



# MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Information in this Newsletter is for Probus members only

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

General Meeting

Gladesville Sporties - 10:00

Speaker: Noel Phelan

*"The Costa Concordia"*

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**Thursdays**

Coffee Morning

Sunroom 10:00 am

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**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

Bright Autumn Tour

Jill Regnis: 0467 322 244

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**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

Exotic Lunch

Bamiyan—Five Dock

Peter Kelly 0411 696 583

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**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

Good Old Days Concert

Sydney Town Hall

Barbara Banner

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**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Movies

TBA

Sandy Mower

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**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Scenic Dining

Woolwich Pier Hotel

Peter Kelly 0411 696 583

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**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

Book Club

See Page 4

Juliet Bishop - 0431 627 834

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**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Art Group

See Right →

Peter Kelly 0411 696 583

## From the President

We are now well into Autumn, but I haven't seen as much colour as usual in the leaves of local deciduous trees, which is disappointing because they are often spectacular. I hope that those of us going on the Probus trip to Bright and northern Victoria in early May will have better luck with the colour of the tree leaves, which are meant to be a feature of the trip.

In the week before I write this message, two very good friends died after different tragic accidents. It reminds me that we don't know when our end might come and how we should make the most of our remaining life. Participation in what Probus offers is a way to find some fun and friendship in our lives, so I encourage you to consider and join in some of the various activities on offer. I thank the leaders of those activities for their efforts making the needed arrangements with restaurants, golf courses, art galleries or other venues. And if you think others might enjoy an activity that isn't yet offered through the Club, you could volunteer to lead it. I am sure that your initiative will be appreciated.

It is hard to find venues that provide suitable meals at a reasonable price and that could fit up to about 80 people within a reasonable distance of Hunters Hill. Please tell our Activities Officer, Bob Way, if you know any places that you think might be suitable to provide for coming major Club dinners.

Some of our Probus friends will be flying to the north coast of NSW and touring back by coach over the period that includes the May General Meeting, but I look forward to greeting most of you at that meeting when we can again enjoy the fellowship that the meeting offers.

David

## Art Group



Due to self enforced deadline pressures I don't have a report of Art groups 26<sup>th</sup> April activity.

I don't want to put undue pressure on Bob Way as I need to publish a bit earlier this month due to an impending trip to Africa this weekend.

However, all things being equal, you'll have two reports next month. In the meantime here are the details of the May event **ED**

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May's event is the "Salon des Refuses 2023" at the S. H. Ervin Gallery - Watson Rd., Observatory Hill, Sydney on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May.

Salon des Refusés historically began as an exhibition in Paris ordered by Napoleon III in 1863 to display pictures rejected by the Salon.

Here it is now, the alternative Archibald and Wyn Prize selection.

### Costs:

- \$15.00 - General Admission
- \$12.00 - Seniors and Concessions
- Free - National Trust Members

Many people have said they enjoy it as much as, or more, than the actual Archibald Prize Exhibition.

Those members attending should meet at the entrance to the gallery at 11.00 am. After visiting the gallery we will gather for lunch at the adjoining café.

Peter Kelly

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Tuesday 6th June**

General Meeting  
Gladesville Sporties - 10:00

Speaker: Rae Rees  
"Sydney's Sub Attack"

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**Tuesday 6th June**

Wine Appreciation  
Dan Murphy's Lane Cove  
"Wines of Italy"  
Richard Jones

**Thursdays**

Coffee Morning  
Sunroom 10:00 am

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**Friday 9th June**

Exotic Lunch  
TBA

Dean Letcher: 0439 736 006

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**Tuesday 20th June**

Movies  
TBA

Sandy Mower

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**Wednesday 21st June**

Scenic Dining  
TBA

Dean Letcher: 0439 736 006

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**Friday 16th June**

Book Club  
TBA

Juliet Bishop - 0431 627 834

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**Friday 23rd June**

Art Group  
TBA

Peter Kelly: 0411 696 583

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**Dean's Lunches**

Dean may be off somewhere Nice, but he diligently set April's and May's lunching experiences up before he went, leaving it to Bob to act in his place as event coordinator.

What he failed to supply was the little bits of whimsy that normally flavour his reports.

**Exotic Lunch**

On 14<sup>th</sup> April fourteen of us met for a \$40 Thai banquet at **O'Chai Thai** in Gladesville. If that sounds a bit Irish, be assured that neither Mulligatawny Soup nor Mrs Murphy's Chowder were to be found on the menu. Overall however, the meal was rated as a bit of a disappointment by most of us. The venue itself was a pleasant one, and the waitresses were cheerful and obliging, so we enjoyed ourselves regardless.



For 12<sup>th</sup> May, Dean has chosen the Bamiyan Afghan Restaurant in Five Dock. I've googled up the menu and it looks like a real treat for those who are into naan, biryani etc.

**Scenic Lunch**

"MOD. Dining" in the new Modern Art wing of the Art Gallery of NSW was our venue on 19<sup>th</sup> May. In keeping with the setting, the food was "Australian Modern", and intriguing.

Norbert's roasted cauliflower & pearl couscous salad and Ian's spanner crab noodles were probably our most outstanding choices. The big disappointment of the day was the poor attendance, with only six of us after some last-minute cancellations. The scenery, on the other hand, was breathtaking: all of Woollomoolloo on one side, and on the other a really huge screen displaying a constant stream of scenic Pacific images.



Next month the territory and the scenery will be more familiar but no less impressive. We have booked a deck table at the good old Woolwich Pier hotel for Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**Bob Way**

## Probacchanalians



The Probus Wine Appreciation Group met at our HQ, Dan Murphy's at Lane Cove on April 4<sup>th</sup> and had a flight of fancy with a fabulous feast of flavours from "Cabernets of the World". At "The Cellar", John, our expert Sommelier, assisted the convenor in apprising us all of the joys of Cabernet.

Some really excellent comments were made by us all— John and Ashlyn being particularly persuasive! None of us correctly identified all wines (why should we?)

"I know what I like" could be our motto, and I like it often!

The wines on "offer" were:

- \* ROTH Cabernet Sauvignon 2018 Alexander Valley Sonoma County USA
- \* CASSILERO DEL DIABLO Cabernet Sauvignon 2019 Valle Del Mapio Chile
- \* CHATEAU BEAUMONT Cab blend 53% cs 47% Merlot Haut-Medoc 2018 Bordeaux France
- \* LANGMEIL BLACKSMITH Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa Valley Sth Australia
- \* ZONNEBLOEM Cabernet Sauvignon Stellenbosch South Africa
- \* CRAGGY RANGE Te Kahu Cab c\blend 54% Merlot 27% Cab Sav 7% Cab Franc 2% Petit Verdot Gimlet Gravel, Hawkes Bay NZ

All of the wines were well regarded but the Chilean was arguably the best value for the money. The Bordeaux did not shine above the rest.

Our next Probacchanalian delight will be at 4 pm in The Cellar on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June when our theme will be the wines of Italy from north to south and in between.

In vino veritas

*Richard Jones*

## Probus Music



There's not a lot of activity in May, I think many orchestras are still rehearsing for their June and July concerts. However, Lane Cove Music is presenting Accent Strings, a string quartet, on Tuesday 9 May 2023 at 7:30 pm.

Their program is entitled: BACH TO BEATLES and I quote: "Accent Strings is delighted to present a program beginning with some wonderful music from the Baroque and Classical periods including works of Bach, Vivaldi and

Mozart, followed by a selection of contemporary pieces which will get your feet tapping. These will include popular numbers by the Beatles, Leonard Cohen, Cyndi Lauper, Elton John and other millennial favourites. ..."

Something for everyone!!

It's at the Lane Cove Mowbray Anglican Church 19 Rosenthal Ave, Lane Cove (behind the Post Office and opposite The Canopy, 3 hours free parking).

Cost \$30 The full program is at: [www.lanecovemusic.org.au](http://www.lanecovemusic.org.au).

### Later in May.

The Metropolitan Orchestra (a professional orchestra) presents:

Dvorak: Carnival Overture

Russoniello: Where The Mountain

Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra \*WORLD PREMIERE\*

Soloist: Nicholas Russoniello

Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite no1 and no 2.

Sunday, May 28. 3:30 pm to 5 pm

Marrickville Town Hall

Tickets \$38 concession

More information and bookings at [www.metorchestra.com.au](http://www.metorchestra.com.au)

### More about Jazz

Here are three (of many) venues that regularly host jazz. Check their web sites.

The Camelot Lounge , Marrickville, [www.camelotlounge.com.au](http://www.camelotlounge.com.au); Foundry 616, Ultimo, [www.foundry616.com.au](http://www.foundry616.com.au); Lazybones Lounge Restaurant and Bar, Marrickville, [www.lazyboneslounge.com.au](http://www.lazyboneslounge.com.au).

*Graham Holland*

## Book Club



**“The Dictionary of Lost Words”**

by  
*Pip Williams*

Your education was probably nurtured by one of the many offshoots of the first edition of the twelve-volume “Oxford English Dictionary”, published in stages between 1881 and 1928. This massive work was based on invitations to the public to submit slips of paper suggesting words, along with their meanings illustrated by excerpts from published literature, newspapers, journals etc. A bunch of scholars gathered in Oxford then sifted rigorously through these many thousands of submissions to decide which words to include, reconcile meanings, and choose the most important references.

Sounds impressive? But as author Pip Williams subtly points out in “The Dictionary of Lost Words”, the choices made were very much from the perspective of the educated Victorian/Edwardian gentleman. Many common words were omitted, some as too vulgar, some as too common (having no literary pedigree), and others (“women’s words”) that were simply unfamiliar or repulsive to the men in charge.

“The Dictionary of Lost Words” is a novel based on the life of a fictional character, Esme. She is the motherless daughter of one of the academic workers in the “Scriptorium”, the garden shed turned into a filing cabinet where the slips are processed into dictionary entries. Over her early life, she collects these lost words from rejects and from contacts she makes with some of the less respectable members of society.

The characters are a clever mix of historical and invented people, reflecting the social divides of the time and the great issues of sexual ignorance, womens’ suffrage, and the First World War.

As Richard remarked, it is a feminist story, initially thinly-veiled but progressively more obvious, but none the worse for that. All of us agreed with Margaret Timbs that it is a beautifully written powerful and observant look at that era that was in many respects the setting for our own parents’ and grandparents’ lives. Vincie proclaimed it a great book in which she felt very close to Esme, the narrator. Margaret Conley was sometimes annoyed but more often entranced by the details of daily life. Several of were reading this book for a second time, and enjoyed it even more.

In summary, “The Dictionary of Lost Words” is an examination of power and impotence, with an illuminating historical background.

The next book we are reading is 'Anxious People' by Fredrik Backman who made his name in 2012 with a book called A Man Called Ove which was subsequently made into a Film which received two Academy Award nominations.

We will meet on 19<sup>th</sup> May to discuss it. People interested in joining the waiting list for the book club are welcome to put their names forward. Text Juliet on 0431 627 834.

**Bob Way**

**Proud Mary Trip**

**PROUD MARY TRIP** – 20<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April we had an enjoyable demonstration from Lisa representing the Proud Mary team on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

As a result there are now 6 cabins still available to book.

You have until Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May to book and pay the deposit. After that time the remainder of the cabins will be offered to either another Probus Club or to other travellers.

Jill Regnis 0467 322 244

Or: [regnis@bigpond.com](mailto:regnis@bigpond.com)

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

PO BOX 1041  
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



**May Birthdays**

Shavarsh Bedrossian	10
Nina Stockreiter	11
John Saalfeld	15
Chris Coulter	21
Kathy Boyd	23
Jim Judge	26
Judith Butt	27

**Editors Musings**

- \* Why does the sun lighten our hair, but darken our skin?
- \* Do hungry crows have ravenous appetites?
- \* If you're cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all right?
- \* Isn't Disney World a people trap run by a mouse?
- \* What's another word for synonym?
- \* Why do you press harder on a remote-control when you know the battery is dead?

**"Shackleton's Escape" - Kevin Fitzpatrick**

Although Shackleton's (1874-1922) epic expedition to reach the South Pole was a complete disaster, it was rescued from absurdity by his heroic, terrifying crossing of the Southern Ocean in a small boat to a whaling station on South Georgia. Through one of the greatest recorded feats of navigation and of leadership, he overcame almost impossible odds and rescued every one of his men from otherwise certain death.

Deborah Lohman introduced Kevin Fitzpatrick who had become captivated by Ernest Shackleton and his achievements in Antarctica. His address was entitled "Shackleton's Escape".

It all started in 1980 with a slide night on Antarctica, where Kevin saw and was "blown away" by the colours of white, blue, grey and black of minerals in the rocks; then came a BBC documentary shot in Greenland and he learnt how Shackleton saved his 28 men off his ship *Endurance* which was crushed by the ice. Kevin also read an article in National Geographic and a book on *The Endurance* by Caroline Alexander.

In 2015 (the 100 year anniversary of Shackleton and his men trapped in the Antarctic ice), Kevin cruised Antarctica for 22 days and followed part of their exact escape route in a 1300k open boat "canoe" trip across the Southern Ocean to South Georgia.

Illustrated with stunning photos of Frank Hurley of *The Endurance*, penguins, seals, albatross and the "canoe", Kevin gave an encompassing picture of the expedition, with photo lens view of the men below deck, listening to the record *Land of Hope and Glory* and drinking *Mackinlay's Scotch* of which 24 cases were stored on board.



Shackleton's leadership and loyalty to his men were amply demonstrated when in the *Nimrod* expedition (1907-09) he decided to turn back the starving and exhausted 4-man party just 87 miles off the South Pole. Asked by his wife why he turned back when the Pole was in his sights he simply said, "I thought you would prefer a live donkey to a dead lion".

Shackleton died suddenly of a heart attack in 1922 in his cabin on board the exploration ship *Quest*, while it was anchored off South Georgia. It was his 4<sup>th</sup> expedition, he was 47 years old. He was buried in the Whalers' Cemetery, Sth. Georgia, near a little church, because according to his wife "his heart was in Antarctica". Kevin's group visited his grave and as per tradition, they raised a glass of Mackinlay's in his honour.

Kevin's description of Antarctica, its history and his knowledge, humour and anecdotes captivated his audience;

Anne Day thanked him for the journey thoroughly enjoyed. David complimented him on his commitment and anecdotes, and thanked Deborah for arranging his presentation.

**Margaret Bowman**

**Barbara's Thought for the Month**

*"This Saturday do something you have wanted to do for years. Something just for yourself. And repeat this process once every month."*

Author: Denis Waitley

Activities Calendar

### May 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 Margaret Olley	2 Meeting 10:00 Noel Phelan "Costa Concordia" Margaret Olley	3	4 Coffee - Sunroom	5	6	7 Bright Autumn Tour Jill Regnis
8 Bright Autumn	9 Bright Autumn	10 Bright Autumn	11 Coffee - Sunroom Bright Autumn	12 Exotic Lunch "Bamiyan" Five Dock Bright Autumn	13 Bright Autumn	14
15 Good Old Days Concert Sydney Town Hall	16 Movies Sandy Mower TBA	17 Scenic Lunch Woolwich Pier Hotel	18 Coffee - Sunroom	19 Book Club See Page 4	20	21
22	23	24	25 Coffee - Sunroom	26 Art Group "See Page 1"	27	28
29	30	31				

### June 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Meeting "Sydney's Sub Attack"  Wine Appreciation Italian Wines	7	8 Coffee - Sunroom	9 Exotic Lunch TBA	10	11
12	13	14	15 Coffee - Sunroom	16 Book Club	17	18
19	20 Movies	21 Scenic Lunch TBA	22 Coffee - Sunroom	23 Art Group TBA	24	25
26	27	28	29 Coffee - Sunroom	30		