



MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Information in this Newsletter is for Probud members only

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 14th November

General Meeting
Gladesville Sporties - 10:00
Speaker: Noel Phelan
"The Halverson Story"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
Sunroom 10:00 am

Sunday 5th November

Sydney Welsh Choir
Villa Maria Church 2 pm
Hunters Hill
Graham Holland

Monday 13th November

Good Old Days Concert
Sydney Town Hall 11:00 am
Barbara Banner

Friday 17th November

Book Club
The Seawoman's Gift
by
Sally Magnussen
Juliet Bishop 0431 627
834

Friday November 17th

Sausage Sizzle
Kokoda Walkway
Bob Way

Tuesday 21st November

Movies
TBA
Sandy Mower 0478 630
620

Thursday 30th November

Art Group
Macquarie Uni Artwork Tour
Peter Kelly 0411 696 583

See page 2

From the President

The Probud Month Dinner with Rotary on 11th October at the Hunters Hill Club was a very successful evening enjoyed by the 85 or so people who attended, although only 35 were Probud members.

President Charles Amos of Rotary and his helpers did a great job arranging the program. Speeches were kept short, while remembering the founding sponsorship of Rotary for Probud and providing reports of current programs of both groups.

The two-course meal provided by the Club's caterers, Lozzi, were generous, tasty servings.

The "Aubrey and Purton Quartet", including Michael Parsons on drums, performed music remembered fondly from our younger years. Visiting "Old rocker" Roland Strong contributed an unexpected comedy and musical routine. The talented comedian and impersonator, Paul Martel, gave a performance that had everyone laughing long and loud.

Probud contributed "Probud" emblazoned blue and yellow helium inflated balloons to the floral table decorations, but unfortunately no one thought to take timely photos of the room setting.

Rotary restrained its fundraising to one raffle that was run very tactfully without any sales pressure, but which nevertheless raised \$1,300 for dementia research.

Later in the evening, some of the more energetic attendees enjoyed dancing to the Quartet's music.

The success of the evening encouraged organisers from both Clubs to include repeats of the event in programs



I received a message recently that Dean Letcher is taking a break from Probud for unspecified reason and of unspecified duration. His absence causes a vacancy for leaders for the Scenic and Exotic lunch activities. In Dean's absence, I hope that one or more Club members will volunteer to lead those activities to some of their favourite restaurants.

The Probud South Pacific Newsletter is currently advertising special lunch offers for Probud members at NSW Parliament House.

Coming Club social activities include:

- * A sausage sizzle starting at 12 midday on Friday 17th November at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway barbeque area at the northern end of Killoola Street, Rhodes (see Page 2)
- * The Christmas Lunch at 12 midday on Tuesday 12th December at Gladesville Sporties.

I look forward to seeing many Club members at both those functions which are both great fun.

At the General Meeting on 14th November, I will ask members to indicate their preference for the date of our General Meeting in January 2024 to try to ensure that we will have a quorum. The first Tuesday that month is 2nd January. However, the Club's Standing Orders allow the January meeting to be held on Tuesday 9th January if the first Tuesday is affected by "the January holiday period".

David

Pictured: Charles and Ann Amos, Angela Gautama, Kathy Boyd and Barbara Enright

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 5th December

General Meeting

Gladesville Sporties - 10:00

Speaker: Dennis Smith

"The First Fleet - why it was a success"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning

Sunroom 10:00 am

Friday 8th December

Exotic Lunch

TBA

Tuesday 12th December

Christmas Lunch

Gladesville Sporties

12:00

Friday 15th December

Book Club

TBA

Juliet Bishop: 0431 627 634

Tuesday 19th December

Movies

TBA

Sandy Mower: 0478 630 020

Wednesday 20th December

Scenic Lunch

TBA

Art Group



There is no report for this month but see details of the November outing below.

We will be visiting Macquarie University Art Gallery on Thursday 30 November at 10.30 am

We will be meeting in The Chancellery at 19 Eastern Rd., Macquarie park. From there we will be taken on a walking tour of the buildings that houses much of the University's extensive art collection.

Twenty eight members have already registered their interest and they should see Peter Kelly at morning tea. He will then provide each of them with a map to assist them in finding their way to the Chancellery.

Peter Kelly

Sausage Sizzle



The ever-popular annual sausage sizzle comes up on Friday 17th November. Now this is only three days after our monthly meeting, so obviously we need to make all the arrangements beforehand.

Please email (robtway@yahoo.com.au) or MSG (0406 754 099) me by Friday 10 November to let me know that you are coming, so I can procure the appropriate quantities of snags, onions, bread rolls, wine, OJ and water.

I also need four or five volunteers to bring different types of salad, three or four to bring desserts or fruit platters, and a couple to provide some pre-lunch nibbles (dips, crackers, cheese, potato crisps or whatever). So if you have something to offer, please outline it in your response and I will get in touch. I am conscious that several kind people have already told me they will bring something along, but I can't rely on my memory, so if you were one of them, please confirm.

Who would like to be a cook? This is obviously a coveted position and we can't accommodate more than three, so get your offer in early. All you need to bring is an apron and a pair of tongs. And finally, I need to beg the loan of a couple of large Eskies.

If you are offering food or services, please let me know as soon as you can.

The cost of this is \$25pp. Preferably your message to me will confirm that you have paid into the club account by ETF (BSB 062 182, a/c no. 0090 2310 in the name of Probus Club of Hunters Hill and District), but if you cannot do that I will be accepting credit card payments at the November GM.

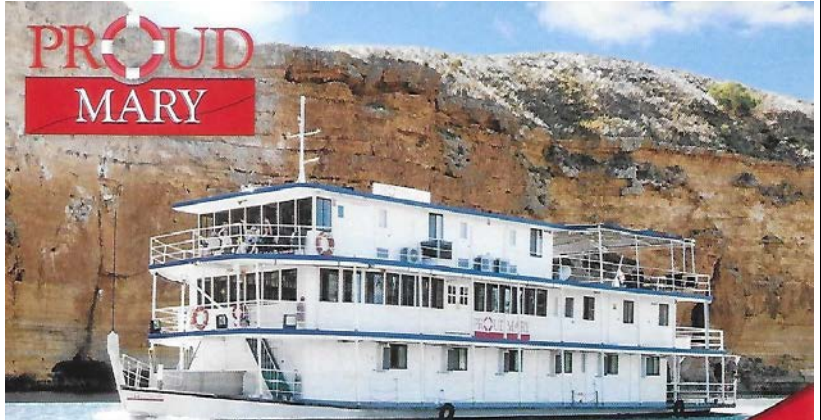
Finally, please remember to bring your own plates, eating irons (knife, fork and spoon) and glasses to the Kokoda Track Function Area in Rhodes Perk, Concord. Start time is 12 noon.

Bob Way

The *Proud Mary*, Murray River and Adelaide. Just one more Probus trip away

Over the years small groups of our club members have ventured forth, overnight or for a few days at a time, to explore (or re-explore) parts of Australia. And such was the case for a 'baker's dozen' of us as we flew out to Adelaide – firstly to spend a time on the 18 cabin, 36 person *Proud Mary* as she wended her way from Murray Bridge up the mighty river of the same name and then returning to the same riverside port; and after, using the city of Adelaide as our base while we explored the visual and culinary delights of the Barossa Valley and the Fleurieu Peninsula. The brochure described the trip as being a "Food and Wine Experience" and so it proved.

Jill and I had already experienced the attractions of the *Proud Mary* back in 2007. For us, this 2023 trip was a re-run of pleasures stored away in memory. For the "new" eleven of our group it was to be something very different – to be shared with us and the other twelve passengers from parts often far removed from the lives we Probus people have in metropolitan Sydney.



How wonderful it is to make the acquaintance of others: the retired couple from St. Ives in Cornwall; a similarly retired couple but this time from the Atherton Tablelands in far North Queensland, she having worked in secondary education and he having been a tin-miner whose career took him all over the northern and far western parts of that State; the passionate bird-life photographer, whose formidable photographic equipment kept some of us enthralled; the lovely and so interesting retired teacher, resident in Gerringong, and who had travelled the world to teach younger folk the art of choral performance; and so the list of our newly-made friends went on. We really did get to meet and better know all of them. The advantages of a relatively small vessel with a low number of passengers became apparent. We were able to share meals, leisure time (not that there was

much) and the last-night entertainment. But the river dominated everything.

We were so fortunate. The river was flowing in all its majesty, fully replenished after the floods (about which more later) that had caused havoc in the South Australian riverlands late last year and into 2023. The play of sun and wind on the slowly flowing waters of the river, together with the vivid Spring greens of the reeds, wetlands and bankside Willow trees, all backdropped by majestic River Gums, was magical. The gums? They are in their thousands along the lower reaches of the Murray. Some are estimated to be 5 to 6 hundred years old. And while they provide ideal nesting for birds of all kinds there is a particular excitement in spotting the formidable castle-like nests built, high up, by the raptors – kites, kestrels and eagles.

The fish in the river must be in their millions. It would have to be. How else to support the prolific bird-life that the replenished river has attracted? The raptor birds I have already mentioned. Ducks, swans, divers (an elegant type of cormorant), pelicans, cockatoos, corellas, galahs, a swiftly flying mix of smaller migratory birds – darting and weaving everywhere, and finally the ultimate hunter, the Peregrine Falcon. We had the opportunity to have close-ups of some wetlands and towering sandstone cliffs that provide sheltered nesting sites for the smaller birds. Best of all, though, was to watch, totally enthralled, as a black kite and a "smaller" eagle engaged in what I presumed to be an aerial duel over territory but reminiscent of one of the dogfight scenes from the film, "The Battle of Britain". They faced off, dived, wheeled, attacked, retreated, and did everything but actually make physical contact. The battle lasted all of 10 minutes, and finished in what I took to be an honourable draw.



The floods which have made the river what it is this Spring? Best for me to quote from a summary available in the Information Centre of the small riverside town of Mannum. In doing so I should point out that the flooding of the Murray and Darling Rivers, and so many of their tributaries, occurred without South Australia itself having any worthwhile rain (it is the driest state in the Commonwealth!). The

The *Proud Mary*, Murray River and Adelaide. Just one more Probus trip away (cont)

summary: “- - - the large flood event occurred between November 2022 and February 2023. The Murray River swept its way down the Murray-Darling basin in late 2022, peaking in the lower parts of the river system in early 2023. - - - This flood event was the largest since 1956, and the third highest ever recorded in South Australia.” Some 3,500 homes were inundated, a number of levee banks failed, and crop losses along the river flats were crippling for many. One State regulation that is in place since 1956 requires any homes built along the river or on the flood plains to have all habitable rooms above that flood peak. However, many of the older homes did suffer inundation this time around. We could see the flood markings on the walls of some of those homes. We could also see that the repair works were still ongoing. Life can be hard for those who live and work in regional Australia.

Our time in Adelaide was vastly different. Our hotel – the Hilton – is in the very heart of the city: Victoria Square, so in such a compact metropolis most of the attractions are in easy walking distance. Additionally, though, travel is made even easier, whether on the city-leg of the famed Glenelg Tram or on the city-shuttle bus, is free. Melbourne, too, has a free system in place for its city precinct. Perhaps Sydney might try the same.



Adelaide is known as the city of churches. Our bus journeys here and there reinforced that reputation. From now, though, we will know it as the city of roses. Public parks and reserves, street verges, private gardens – all stunning! Street after street had gardens which drew the eye. Avenues of stately trees, with under-plantings of roses. We couldn't have chosen a better season.

Each day offered something different. The Adelaide Hills and Hahndorf for vistas of small wineries (and shopping); the Barossa Valley – wineries, wine tasting, the vines in their pale green of the season's start, good food and grand panoramic views; McLaren Vale, Goolwa and the rolling hills of the peninsula. No wonder we were all plum tuckered out at day's end, only to be revived by a pre-dinner drink and then good eating.

Who wouldn't want to spend a few days away with Probus friends?

This was Jill's swansong as organiser of longer trips for members of our Probus Club, so please excuse me for now writing some words about her involvements. Apart from the initial *Proud Mary* trip of 2007 which she and I jointly organised, Jill has been the exclusive planner and organiser of these kinds of Probus activities for quite a few years.

By my count Jill served for 4 years as the Club's Activities Director, and when she stepped down from that Committee position (which carried responsibility for all social and similar activities) she has continued for another 3 ½ to 4 years involved in the longer-period outings. For every one of those 7 ½ to 8 years it has been her ambition, supported by the Management Committee, to annually have two, or preferably three, trips away.

She has largely been successful, mixing the interesting with the exotic. Norfolk, Kangaroo, Heron and Bruny Islands; Melbourne, Adelaide, Hobart and Canberra (multiple times – for various events); Western Plains Zoo; NSW, Victorian, Tasmanian and Queensland regional towns; seaside towns and alpine regions; sun, sea and snow – and the rare times when the weather gods have not been kind.

Her efforts have meant that we Probians have learned much about this country of ours.

I admit to a certain bias, but I believe she has brought a rare organising ability to her task, leavened by a friendliness to all and a real concern that “all is right” for them, in health, enjoyment, and creature comforts. I have heard it said that she is “a real Mother Hen”, a compliment richly deserved.

She (and I) believe that our Probus Club is strong, and that you – the members- will ensure that the tradition of bonding through events such as the longer trips will continue to flourish.

Thank you.

Mike Regnis

(Photos kindly provide by Barbara Gardner)

Book Club



Hamnet
by
Maggie O'Farrell

Hamnet is a fictional account of the family of William Shakespeare and Agnes (or Anne) Hathaway. Given Shakespeare's erudition and his life in London, it is source of curiosity that he apparently remained committed to his marriage at the age of 18 to a woman eight years his senior, who remained at home with their three children in rural Warwickshire. Their eleven year old son, Hamnet, one of twins, died of the bubonic plague in 1596. Little is actually known of either William or Agnes, giving the novelist ample opportunity to explore the universal issue of family grief, and to set it against the background of rural living conditions in Tudor times.

In 2020 the novel won the Women's Prize for Fiction, (one of the UK's most prestigious literary prizes) for its author Maggie O'Farrell - a highly successful novelist from Northern Ireland.

Our discussion was hampered by the unusual fact that most of our members (including yours truly) were unable to attend the monthly meeting. Only four members were present, one of whom had not read the book, abandoning it as uninteresting. So that left three with a positive reaction. One point of interest was a side-story illustrating the way the plague was able to spread across Europe following the trade routes.

Despite this we soldier on, and are enthusiastically picking up *The Sealwoman's Gift*, in which we will learn of the fate of hundreds of Icelanders abducted by Barbary pirates in 1627.

Bob Way

Probacchanalians



Richard has advised me that he feels there are few issues with the Wine Appreciation Group that he needs to resolve. that I need to sort out.

Therefore he has decided to wait till 2024 to hold the next meeting.

This activity is popular and Richard puts in a lot of effort to select and purchase the wines, provide the nibbles and works very well with John, our sommelier

Some of the matters that need to be discussed include:

- * The number of members attending
- * some members attend only if the event features reds
- * Some attend only if white are featured
- * a quorum is twelve participants.
- * John , the sommelier cannot do 4 pm
- * Among the 'members' are management committee members, hence unlikely to be available until 4 pm

Richard suggest we need to discuss the options and mull it over during the festive season.

If you have any suggestions or views on the activity, please talk to Richard during the coffee break at the next meeting or email him with any appropriate comments.

Richard's email is: ramjones@bigpond.net.au or speak with him at the general meeting on the 14th November.

Thanks, on behalf of Richard,

Mike

Probus Music

November will be a bumper month for concerts. Watch out for Messiahs next month!

Saturday November 4, 7:30 pm, Sunday, November 5, 2:30 pm.

THE MOSMAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA presents:

FROM BOHEMIA TO NORWAY

Wagner, Greig and Dvorak at the Mosman Art Gallery

\$30 Adult/Senior | \$20 Student/ Pensioner.



Sunday, November 5, 2.00 pm.

THE SYDNEY WELSH CHOIR

At the Villa Maria, parish hall, Mary Street, Hunters Hill. \$25.

Monday November 13, 7.30 pm.

THE KILLARA MUSIC CLUB presents:

The Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company of Sydney

This concert will include favourites from The Pirates of Penzance, HMS Pinafore, The Yeomen of the Guard, The Gondoliers and Iolanthe.

At the Ravenswood Centenary Centre, Henry St, Gordon. \$30.

Wednesday, November 15, 12.00 pm.

LIVE AT LUNCH presents:

Three To Tango. Jane Rutter, flute, Daniel Rojas, piano and bandoneon player, Stephen Cuttriss.

At the Concourse at Chatswood, \$38, full price, \$33 concession; with lunch \$64, and \$58.

Friday, 17 November 2023 at 8.00 pm

THE MOZART SOCIETY PRESENTS:

Sonus Piano Quartet with guest pianist Simon Tedeschi performing

MOZART - Piano quartet in E-flat major K 493,

MARTINU - Piano quartet H.287, SUK - Piano quartet in A minor Op.1.

At the Concourse at Chatswood, \$58, full price, \$52 concession.

Sunday November 19, 4.00 pm

WYVERN MUSIC FORESTVILLE presents:

"Same World Different Planets"

The Le Basque Trio of tenor, Benjamin Oxley, French Horn player, Robert Johnson and pianist Cheryl Oxley perform music by Beethoven, Schumann, Berlioz, Massenet, Alfred Hill and Andrew Ford, English folk-songs, and the evocative Serenade of Benjamin Britten as the centrepiece.

At Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 9 Currie Rd Forestville. \$20.

Sunday, November 19, 3.00 pm

THE KU-RING-GAI PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA presents:

Rossini: Barber of Seville Overture

Elgar: Romance for Bassoon and Orchestra; Mendelssohn: Hebrides Overture; Weber: Andante & Rondo Ongarese

Beethoven: Symphony No 5

At St Ives Uniting Church Corner Douglas Street & Mona Vale Rd, St Ives \$45, full price, \$40 concession.

Saturday, November 25, 2.00 pm.

THE ROSEVILLE MUSIC CLUB presents:

Dynamic jazz duo Kevin Hunt, piano, Jacques Emery, double bass and special guest Maria Lopes perform classic jazz favourites.

At Saint Luke's Presbyterian Church, 28 Lord Street, Roseville. \$20.

Saturday, November 25, 7:00 pm.

THE WILLOUGHBY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA presents:

Mendelsohn, the Hebrides, Op., 26; Mozart, Piano Concerto No. 20, K466; Beethoven Piano Concerto, No. 1, Op. 15.

At the Concourse, Chatswood. \$57 full price, \$52 concession.

NOTE: All concerts at the Concourse are booked through the Concourse web site: www.theconcourse.com.au.

Tuesday, November 28, 7:30 pm

THE LANE COVE MUSIC CLUB presents:

The Tavener consort of voices.

performing sacred and secular music from the 14th to the 21st centuries.

At the Lane Cove Mowbray Anglican Church, Rosenthal Avenue, Lane Cove, (opposite the Canopy car park entrance) \$30.

ANOTHER UNABASHED PROMO

Stringybark Jazz, the big band I play in, will be performing in Chatswood Plaza on Saturday November 11 from 1.30 pm (weather permitting).

Graham Holland

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

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



November Birthdays

Peter Kelly	1
Carol Timins	10
Rick Collins	11
Kathy O'Sullivan	16
Jenny Thomson	19
Wendel Watt	21
Garth Juster	28
Barbara Banner	30

Editors Musings

- * Why don't they call moustaches 'mouth brows'?
- * Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- * Can you cry underwater?
- * Do pilots take crash courses?
- * Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety one?
- * Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person that drives a race car is not called a racist?

Barbara's Thought for the Month

"Kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom."

Author: Theodore Isaac Rubin

An Impressive Probian.

Graham Holland, the leader of our Club's Music Activities, is a man of many varied talents who luckily enjoys generally good health.

Together with Margaret Conley and me, he is a member of a Seniors walking group that recently went to walk for parts of several days in the Tea Gardens area. While there, Graham celebrated his 86th birthday by climbing 220 metres vertically in about 1 kilometre distance along a very broken rocky track to the top of Yaccaba Headland on the northern entrance to Port Stephens.



It was an impressive achievement. The climb daunted several younger members of the group. Graham is pictured leaning on the remains of the Trig pillar at the summit.

David Lorsch

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

Committee

President	David Lorsch	0428 247 708
Vice President	Margaret Timbs	0438 063 620
Secretary	Margaret Bowman	0438 165 016
A/Treasurer	Josephine McBride	9817 5632
Activities Convenor	Bob Way	0406 754 099
Speakers	Jenny Thompson	0484 676 124
Welfare Officer	Josephine McBride	9817 5632
Membership Officer	Kevin Manie	0412 349 270
Past President	Dean Letcher	9816 5632
Newsletter Ed / Comms	Mike Allum	0417 596 300

(email: mike.allum@bigpond.com)

Useful Contacts

Book Club	Juliet Bishop	0431 627 834
Art Group	Peter Kelly	0411 696 583
Exotic & Scenic Lunches	Dean Letcher	9816 5357
Movies	Sandy Mower	0478 630 620
Golf	Jim Macready	0411 216 480
Fishing	Peter Kelly	0411 696 583
Music	Graham Holland	0416 232 507
Wine Appreciation	Richard Jones	ramjones@bigpond.net.au
Honorary Auditor	James Macready (member)	

WEBSITE: www.huntershillprobus.org

Activities Calendar

November 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2 Coffee - Sunroom	3	4	5 Sydney Welsh Choir Villa Maria 2:00 pm
6	7 Melbourne Cup	8	9 Coffee - Sunroom	10	11	12
13 Good Old Days Concert 11:00 am	14 Meeting Noel Phelan The Halverson Story	15	16 Coffee - Sunroom	17 Book Club Sausage Sizzle Kokoda Walkway	18	19
20	21 Movies Sandy - TBA	22	23 Coffee - Sunroom	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Coffee - Sunroom Art Group Macquarie Uni 10:30			

December 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5 Meeting Dennis Smith The First Fleet"	6	7 Coffee - Sunroom	8 Exotic Lunch Dean Letcher TBA	9	10
11	12	13	14 Coffee - Sunroom	15 Book Club	16	17
18	19 Movies Sandy Mower TBA	20 Scenic Lunch Dean Letcher TBA	21 Coffee - Sunroom	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Coffee - Sunroom	29	30	31