogs, marshes and waterways of the Carolina coast.

Eventually Kya aged 7 is left to fend for herself alone as the family can tolerate the pain no longer and eventually Pa after a period of remission, reverts to his old ways and departs.

At our book club meeting unanimity prevailed and after a brief discourse it became abundantly clear that we all loved this little marsh girl Kya, abandoned by her family and shunned by society, alone and surviving in the marsh, with almost parental support from a couple of colour who operated a small convenience store in the marsh

Kya has a decrepit hut, a tinny with outboard (her erstwhile fathers) and a will to live. Her adventures warmed our hearts and her trials and tribulations resonated with us as we roller coasted through her turbulent life occasionally with much happiness but always with societal pain in the background. Our marsh girl is shunned by the locals but meets Tate a bright student and fisherman with similar tastes to her own. He teaches her to read and write, miraculously quickly and she likes him a lot, but eventually, perhaps inexplicably, he leaves without so much as a goodbye to go to college.

From here things go downhill and on the rebound she befriends Chase, a smarty pants with a fast ski boat who beds anything in a skirt. He promises her the world and naively she believes him until she sees his engagement photo in the paper.

Chase thinks he owns her and thrusts himself upon her and for that he suffers a severe case of squashed thing-a-me-bobs. Kya is terribly bruised physically and psychologically. She pursues her amazing artistic skills and her paintings are published resulting in a financial bonanza.

Chase is found dead at the bottom of the fire tower and Kya is eventually arrested and tried. The prodigal Tate returns, they make it up and live together in harmony for a long time.

Secrets, lots of twists and turns and we leave the story with mixed emotions.

We all agreed that the author had used special phraseology. Margaret T found it a lovely book which she enjoyed the more she got into it and was amazed at the author's knowledge of plants. Vincie thought it beautifully written, if hardly believable - our little girl showing an amazing knowledge of the marsh. Juliet on her second reading, loved it again, enjoying the poetry and collation. Alison loved the book and agreed with our cohesive thoughts. Recommended.

Richard Jones

PS: What you always wanted to know but were too afraid to ask! Crawdads are freshwater crawfish not unlike yabbies. They don't sing.

Movies

Our movie goers, eight of us all enjoyed the outing to Top Ryde cinema on Tuesday .



The Movie "**The Duke**" based on the true story of a 60 year old taxi driver stealing a famous painting from the National Art Gallery.

All agreed it was a delightful Movie with fine actors.

Because of school holidays most of the group had others things to attend to. However, we decided to make next month a lunch outing as well.

Dellane Stewart

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

Committee

President	Dean Letcher	9816 5357
Vice President	David Lorsch	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)**Useful Numbers**

Book Club & Art Group	Margaret Timbs	0438063620
Exotic & Scenic Lunches	Dean Letcher	9816 5357

Honorary Auditor Anthony Alexandrou

WEBSITE: www.huntershillprobus.org

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

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



May Birthdays

Kay Holt	8
Nina Stockreiter	11
John Saalfeld	15
Ross Dive	19
Henk Lohman	20
Chris Coulter	21
Jim Judge	26
Judith Butt	27

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

Barbara's Thoughts for the Month

"Wherever you have friends that's your country and wherever you receive love, that's your home"

A Tibetan saying

"You don't know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have"

Author Unknown

"Freedom will destroy itself if it is not within some sort of moral framework, some body of shared beliefs, some spiritual heritage transmitted through the church, the family and the school.."

Margaret Thatcher

"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

The best thing to give your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to your child a good example, to a parent, conduct that will make them proud; to yourself, respect; to others charity

Benjamin Franklin

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?

Good News From Jill

The previously postponed trip to Ballina and the Margaret Olley Gallery has been rescheduled and is now open for more travellers.

The new dates are Thursday 20th to Tuesday 25th October, 2022

Several members have already booked to join us for this lovely gentle trip to the far North Coast. We will be flying Qantas.

The cost is \$1495.00 ppts with a single supplement of \$495.00 pp.

I will have a few copies of the brochure/itinerary available at our meeting 3rd May, 2022.

Jill Regnis – 9808 2482 or 0467 322 244