

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this
Newsletter is for
Probus members only

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 7th June

General Meeting

Gladesville Sporties Club - 09:30

Guest Speaker: Kim Oates

Professor of Paediatrics

"Errors in Health Care"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning

Sunroom 10:00

All Welcome

Friday 10th June

Exotic Lunch

See Page 4

Dean Letcher

Monday 14th June

Technical Outing

Prince Henry Hospital Museum

See Page 3

David Lorsch

Wednesday 15th June

Scenic Dining

See Page 4

Dean Letcher

Friday 17th June

Book Club

"Extinctions" by Josephine Wilson

Hunters Hill Museum

Margaret Timbs

Tuesday 21st June

Movies

Sandy Mower

TBA

Friday 24th June

Art Group

See page 2

Margaret Timbs

Monday 27th June

Good Old Days Concert

Sydney Town Hall 11:00 am

Names and \$49 to Barbara at
the June meeting

Wednesday 29th June

President's Lunch

Carmen's on the Park

Barbara Banner - \$50

From the President

With the first day of June winter is officially here and La Nina is also along, so a wet cold time is ahead.

It's a good reason for Probus members to ensure that they have all the vaccinations that will help avoid winter ills. We are all eligible for a fourth Covid jab and the flu vaccine is now available, but are you aware of two vaccinations that can be had for little or no cost? The first is against Pneumococcus pneumonia, a nasty viral pneumonia that you need not get and the other is a Shingles vaccine to avoid a very painful and unpleasant peripheral nerve condition.

Let's have a happy winter!

Coming up on Wednesday, 29th June is the President's Lunch at which I will not be shouting Veuve Clicquot for the room but Carmen's will be providing a good view and even better festive fare. Then "Christmas in July" at the Carrington, Katoomba with possibly some light snow outside but warm fires inside. All told, despite repetitive Covid, a cheery half-Christmas coming up.

Continuing the positive note, when I came to Hunters Hill twelve years ago there were only two coffee shops in the village - Chicho's and the Italian place opposite the hotel. Now we have Chicho's, The Bakery, Trov & Co, Mapledoram's Corner (now 'the Commune'), Daschund and the Italian place (now without its ethnic charm 'Café Hunters Hill') plus within range, Unwritten, Boronia Bakehouse and "Charlotte at Boronia Park", Sunroom, Piccolina, Ironwood and Deckhouse towards Woolwich and Harris Farm at Drummoyne. Is this progress?

Does it mean many more residents are retired from work? Are more mothers able to snatch leisure time? Whatever your answer, the increased variety and choice cannot be doubted and I, for one, will enjoy it.

Rotary Hunters Hill is proposing a joint dinner event around Probus Day in October. As Probus evolved out of Rotary it seems like an idea worth discussing. And maybe Ladies Probus as well?

Dean

The Movies

We had a great group of 12 who were all delighted to watch "Downtown Abbey" with the men lusting after classic cars and the women shedding tears at the departing of Granny (Maggie Smith)!



We then gathered for a lively lunch at Mafia Cucina.

Surprisingly we didn't encounter any strange men carrying violin cases!

A convivial day !

Dellane Stewart

FOR YOUR DIARY**Tuesday 5th July**

General Meeting
 Gladesville Sporties - 09:30
 Guest Speaker: TBA

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
 Sunroom 10:00 am

Friday 8th July

Exotic Lunch
 TBA
 Dean Letcher

Friday 15th July

Book Club
 TBA
 Margaret Timbs

Sunday 17th/18th July

Yulefest
 Carrington Hotel Katoomba
 Barbara Banner
 \$470 ppts

Tuesday 19th July

Movies
 Sandy Mower
 TBA

Wednesday 20th July

Scenic Dining
 TBA
 Dean Letcher

Friday 22nd July

Art Group
 TBA
 Margaret Timbs

Saturday 13th August

Sydney Male Choir
 Sydney Town Hall 14:00
 Tickets \$45
 Barbara Banner

Thursday 20th October

Ballina & the Margaret Olley Gallery
 See or call Jill Regnis
 9808 2482 or 0467 322 244

Art Gallery Group**Brett Whiteley Studio**

The group of 'arty' Probians visited the above studio this morning, 27th May, 2022. Not only were his blue and white ceramics on display but upstairs we roamed through a large room which led into what was once Whitley's working studio. Paints, brushes, easels, chairs and many items collected from nature which Brett sometimes placed on his canvasses. Not only was he a prolific artist constantly striving towards his idea of the perfect picture, but his inner world and thinking was exposed for all to see through his many writings on a wall, mostly written in lead pencil, often accompanied by photos cut out of magazines.

Two interesting features upstairs were the old fashioned black telephone which we were invited to pick up and listen. We heard an interview of Brett conducted by the well known ABC journalist, Andrew Ollie, now also deceased. Quite fascinating. The other feature was a beautiful timber Balinese door which had been incorporated in the room.

It was explained to us that the blue and white vases were not thrown by Whiteley but that he created all the drawings which he painted on the ceramics before they were fired. Accompanying the vases were the preparatory drawings.

The many panelled, large work titled "Alchemy", is fascinating and complex with many very small drawings within it which required scrutiny. All agreed it is a very interesting Studio to view the works of, perhaps, a troubled artist.



Our next event is on Friday 24th June at 11:00 am, is to view "Salon des Refuses" (paintings not hung in the Archibald), at S.H. Ervin Gallery 2 Watson Rd. Millers Point. (Observatory Hill Park).

Followed by lunch next door at the Trust Café.

Cost \$12 for Gallery.

Face mask to be worn.

Margaret Timbs

Technical Outing - Prince Henry Hospital, Little Bay

Tuesday, 14th June sees our next Technical tour take place. We're off the Prince Henry Hospital.

Established in 1881 by the NSW Government, The Coast Hospital was the first public hospital in Sydney. It was renamed Prince Henry Hospital in 1934 to mark the visit of Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester. In 1960 Prince Henry Hospital became a teaching hospital, training both doctors and nurses and in 1965 Prince Henry surgeons performed the world's **first** kidney transplant.

In 1988 the government made the decision to consolidate Prince Henry and Prince of Wales Hospitals into a single campus in Randwick. In 2000 the government appointed Landcom to redevelop the Prince Henry site and the last wards closed in 2003. The Prince Henry Hospital Museum maintains an extensive collection of documents, artefacts and memorabilia related to Prince Henry Hospital and the hundreds of doctors, nurses, patients and support staff associated with the hospital and the history of medicine in NSW.

The tour takes about 2 hours and starts 10 am. We need a minimum 10 people. The cost is \$13 per person, very reasonable, CASH ONLY and includes the tour and morning tea.

Register and pay at morning tea time at General Meeting on 7th June, 2022.



Travel options:

- * Public buses, depart Hunters Hill hotel stop 8:10 am plus two bus changes, about 1.5 to 2 hours each way and total \$2.50 return using Gold Opal card.
- * Self-arranged car share, about 1 hour each way and share costs, about \$40 per car including \$21 return tolls.

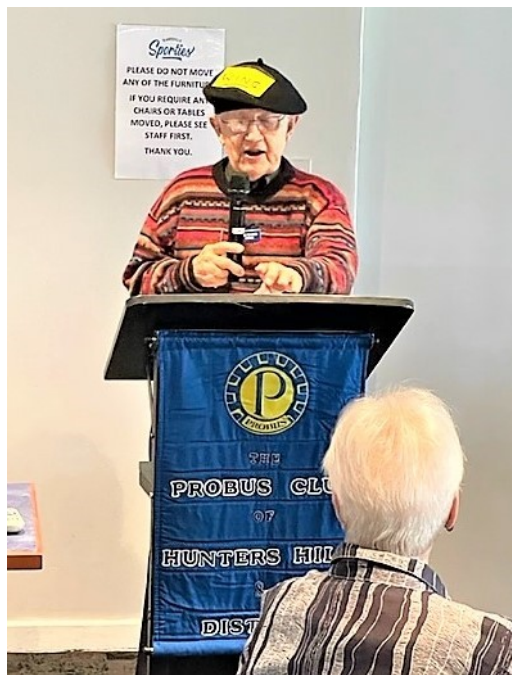
Please advise travel choice and if driver or passenger if by car when registering.

David Lorsch

May Meeting Photos



Acting President David inducting new member Leon Wilson



Richard Jones, our local sommelier, "launching" our new Wine special interest group. I have signed up so its unlikely I'll be able to report on any the activities.



Guest Speaker, Garth, mid presentation and showing clear evidence of why not to "mess" with Ann!

Exotic Lunch

Patch Thai restaurant at Lane Cove on Friday 13th May, saw 12 Probians tackle Tom Yum, Red Curry and Crying Tiger washed down with Thai beer and green tea showing that the Orient held no fears and only a few tears (mainly from the Tiger).

One of the few genuinely ethnic eating places in Lane Cove, the décor came second to the tastebuds and everyone tuk-tuk'd in with pleasure.

Having been all around Asia from the Uighur northwest of China to Thailand, we now go to Europe with one of the oldest cuisines – Greek. Diethnes restaurant at 336 Pitt Street city is one of the founding Greek restaurants in Sydney, a haunt of students and journalists since the 1960s as I recall but probably long before that time.

We are going for a 'banquet' with several appetisers and three main dishes for a cost of only \$38 per head. Think about how much does a Grecian Urn? Any dessert, coffees or retsina are extras but the banquet is structured to give you a fine tasting of what this cuisine has to offer. The appetisers of taramosalata and tzatziki dips will spur you on to the lively entrees and the substantial dishes of moussaka and roast lamb shoulder will probably finish you off. This is a tasting menu with 9 very different traditional Greek dishes that have survived the tests of time to remain hugely popular with everyone who tries them.

The details: DIETHNES RESTAURANT 336 Pitt Street, 12:00 noon, Friday 10th June. In Pitt Street between Bathurst and Liverpool Streets.

ONE CAUTION: 12 steep steps down to the restaurant from street level and no lift. A small step up into the toilets.

Scenic Lunch

To no one's regret we returned on May 15th, to the Sydney Rowers Club at Abbotsford for more cold/hot seafood platters, lobster rolls and a few land based critters as well. Seventeen non-rower Probians enjoyed super views and arguable weather while the ferry trip rounded out the happy day.

A dubious benefit of the fall of Covid is that commuters now back in the office take all the best parking spots for the Huntley's Point ferry and by lunchtime a brisk walk was needed from the Community Centre carpark – must remember that because things will only get worse



Ah! The romance of white sails, tanned sailors salt-rimmed and a brisk northeaster on Sydney Harbour as the huge sails of the speedy 18-foot skiffs billow like clouds on a sunny blue sky.... Our famed 18 footers were the fastest things on water until those accursed New Zealanders invented the catamaran speedsters that barely have a rudder in the water.

Others remember the seedy bookies on the ferries that followed the 18 footer races with their beery punters crowding the rails to urge on the crews. Relive this past and enjoy the present at the June Scenic Lunch at the Double Bay '18FOOTERS SAILING CLUB RESTAURANT' now the haunt of eastern suburbs financiers and their real housewives.

12:00 noon Wednesday 15th June, the starters gun goes off at this classic Sydney harbourside restaurant.

Parking is diabolical but easy transport is by ferry to Circular Quay and then the Double Bay-Watsons Bay ferry at 10.57 or 11.57 DIRECT to the wharf on which the restaurant sits. Excellent fish and seafood, veal for the Hungarians, pasta for the others [mains \$25-\$35 – good variety], fully licensed and all welcome.

Book Club



A Gentleman in Moscow"
by Amor Towles

The Book Club readers expressed varied thoughts and opinions about this book, much more varied than in the past. Some examples of words and adjectives presented were...enjoyable, yet complicated, fun, well written, boring and didn't finish the book, interesting characterisations and a clever book, beautifully written with believable characters.

The story was set in the middle of the 20th century in Moscow, more precisely in the Hotel Metropol, directly across the Square from the Kremlin. The main character, Count Rostov, is incarcerated in the hotel, following the purges after the Bolshevik revolution.

The story revolves around the Count, his displays of resilience manifested in the ways in which he survives and withstands the restrictions imposed upon him by shadowy Soviet men, and most especially by his ability to interact with his fellow workers in the Metropol. Integral to the story are also his relationships with female characters, namely his sister, also Nina who he encounters when she is a child, then Nina's daughter Sofia who he adopts as his own.

The adult female in his life comes and goes throughout his life. She is Anna, a very famous actress who is revered in Russia and therefore has the power to assist him through some sticky moments, and help guide him with the raising and care of Sofia. Also, the Seamstress Marina, assists with the care of Sofia.

A magical aspect of the story is the gift of the Master Key presented to the Count by Nina, which allows him to have access to any and every room etc of the Metropol and proves to be a crucial attribute to the story.

The final paragraph is perhaps telegraphed and yet, there is an element of surprise.

Altogether a somewhat quirky, gem of a story with the constant demonstration of man's ability to survive by the power of resilience. For some but not all of us, an enjoyable read.

Margaret Timbs.

Barbara's Thoughts for the Month

Self Care Thoughts:

It's OK to pause
You are allowed to say NO
Your best is totally enough
There is no such thing perfect

Author unknown

"Time is not measured by the years we live, but by the deeds that we do and the joys that we give"

Helen Steiner Rice

"Don't fear failure so much that you refuse to try new things. The saddest summary of a life contains three descriptions: could have, might have and should have"

Louise E Boone

In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities, but in the expert's there are few"

Shunry Suzuki

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
Movies	Sandy Mower	0478 630 620
Honorary Auditor	Anthony Alexandrou	

WEBSITE: www.huntershillprobus.org

Probus Club of Hunters Hill & District Inc

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



June Birthdays

Margaret Bowman	1
Lorraine Kongats	6
Lyn Benson	6
Robert Way	16
Josephine McBride	20

*Eventually you will reach a point
when you stop lying about your age
and start bragging about it.*

Surprise Celebrity Guest Speaker

The planned guest speaker for May contacted covid so could not attend. An urgent call went out for a fill-in speaker. Garth Juster put up his hand.

Garth's talk was about different experiences that had occurred during his many travels.

His most unique trip was an expedition to drive the Gunbarrel Highway across central Australia. The trip was two years in the planning and was done by Garth and his four brothers.

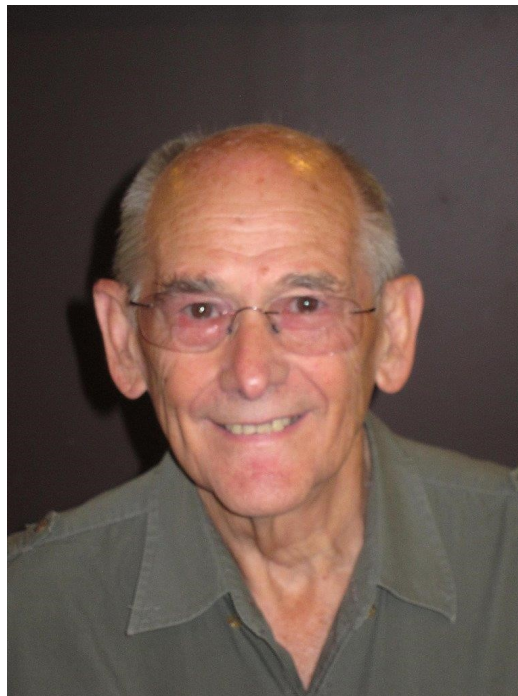
We were told of some funny experiences that occurred in the US involving a taxi driver who when he found out Garth was from Australia said "get out of my taxi and then get back in and say g'day mate". A mix-up with a black American over whether he and Garth might be related was another funny experience.

The most scary trip was sailing back to the bottom of South American, after a holiday to Antarctica, and rounding Cape Horn in a violent storm. The ship facing huge seas was not to be recommended.

His most unusual trip was attending a negro church service, in New York. The suspicion of why white people would attend the service soon disappeared as both the blacks and the whites go to know each other.

Garth then told us of a romantic trip to Scotland to attend The Edinburgh Military Tattoo with wife to be, Ann.

Acting President David, thanked Garth for stepping up to fill the void left by the unwell guest speaker.



Anon

Editors Musings

Why are Softballs hard?

Why do people point to their wrist when asking for the time, but don't point to their crotch when they ask where the bathroom is?

Why do we scrub down and wash Up?

If the Energizer Bunny attacks someone, is it charged with battery?

Why do airlines call flights nonstop? Don't they all stop eventually?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

Hello All,



I recently had a successful firing of my pottery kiln and now have a number of lovely pots for sale. They are mostly bowls of different sizes and are priced from \$20 to \$100.

Please phone on 9817-5632 or call in at 3 Ernest Street, Hunters Hill at any time. And please tell your friends and relatives as well.

Thanks

Ross McBride (Life Member)

*This is **NOT** a paid Ad -Ed*