

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this
Newsletter is for
Probus members only

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 6th September

General Meeting
Gladesville Sporties Club - 10:00
Guest Speaker:
Helen Olde & Dorothy Warwick
"History of Linwood"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
Sunroom 10:00

Tuesday 6th September

Wine Appreciation
Dan Murphy Lane Cove
16:00
Richard Jones
9817 8810

Friday 9th September

Exotic Lunch
Dean Letcher

Friday 16th September

Book Club - Venue TBA
14:00 pm
"The Paris Library"
Janet Skelton Charles
Margaret Timbs

Tuesday 20th September

Movies
Sandy Mower
TBA

Wednesday 21st September

Bowral Tulip Festival
Departs HH Post Office 08:00
Barbara

Wednesday 21st September

Exotic Lunch
See Page 4
Dean Letcher

Friday 23rd September

Art Group
See Page 7
Margaret Timbs

From the President

After the wettest months in Sydney's history its good to see sunny Spring arriving. Wisteria, magnolia and gardenia all blooming with luscious scents and the days are getting longer.

In August, Hunters Hill saw the very successful Quilt Show at the town hall. For someone like me who had hardly seen a quilt let alone an artistic one it was eyepopping. Hundreds of people (yes women 90%) enjoyed the enormous variety, colours and artistry of the 60 quilts on display.

Then later, Moocooboola (Hunters Hill's alleged first indigenous name and now the title of the big community festival) was held for the first time in the Town Hall, Congregational church grounds and in the public school. Previously, it was at Boronia Park oval. Apart from the shortage of coffee stalls, only Daniel, it was fun for the hundreds who attended.

This month we have the "Romantics Art Show" in St Marks church 12th to 17th September featuring Ian Hansen's super seascapes and other local artists. In November the traditional HH Art Show at the town hall is on again.

So Hunters Hill springs to life after a long wet winter.

The First of October is Probus Day around the world. Originally designed for retiring Rotary members, Probus has spread widely. The idea of a group that brings friendship and fun to later years has really caught on. No more sitting by the fire huddled under a blanket!

As the very first Probus club in Australia, we are central to the celebration. Hunters Hill Rotary and our club plus HH Ladies are having a dinner at the Hunters Hill club on Thursday 6th October. There will be an auction, a raffle and entertainment. The main entertainer is the dynamic, tempestuous Roland Storm, "Under the Moon of Love", a 60's rocker in the Johnny O'Keefe mould - remember then? Look for Roland and the song on Google - it will take you back. Tickets are on sale now - see Barbara at the next meeting - \$65 all included.

Vale Ross McBride - longtime loquacious Probus stalwart and charismatic potter. Our heartfelt sympathy to Josephine .

Dean

Vale Ross McBride

Ross McBride passed away on Tuesday 30th August.

He joined the Hunters Hill Probus Club in July 1998 and was elected President in 2001. He subsequently served as Activities Officer and, in 2016 was made a Life Member for his services to the Club.

In his previous life, he was an educator, commencing with an appointment as the only teacher at Yanderra Public School in 1957. He was transferred to Moss Vale Primary, where he met his future wife Josephine, and they were married in 1961.

Ross was transferred back to the Sydney area and had appointments as arts master, which involved him in all aspects of art, including ceramics. During this time Ross and Josephine had two sons and a daughter and bought a house in Hunters Hill.

Following retirement from his final appointment as principal of Birrong Girls High in 1998, Ross joined Hunters Hill Probus, often donating examples of his pottery as prizes at club functions.

Ross was an enthusiastic and hardworking member of the club, never failing to come up with interesting events and trips in his tenure as Activities Officer.

Ian Adair

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 4th October

General Meeting
 Gladesville Sporties - 10:00
 Guest Speaker:
 Ian Kay - Arena
 "Renewable Energy"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
 Sunroom 10:00 am

Friday 7th October

Sausage Sizzle
 Kokoda Walkway
 TBA
 Barbara

Tuesday 11th October

Technical Outing
 TBA
 David Lorsch

Friday 14th October

Exotic Lunch
 See Page 4
 Dean Letcher

Tuesday 18th October

Movies
 Sandy Mower
 TBA

Wednesday 19th October

Scenic Dining
 See Page 4
 Dean Letcher

Friday 21st October

Book Club
 TBA
 Margaret Timbs

Monday 24th October

Good Old Days concert
 Sydney Town Hall 11:00
 Last chance see Barbara at Sept
 meeting

Friday 28th October

Art Group
 TBA
 Margaret Timbs

21st - 22nd November

Early Notice Hunter Valley Gardens
 Overnight, Xmas Lights etc
 See Barbara at the Sept meeting

Two Old Men and a Cabinet

You may know or recall that the Club applied for a grant from the Hunters Hill Council and we were successful, receiving \$750 in February this year. We originally applied to upgrade our PA system and including "headset" microphones for the convenience of our speakers. After trialling a couple of solutions we found some incompatibilities with the Sporties Club equipment, such that it became increasingly complex.

We subsequently applied to use the grant for a different purpose and the Council agreed. Over the years, the Club's records going back to when it was established, have been archived in various locations, namely Hunters Hill Council and several of our committee members homes. The PMC made the decision to apply the money from this grant to purchasing a quality filing cabinet where we could consolidate all the Club's records in one location, at Sporties Gladesville.

After some research as to the space required to keep the records, suppliers etc. an order was placed and the cabinet was subsequently delivered to Sporties.

However, one tiny, and easily overlooked, issue was discovered. This being the fact that the cabinet came in a flat pack and needed to be assembled. The question as to who was going to do this was another issue.

After asking around, with little success, Mike Allum and I decided we'd have a go ourselves.

I mean..... how hard could this be, what on earth could go wrong?

Well, it came in two enormous boxes and after opening one box we discovered that there were 540 bolts and screws and fittings, about 60 parts, shelves, supports brackets etc and a detailed instruction booklet, that at first glance implied an engineering degree was the minimum qualification required to complete the construction.

Mike and I looked at each other and had a laugh saying what the XXXXXX did we get ourselves into.

With Mike's project management skills and my lack of technical skills we agreed that this was not going to beat us and decided to proceed.

After 8 hours, over three days we did it. The club now has a brand-new cabinet that should service our needs over several years going forward.

The project was complex at times and very time consuming but, working together was very enjoyable, a lot of fun along with a bit of banter and lots of laughter. As is usual in this kind of exercise we were unable to identify the use for the several screws we had left over, where they fitted and why. Nevertheless, the end result is sturdy, in position and, if the need arises to disassemble it for any reason, someone else can do it.

We are available for hire, as long as you are flexible in how long the job may take for us to complete, also we don't come cheap.



Jim

Technical Outing - Museum of Fire and Western Sydney Airport

Sixteen Probians drove in four cars to the Museum of Fire, which is housed in the former electricity power station at Penrith.

Displays in the Museum included information about fire safety in and around the home and about fire-fighting equipment from ancient times to the present. There were very well-presented examples of most types of fire-fighting and associated equipment used in NSW since colonial times, from buckets and hand-operated pumps to modern fire trucks, protective clothing, breathing and communication equipment.

Displays gave information about the evolution of fire brigades in NSW, from volunteer groups, through commercial teams under the auspices of insurance companies to the current government service. As usual in museums, there was too much to see properly in the time available and a repeat visit could be considered.

The small convoy then drove to Wallacia, where we enjoyed lunch at the pub.

After lunch, we drove on the short distance to the "Experience Centre" on the north-western side of the site of Western Sydney International (Nancy Bird Walton) Airport near Luddenham. The Centre contains interactive displays of information about the airport, most of which was shown to our group by a staff member on a large screen which also displayed a couple of short videos.

The information presented focused on the intended benefits to the residents of western Sydney from a modern airport providing closer and better international and domestic access for people and freight and the associated jobs and services in the aviation sector and in the business centre incorporated in the site. Our group was impressed by the progress achieved since 2020 without much publicity, with a view from outside the Centre over one 3.7 km long runway and associated taxiways substantially completed and construction under way on the passenger terminal. Heavy earthworks still continue for the second runway, which won't be operational initially.

Main roads passing the site - Elizabeth Drive and the Northern Road - have been reconstructed as two-lane dual carriageways, but construction has not yet started on the planned expressway connection to the M7 or the Metro railway connection to St Marys. A big effort will be required to complete that expressway and railway as promised for the airport opening by the end of 2026.



David Lorsch

Exotic Lunch

At the August exotic lunch a baker's dozen Probiants met many dozen Xiao Long Bao (Shanghai pork soup dumplings) while Norbert scored with a seafood hotpot that was hot and potent. Others enjoyed hot-sour soup, chook Shanghai and lots of noodles. Lunch at the New Shanghai Ashfield was a delicious excursion into a major Chinese cuisine – and it tasted good. No photos – too busy eating.

On **Friday 9th September** at 12 noon, Peter Kelly 0411 696 583 will head the crusade back to the popular “The Hills” middle eastern restaurant in the village. It is above the Vintage Cellars liquor shop – parking at rear or in free IGA carpark.

You will enjoy a bargain basement \$25 set menu with dips, Lebanese flat bread, exotic treats and meaty kebabs plus tea/coffee. Those who want more can order and pay additionally but last time everyone was full. This is a good introduction to the structure of a Middle East meal and a good return for the enthusiasts from the last one.

The October exotic event is on **Friday 14th**, no soggy Domino's pizza here, will be at “Cucina Espresso” restaurant, 89 Majors Bay Rd, Concord at high noon Friday 14th October. It is the place for better than usual quality Italian food with specials like lamb soup, seafood and different pastas. Parking in the Coles park across the road or in street if you are quick. Lovely tree-lined boulevard, outside or in and just wait for dessert...or go up the road for more cannoli, tiramisu or affogato with or with out liqueur....

Dean

Scenic Lunch

A record 22 Probiants arrived for a scenic lunch on the truly scenic balcony of the Woolwich Pier Hotel on a sunny day. This called for much jollity and cold white wine. Lots of good fare – excellent mixed antipasto plate, fish with LOTS of chips, burgers and {fanfare!} Duck Salad which actually had lots of duck. Lovely harbor view, good company and so close to home!

Noon on **Wednesday 21st September** our Scenic lunch is at the Canada Bay Club in the Brasserie, ground floor turn right, NOT upstairs in the windowless Baysia Chinese Restaurant.

Yes I know you can't see the Bridge from Canada Bay but it is still the Harbour and it is green and lush until it turns blue in the water.

Wide selection, and lobster \$36 if it hasn't run out, with a pleasant view. Succulent steaks, veal, fish and vegetarian. This view gets even better if you go upstairs to the Balcony for drinks and coffee later. Street parking not bad. The club is at the western end of Lyons Road, so just turn left into William Street before running into the water. Your leader is Peter Kelly 0411 696 583 but don't annoy him – ring the club 9713 4322 and annoy them.

At the October scenic lunch you are 6 feet above the water, there is a 240 degree water view and it is all extremely stylish.

Welcome at 12 noon **Wednesday 19 October** to “Vela Dining” at the end of Cabarita Point almost part of the D'Albora Marina. Best access is by the Parramatta River ferry from – one stop from Putney or two from Huntley's Point. The wharf is 100 metres walk along the foreshore or for the limousine-minded there is generous parking by ticket close by. Elegant, light-filled and interesting in its simplicity.

Dean

Member Events



Celebrating Judith Butt's 10 Year anniversary



Welcoming new member, Sue Collins

Local Policing

Senior Constable Shane Carne & Ms Chanthar Mau

Judging by the number of questions and the acclamation our speakers received their presentation on crime prevention, general safety and scams, you would have to rank this talk amongst the best this year. The consultation prizes handed out during the presentation provided lots of interaction and fun with our audience and were enthusiastically sought and received.

The things emphasised were:

- * Crime prevention starts with you
- * A most important thing is to lock everything you can
- * Thieves only need 5 minutes to enter your property and leave
- * If you have an alarm, then use it
- * You should have an inventory list of all your valuables together with serial numbers that you can assign
- * Make a point of looking after your neighbours

On Scams:

These are the fastest growing crime areas and there are multiple of these to contend with:

Emails

Internet

Door to door

about postal packages being sent to you. Some request that you refresh your personal information. Sometimes scammers are not looking for money but are after your personal information. This will be used to gain access to bank accounts, credit cards and the like.

So, our speakers asked what can you do if you suspect you have been scammed. They explained:

- * Don't panic
- * Don't click on any links
- * Don't leave any personal information in your car
- * Do not respond to voice mails if you do not recognise the voice
- * Shred all sensitive documents such as invoices, bank statements etc.
- * Lock your mailbox and/or consider a PO mailbox.
- * Regularly update your computer and phone passwords.
- * Guard your PIN number and never give it to anyone.
- * If you are a victim, report it to Scam watch (www.scamwatch.gov.au)
- * Always lock your vehicle and do not leave your phone in the car.

Shane and Chanthe then had some advice on other matters such as shopping which was particularly focussed on ladies and hand-bags. Chanthe demonstrated how best to carry them with the bag in front of you, the strap over the shoulder. And never put your bag on the floor when sitting at a table. Also, she demonstrated how to carry you bag on the off-side of a window or shop frontage. However, one thing she emphasised was not to resist any attempt to pull the bag from your shoulder. Its better to lose your bag than end up injured.

Other advice was at an ATM, don't count your money while standing at the ATM; thieves will follow you and rob you. In public toilets, the hook behind the door should be half way down the door. When walking at night time wear bright colours and do not take short cuts through parks. And let someone know what you are doing and what time you will arrive.

With bus and public services, time your walk to the stop with the timetable and travel in company if possible. There are safety in numbers.

Also be conscious of the possibility of your credit card being scanned and maintain a safe distance from strangers.

Other advice was: trust you gut instincts and use ATMs inside buildings.

Know pertinent numbers:

- * Emergency 000 (for fire, police and Ambulance)
- * Police assist line (non-emergency) 13 14 44
- * Crime stoppers 1800 333 000
- * Local police station

Then followed a spirited Q&A session where there was lots of discussion and specific enquiries. This was followed by rousing acclamation for a most interesting talk.

Our speakers came armed with brochures on how to contact the police and report crimes. Also an extensive brochure entitled " The Little Book of Scams" (38 pages) which many members availed themselves of a copy.

Kevin Manie

Book Club

Insults of the Month



**Klara and the Sun
By Kazuo Ishiguro**

Some call it science fiction, others thought maybe fantasy-----does a robot have personality?

We discussed genetic engineering, cloning, really getting into biology! As always our chatty group postulated a number of erudite ideas but it came down to what you enjoy reading.

Margaret considered Ishiguro her favourite author and although well written and with a good characterisation of robot Klara, it did not live up to her expectations. It held Juliet's interest, but she was a little disappointed. Carol was not attracted to the theme but did participate in our lively discussion. Vincie initially thought it stupid but on reflection (reread) found more to it, with much kindness, manners and an understanding of others point of view. And Alison loved it believing that Klara, the robot, wanted nothing but the best for Josie the little sickly child.

So Klara, an Artificial Friend (AF), worships the sun, for obvious reasons - she is a robot with a photoelectric cell.

It all starts in a robot (AF) retail outlet - where Klara a B2 (earlier model to the B3 - probably more emotionally humanlike than the B3) is moved around the shop by the Manager who notices Josie eyeing her enviously in the front window! Now Josie is not a well little girl (her sister having likewise succumbed).

However the Mother acquiesces and Klara who relates the entire narrative, becomes part of the family.

Incidentally, Klara had noticed a very polluting "Cootings Machine" outside the store and had promised the Sun to destroy it, ultimately sacrificing some of her vital juices to pour successfully into the fundament of the polluter, not understanding that there were more polluters where that came from and so she apologised to the sun for her failure.

The Beggar and the Dog had been resuscitated by the rays of the sun and so Klara begged him to do the same for Josie, even as the Mother was having a sculptor render a "clone" to replace the ailing Josie, culminating in Klara being asked to inhabit the new Josie.

Klara speaks in a strange but endearing dialect of English (e.g. an oblong is a mobile phone) and she addresses the family in the third person—and so she becomes beloved of most of us. Her view of the world is compartmentalised and people or parts thereof move from box to box in her interpretation of reality. Can the soul be computerised?

There are side stories with neighbouring families and the son of one, Rick and Josie become romantically attached even as Josie's health fades and Rick's mother corruptly requests help from an old flame to smooth the passage of her son to college.

Klara has a number of encounters with the setting sun which she comes to realise does not reside in the neighbour's barn but disappears below the horizon. She makes a desperate plea to the sun to reinvigorate Josie and a miracle happens and Josie is rehabilitated, but poor Klara, what happens to her?

A cleverly constructed narrative perhaps in the Sci-Fi genre which endears most of the characters to the reader

Richard Jones

- "He had delusions of adequacy." Walter Kerr
- "He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." Winston Churchill
- "I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." Clarence Darrow
- "He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway)
- "Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." Moses Hadas
- "I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." Mark Twain
- "He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." Oscar Wilde
- "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one" George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill
- "Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one." Winston Churchill, in response

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

Committee

President	Dean Letcher	9816 5357
Vice President	David Lorschly	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	0438 063 620
Exotic & Scenic Lunches	Dean Letcher	9816 5357
Movies	Sandy Mower	0478 630 620
Fishing	Peter Kelly	0411 696 583

Honorary Auditor Anthony Alexandrou

WEBSITE: www.huntershillprobus.org

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

**PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110**



September Birthdays

Tony Saunders	4
Pat Cox	5
Barbara Enright	23
James Hemmings	23
Catherine Higgs	25
Mike Regnis	25

Art Group

On Friday 26th August a small group of members visited the “Art Gallery on Darling.”

It is a small gallery exhibiting the works of local artists. We viewed the works of Annave Hilderbrand and as she was present we were able to ask her many questions about her works.

She was gracious and helpful, only too happy to explain some of her techniques, especially about her ceramics and porcelain vases. They were many and varied in unusual, modern shapes, mostly white, though some with a touch of gold. She also had on show some Collagraphs and quite beautiful Acquatint etchings, the techniques for which she discussed in detail with us.

I certainly came away with more artistic knowledge than when I entered the gallery.

We then crossed the road and discovered a gem of a Persian eatery. Each of us tried a different food and drink and all of us loved the culinary experience.

On Friday 23rd September the Art Gallery Group has something different. As there are no local interesting or enticing art exhibitions this month let us visit the Museum of Sydney which is on the Cnr. of Phillip and Bridge Streets City. There are currently 2 exhibitions on display, the first titled "Unrealised Sydney", showing what Sydney might have been, and the second titled "Sydney Snapshots", photographs from the past.

Meet at 11:00. Catch the 10:24 ferry from Woolwich to Circular Quay and then a short walk to the Museum. ENTRY is free.

There is a number of eateries in the surrounding area for lunch afterwards for those who wish to eat.

It is **IMPORTANT** for those wishing to attend to please give your name and phone number to Dean Letcher during the morning tea break, as I have to let the Museum know how many people will be attending.

Margaret Timbs
0438 063 620

Editors Musings

- * So what's the speed of dark?
- * If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?
- * What was the best thing before sliced bread?
- * What's another word for thesaurus?
- * Why is the third hand on the watch called a second hand?
- * Why isn't there a special name for the tops of your feet?

Christine Holland

As previously advised, Christine passed away on the 22nd August.

She and Graham joined our club on 9th November last year but for health reasons was unable to attend many meetings.

Our condolences go to Graham and his family at this sad time.

Mike