

# PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this  
Newsletter is for  
Probus members only

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

**Delayed due Melbourne Cup**

General Meeting

Gladesville Sporties Club - 10:00

Guest Speaker: Long awaited return

of Deborah Wallace

ex Det Superintendent NSW Police.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursdays**

Coffee Morning

Sunroom 10:00

\*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

Wine Appreciation

The Cellar, Dan Murphy's

Lane Cove 16:00

Richard Jones

\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Exotic Lunch

See Page 3

Dean Letcher: 0439 736 006

\*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

Movies

TBA

Sandy Mower: 0478 630 620

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**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

Scenic Dining

See Page 3

Dean Letcher: 0439 736 006

\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

Book Club

"The Living Sea of Waking Dreams"

by Richard Flanagan

Mary Mackillop Room

The Heritage 35 Gladesville Road

Margaret Timbs: 0438 063 620

\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

Sausage Sizzle

Kokoda Walkway

12 noon

Barbara Banner: 0405 427 259

\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

Art Group

No event for November

Due to Sausage Sizzle

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## From the President

Members, a brutally wet cold humid Spring but now can the jacarandas be far behind? There is always something to look forward to in the garden suburb.

World Probus Day was well-celebrated at the Probus-Rotary dinner on 6<sup>th</sup> October with raucous entertainment (see photo) enjoyed by 97 diners at the Hunters Hill Club. Rotary organized its polished troupe including Wayne Rogers, in the pink sequin gown and the tempestuous old rocker Roland Storm. Judy Davey ran the brilliant raffle - over \$980 taken, the mayor aged 26 bought the expensive hearing aids and everyone felt a few years younger.



At a time when people around the world are feeling insecure and vulnerable it is just as well to reflect on what we have lived through without disasters happening. In October 2022 we can reflect on the Cuban "missile crisis" of October 1962 where there was widespread fear of a nuclear war when Russia intruded on the USA sphere of influence. After a tense few weeks cool heads prevailed and an agreement was reached between Kennedy and Khrushchev.

I remember that the student writer Bob Ellis, convinced that nuclear Armageddon was upon us took his girlfriend Penny McNicoll and headed for the inland. They took her mother's car as one does and were detained in Bathurst. As Penny was the daughter of David McNicoll, a stalwart of the Packer newspaper empire and the Liberal party, this artistic over-reaction was greeted with hoots of glee. But the glee was tempered with relief.

Now, 60 years later, we have Putin making veiled threats about nuclear because USA is intruding on his supposed sphere of influence. Let's hope for cool heads again this time.

And who can forget the Y2K scare when all computers would freeze as the year 2000 arrived, or the fear of world over-population, world war Christian against Muslim, the Cold War of communism against democracy .....all scary events of their time.

Thankfully, scary Halloween is over by November.

Dean

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

General Meeting  
 Gladesville Sporties - 10:00  
 Guest Speaker: Ramon Rees  
 Sydney Heritage Fleet  
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**Thursdays**

Coffee Morning  
 Sunroom 10:00 am  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

Wine Appreciation  
 The Cellar, Dan Murphy's  
 Lane Cove 16:00  
 Richard Jones  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Hunter Valley Gardens  
 Overnight, Xmas Lights etc  
 See Barbara at the Nov meeting  
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**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Exotic Lunch  
 TBA  
 Dean Letcher: 0439 736 006  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas Lunch  
 Gladesville Sporties  
 Names to Barbara Nov meeting  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Technical Outing  
 TBA  
 David Lorsch: 0428 247 708  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Book Club  
 TBA  
 Margaret Timbs: 0438 063 620  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Movies  
 TBA  
 Sandy Mower  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

Scenic Dining  
 TBA  
 Dean Letcher  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation**

Eleven of us travelled to the Lucas Heights facility, ANSTO, including three prospective members, and for the majority it was their first visit.

Our guide was a physicist who had worked at the site, so he was able to wrap technical information in stories making the visit very enjoyable. In truth some of us found the technical explanations beyond our knowledge, but the few hours we spent were a real learning experience!

Some were interested in the creation and expanding use of isotopes for both diagnosis and the treatment of diseases like cancer, particularly effecting thyroid, and prostate. Others were fascinated by the range of experiments that are being conducted using the neutron beams from this multi-purpose reactor, research which includes improving health, sustainable energy, support to industry and protecting the environment. Others were absorbed by the real time video of the precision skills of those working in the reactor, plus in the creation of molybdenum 99. Australia now provides 24% of that particular isotope globally. Indeed, we were surprised to learn that Australia's reactor is a world leader in so many areas.

I am always fascinated by the aeroplane shredder, made of titanium and steel, designed to protect the reactor, and was installed because Bankstown airport was nearby, well before 9/11.

If you have an opportunity to visit ANSTO in the future, go! You may feel a little overwhelmed, but you won't be disappointed.



*Margaret Conley*

**Art Group**



A smaller number of people than usual, but nonetheless enthusiastic art loving group, attended the E.H. Ervin Gallery last Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup> October. We viewed the annual Portia Geach Memorial Award exhibition, which features works by female portrait artists.

This year there were slightly fewer works exhibited, and as we moved from room to room it soon became strikingly obvious there was a recurring theme of gloom, perhaps sadness, reflected in the paintings. This however, did not ever detract from the quality of the works, but rather reflects the global effects of the times in which we are all living.

We ventured next door to the Trust Café for lunch and we shared a lively discussion about the paintings and revealed our favourite painting for which we were able to enter into a Peoples' Choice prize.

*Margaret Timbs*

## Lunching

### Scenic

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October was a sunny blue day at the hidden gem of Cabarita Point where Vela restaurant had a 270 degree harbour view.

The 18 happy lunchers had lots of time for chat, a painfully slow service and discussing the merits of gnocchi, linguini prawns, timbale and Jim's overdone steak. All agree a gazillion aspect of the river and rowing crews straining every sinew made a great backdrop on this leisurely outing.

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November

Noon at the Old Coal Loader sounds like a film setting but it sets the scene for a panoramic harbor view and good food.

When all shipping was coal-powered, Sydney Harbour was filled with ships needing thousands of tons of coal to be loaded quickly for their long voyages.

At Waverton, beside Balls Head, a huge complex of tunnels through the sandstone and massive walls and jetties was established and used up until coal was replaced by oil. Now clean and historic, this fascinating relic of the past is well sited in the bush with a picturesque view over the upper harbor from the restaurant serving light lunches and good coffee.

Good car parking - car pooling required for this one . See Dean at morning tea for rides.

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### Exotic

On a fine Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 12 Probians explored regional Italian cuisine at Cucino Espresso in Majors Bay Road Concord.

We dined on "Uovo salsiccia" [ Baked Eggs Calabrian Style], Truffle Porcini Omelette, Spinach and Ricotta Ravioli, Special Lamb Pie and Jim Judge's two-step gourmet delight, prawns and a chicken burger.

Majors Bay is a relaxed tree-lined avenue ideally suited to leisurely lunching.

Viva Italia! But probably not in the World Cup.

### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Noon at 21 Glebe Point Road, near Broadway, is the venue of "Kandy at Sri Lanka Bites" with a cuisine as exotic as the name.

Not too Indian-hot, try the Cashew Nut Curry, yes folks, it is a curry of cashews. Then mop up the sauce with String Hoppers, truly, unique to Sri Lanka. Re-live the Raj and Empire with "Hill Station Chicken Curry" - all very flavourful and made for sharing.

Parking available nearby in the Broadway shopping centre, or even in Glebe Point Road. Buses from Bathurst Street.

Ceylon has always been famous for its spices and well-balanced dishes so taste and enjoy with us.

*Dean*

### From the Editor's Desk

- \* A busy meeting awaits on Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup>. I believe we have 6 new members being inducted bringing our numbers up to 97, closer to our maximum of 100. We also have the long awaited return of Ex Supt Deb Wallace, giving what I'm sure will be a riveting presentation.
- \* Barbra Banner has asked me to remind to those of use attending the Sausage Sizzle on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November to bring glasses, plates, cutlery etc on the day
- \* Also another reminder that those of you not wishing to have the turkey at our Christmas Lunch on December 12<sup>th</sup> can avail themselves of the Vegetarian option of Vegetable Parmigiana, Napolitana Sauce, Basil Parmesan, Breadcrumbs and a Cherry, Tomato and Watercress salad.
- \* Finally, please don't forget to complete the Members Survey recently distributed by Jim. The last I heard a couple of days ago indicated a response of only 43% of members. Remember, the sole reason for the survey is to understand how we are doing in satisfying you needs, what we can do to improve and what can we do to enhance the value of you membership. Your input is the only formal feedback we get so please take the time, only about 5 minutes, to let us know.

Enough from me.

*Mike*

**Good Old Days Concert**

On Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, 10 intrepid Probarians left our homes in very inclement weather to attend the Good Old Days Concert. "The Great Classics" at Sydney Town Hall.

Eight of us were completely blown away by a wonderful concert with baritone Rob McDougall, soprano Georgia Wilkinson, the brilliant flautist Jane Rutter, concert pianist Bernard Walz and the excellent 'Good Old Days' concert orchestra.

Rob McDougall is best known for his performance in Les Misérables, Chess and Jekyll and Hyde. His rich baritone voice easily crosses between classics and popular genres. Georgia Wilkinson has delighted us at the Good Old Days concert in Vienna Nights and with Teddy Tohu Rhodes. Jane Rutter is famed for her dynamic interpretations of classical masters and popular songs. Her rendition of Oh Danny Boy in honour of her late father was sensational, last but not least what can we say about Bernard, he never fails to deliver dynamic music at the keyboard. Just an amazing morning.

Five of us then retired to the QVB for lunch.



For those of you wondering about the missing 'two', we received a message from our two missing members Rod and Dellane Stewart, what a morning they had. Whilst waiting at the bus stop a very inconsiderate driver drove past at speed soaking them from head to toe. Consequently they had to return home to dry off. Too late to continue their journey.

If you haven't been to one of these concerts please think about it, a great experience.

Next concert is May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Barbara**

**Probacchanalians (aka Wine Appreciation Group)**



Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November during the afternoon following the General Meeting, at "The Cellar" Dan Murphy, Lane Cove.

The theme is '**RIESLINGS OF THE WORLD.**'

We will taste dry wines through to semi-sweet wines, but not the very sweet. The countries represented will include Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Austria and France.

The cellar can accommodate 13 Probacchanalians (with me standing!)

Please advise me if you wish to attend.

**Richard Jones**  
IN VINO VERITAS

Book Club	Barbara's Thought for the Month																																										
<div data-bbox="111 212 438 436" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="494 257 750 347" data-label="Section-Header"> <p><b>A Room Made of Leaves</b> By Kate Grenville</p> </div> <p>A Masterpiece or is that "Mistresspiece" of fiction. The author warned us not to believe all we read.</p> <p>"All that glisters (sic) is not gold" Shakespeare.</p> <p>Our doughty band of book clubbers lapped up the singularly spectacular display of feminine might in one Macarthur and her ability to cope with John Macarthur, who we believed was a "weally wascally wabbit!"</p> <p>We all had a say, Carol finding it interesting and personal, Alison enjoying the lyrical writing. Margaret C said it was a great story retold and Jenny read the whole thing in three days finding the spiel at the end enlightening, Juliet herself waxing lyrical at the second reading noted the change in tone when Elizabeth was with her transient squeeze Dawes, and she liked the female perspective. To achieve some balance Vincie felt cheated and deceived (Elizabeth wouldn't have spoken like that!) and Margaret T felt hoodwinked finding it difficult to differentiate between fact and fiction. So there you have it from the Book Club jury (7 female and 1 subdued male)</p> <p>In a nutshell, John Macarthur, an impecunious son of a draper buys a place in the army at substantial cost; heavily indebted he needs a quick fix (500 pounds was not insubstantial in the eighteenth century). So he avoids a less lucrative posting to Gibraltar and accepts one in the colony of New South Wales.</p> <p>Meanwhile he and Elizabeth have congress and thus gravid they marry hurriedly and head together for the Antipodes.</p> <p>England in those days was unforgiving and surviving felons were despatched to penal settlements. Having lost America in an unfortunate misunderstanding the British Government redirects convicts to New South Wales. Herein lies a tale of treachery, belligerence, dishonesty and downright bastardry as the aforementioned J. Macarthur Esquire rants his way through the ranks, despatching competitors, seeking favours and ultimately participating in the rum rebellion. Macarthur suffers Bipolar disorder suffering bouts of highs and terrible lows. He comes up with lots of schemes to make money, but ultimately with interbreeding Spanish sheep, ultimately successfully due allegedly to Elizabeth and her convict friend.</p> <p>Mercifully for Mrs M and the colony Mr M is frequently on furlough in England (4 and 10 years at a time) nevertheless they produce many children some of whom survive.</p> <p>While the cat's away the mice will play and William Dawes and Mrs M have congress in their "petit coin a moi" hence the title of the book.</p> <p>Clearly Elizabeth was the master ?mistressmind of the business success managing vast land grants stolen from the locals.</p> <p>There is a wealth of recorded biographical details that the author can access, but she adds a fascinating personal touch to this amazing woman as John Macarthur descends into madness</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Richard Jones</b></p>	<p>"You live longer once you realise that any time spent being unhappy is wasted."</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Author: Ruth E. Renki</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Personal Message</b></p> <p>Josephine McBride and family, Anthony, Slide and Julie extend an invitation to our friends to attend a gathering to commemorate the life of our beloved husband and father, Ross.</p> <p>In accordance with Ross's penultimate wish, his burial took place in the Southern Highlands at Sutton Forest Catholic Cemetery. His final wish and request were that his friends meet at '<b>Carmen's on the Park</b>' to celebrate his life.</p> <p>For catering purposes could you let me know if you are able to attend.</p> <p><b>Venue: Carmen's on the Park</b> at 551 Lyons Road West, FIVE DOCK Located at Barnwell Park Golf Club</p> <p><a href="https://www.barnwellparkgolfclub.com.au/dining">https://www.barnwellparkgolfclub.com.au/dining</a></p> <p><b>Time:</b> 12 Noon <b>Date:</b> Thursday, 24 November 2022 <b>RSVP:</b> Josephine McBride, 3 Ernest Street, HUNTERS HILL 2110 <b>Mob:</b> 0488 532 755 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:malahide@exemail.com.au">malahide@exemail.com.au</a></p> <p>With thanks to you all for your messages, support and love,</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Josephine</b></p>																																										
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROBUS CLUB OF HUNTERS and DISTRICT</b> <b>PO BOX 1041 HUNTERS HILL 2110</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Committee</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>President</td> <td>Dean Letcher</td> <td>9816 5357</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice President</td> <td>David Lorschy</td> <td>0428 247 708</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Margaret Bowman</td> <td>0438 165 016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Jim Likidis</td> <td>0412 090 400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Activities Convenor</td> <td>Barbara Banner</td> <td>0405 427 259</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Speakers</td> <td>Deborah Lohman</td> <td>0404 865 621</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Welfare Officer</td> <td>Josephine McBride</td> <td>9817 5632</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership Officer</td> <td>Kevin Manie</td> <td>0412 349 270</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newsletter Ed / Comms</td> <td>Mike Allum</td> <td>0417 596 300</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">(email: <a href="mailto:mike.allum@bigpond.com">mike.allum@bigpond.com</a>)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Useful Numbers</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Book Club &amp; Art Group</td> <td>Margaret Timbs</td> <td>0438 063 620</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exotic &amp; Scenic Lunches</td> <td>Dean Letcher</td> <td>9816 5357</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Movies</td> <td>Sandy Mower</td> <td>0478 630 620</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fishing</td> <td>Peter Kelly</td> <td>0411 696 583</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Honorary Auditor</td> <td>Anthony Alexandrou</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>WEBSITE: <a href="http://www.huntershillprobus.org">www.huntershillprobus.org</a></b></p>	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	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	
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**Probus Club of  
Hunters Hill  
& District Inc**

**PO BOX 1041  
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110**



**November Birthdays**

Peter Kelly	1
Carol Timmins	10
Rick Collins	11
Kathy O'Sullivan	16
Marie Do Rozario	16
Jenny Thomson	19
Wendell Watt	21
Garth Juster	28
Barbara Banner	30

**Editors Musings**

- Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor ...and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?
- Can fat people go skinny-dipping?
- Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?
- Why do steam irons have a permanent press setting?
- Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?
- If all is not lost, where is it?

**Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)**

At our last meeting, Ian Kay, Chief Financial Officer from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) gave us a presentation outlining ARENA's activities and how they contribute to Australia's transition to a renewable energy future.

**ARENA'S PURPOSE**

To support the global transition to net zero emissions by accelerating the pace of pre-commercial innovation, to the benefit of Australian consumers, businesses and workers.

A big task indeed! And ARENA has identified the main priorities through which, at the moment, it intends to achieve this.

**HOW**

Optimise the Transition to renewable electricity	Commercialise clean hydrogen	Support the transition to low emissions metals	Decarbonise land transport
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ARENA provides grant funding for projects in each of these priorities ranging from small scale university R&D initiatives (eg UNSW and its solar Photo Voltaic program) all the way to large scale deployment activities such as grid connected batteries and the Genex pumped hydro project in Far North Queensland.

With approximately \$300 million of annual grants funding per annum, ARENA's key responsibility, is to ensure funding is given to projects with the best prospects of early commercialisation and which contribute to renewable energy innovation.

Recent funding includes:

- \$871k for Intellihub to install 50 electric vehicle chargers on street side power poles for electric vehicle owners without off-street parking across NSW
- \$838k for Hardwick Meatworks to install a 1 MW (thermal) demonstration scale heat pump and upgrade the electrical supply system at its meat processing plant in Kyneton, Vic
- \$1.27 million for MGA Thermal to demonstrate their innovative thermal energy storage technology
- \$6.6 million for Edify Energy 25 MW / 50 MWh battery with advanced inverters at the 275 MW Darlington Point Solar Farm
- \$925k for BlueScope Steel to investigate options to decarbonise operations at the Port Kembla Steelworks

I thought it was interesting to hear Ian quote Minister Bowen's comment that the 2020 decade is the critical decade to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change- and we are already 33 months into the 120 available.

A reminder that we can all do our bit to use energy in our lives more efficiently whether that's installing PVs on our roofs, buying EVs or hybrids as our next car, installing solar hot water or replacing gas appliances with electric ones as they wear out.

**Deborah Lohman**

Attached to the Newsletter message is a full copy of Ian's presentation for your interest. **ED.**