



MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Information in this
Newsletter is for
Probud members only

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 1st April

General Meeting

Speaker:

Jo Anne Berthelsen
"From the Ridiculous to
the Sublime"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning

Sunroom 10:00

Wednesday 2nd April

Wine Appreciation

Heritage

15:00

Monday 7th April

Golf

Jim Macready

Tuesday 8th April

49th Birthday Lunch

Nth Ryde RSL

12:00 for 12:30

Tuesday 15th April

Movies

Sandy Mower

TBA

Good Friday 18th April

Book Club

Juliet Bishop

Easter Monday 21st April

Golf

Jim Macready

TBA

Anzac Day 25th April

No Event

We're looking for a new Art
Group Convenor

Wednesday 30th April

Western Sydney Airport

Experience

Depart Sporties 8:30am

Return 5:00pm approx

From the President

Hello Fellow Members,

Another summer is behind us, but our Club's many activities, providing opportunities for Friendship, Fellowship and Fun, continue unabated. As well we have interesting and informative Guest Speakers to look forward to every month.

Your new Management Committee is at work, and it has been pleasing to welcome not only new members, but also experienced members who have been willing to serve another term.

The 50th Anniversary Subcommittee is also at work as 2026 edges closer. We met with Probud South Pacific Limited in late February, and Subcommittee Chair, Kevin Manie, will update members on that meeting at our April 1st General Meeting.

We are still seeking an Art Group convenor to replace Peter Kelly, and if you are interested in filling his shoes, please let me know by email, phone or in person. I'm sure that Peter will be willing, to explain to any prospective convenor, what is involved.

At our last meeting I invited comments and suggestions as to how we could improve our club, and I'm happy to advise that we have received some constructive input which will be discussed at the April Management Committee meeting. I will report on the outcome at our May 6th General Meeting. Any further suggestions and comments are welcome at any time.

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Many of us are due to attend our Birthday Luncheon on Tuesday April 8th at North Ryde RSL, 12 for 12.30. I look forward to seeing you there.

Charles

From the March Meeting

President, at the time, presenting Barbara
Gardner with her 15 year service pin.

Congratulations Barbara



10 months and 2 days to our "50th"

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 6th May

General Meeting 10:00
Speaker: Norman Webb
"Bees"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
Sunroom 10:00

Monday 5th May

Golf
Jim Macready
TBA

Friday 9th May

Scenic Lunch Shavarsh

Friday 16th May

Book Club
Juliet Bishop
The Heritage

Tuesday 20th May

Movies
Sandy Mower
TBA

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Monday 19th May

Golf
Jim Macready
TBA

Wednesday 21st May

Nan Tien Temple & Wollongong
Depart Sporties 9:00am
Return 5:30pm approx
See Ashlyn at Meeting

Friday 23rd May

Art Group
TBA

Book Club



With a full roll-up, we had a lively discussion about this month's book selection, written by the celebrated American author James McBride.

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store is set in the 1930s in Chicken Hill, a very poor neighborhood of the backward town of Pottsville Pa. The inhabitants are the sad communities of Blacks and immigrant Jews who have been left behind by their more upwardly mobile cousins. United by distrust of Government and of white society as typified by the Klu Klux Klan, these two communities have learnt to rub along with each other. A shining light is provided by Moshe, who runs a theatre introducing some of the famous jazz players of the era, and his wife Shona, whose unprofitable grocery store is a centre of community life.

At the heart of the story is the struggle of these two communities to cooperate in rescuing Dodo, a deaf-dumb but intelligent black boy who has been incarcerated in a horrendous State institution for the insane.

Most of us found this longish novel rather hard to get into. The idioms and speech rhythms of both communities are unfamiliar to us. Reflecting generations of fear, nobody ever gives any serious question a straight answer which makes it difficult to follow the plot. And there are too many characters. But perseverance rewarded those of us who reached the end. Our talking points included racism (both conscious and unconscious), deprivation, degrees of evil and retribution.

Next month we will reveal how little we understand our Shakespeare when we are called upon to review Judi Dench's anecdotes collected as *Shakespeare: The Man who Pays the Rent*. We couldn't find a viable alternative to meeting on Good Friday even though several of us will be unavailable.

Bob Way

Art Group

This space is "work in progress" awaiting a replacement for our previous Convenor and reporter, Peter Kelly.

Seems Peter and Diane have put travel as a priority this year and the "Kelly" plans appear to clash with a number of Art Group days.

He will be hard to replace but I'm sure someone in our midst is up to the challenge.

The pay is non-existent, the challenge of satisfying everybody's needs, impossible but the reward is your very own monthly article in our Club Newsletter and instant media fame.

I say no more

Over to you.

Mike

President's Report to 49th Annual General Meeting

My tenure as President of Hunters Hill Probus Club is shortly to come to an end. It is now time to hand over to a new President who will preside in this role for 2 years, 2025 and 2026. It has been an honour and a fulfilling experience to be in this role, despite encountering the odd challenge, which, of course, was always solved.

I want to express my sincere thanks to the Management Committee, which worked as it should with the President, hand in hand. I wish to acknowledge each person's expertise throughout the past 12 months, starting with Anne Day, Secretary...for her constant checking of facts and always being available with support.

Charles Kent, Vice President...for his reassurance and back-up as needed.

David Lorsch, Immediate Past President...for his fountain of knowledge of Probus machinations and willingness to share this in Committee.

Josephine McBride, Welfare Officer...for having her finger on the pulse of Member's welfare and her compassion in imparting our thoughts to those experiencing ill health etc.

Kevin Manie, Membership Officer...for his mastery of all membership numbers, visitors, induction of new members, and presentation of 10 and 15 year pins. All this and more, he dispenses with aplomb. Invaluable.

Jenny Thomson, Guest Speakers Officer...for her ability to find, interview and book interesting speakers each month.

Bob Way, Activities Officer...for his tenacity at organising the Club's 3 important major luncheons, which has not been without some difficulties.

Marilyn Johnson, Treasurer...wonderful member who gave her assent to take on the Treasurer's role with very short notice as she had only been a Club Member for a short time. She has introduced new ideas to this role.

And last, but not least, Mike Allum, Communications, Newsletter & Website Officer...I'm very grateful for your always available ear and IT abilities to send out important GROUP emails when necessary, AND the superb compilation of our Club's monthly Newsletter.

I thank the Sub-Committee set up for the 50th Anniversary celebrations and all the work they are putting into the preparations for this celebration commencing in February 2026. Organising of events are well in hand with some details to be finalised closer to events.

I would like to especially thank Barbara Jago for her provision of home cooked, delicious morning teas at each monthly meeting.

Also, thank you to Judy Davey and her helpers for organising the raffle at every meeting.

A duty of the Presidency which has brought pride and pleasure has been the welcoming of visitors to the meeting, inducting New Members and presenting them with their badge and New Member package (I might add, all prepared by Kevin Manie), and the presentation of 10 and 15 years of Membership pins.

Each month our Focus Groups attract many Members to participate in different activities as diverse as: Wine Appreciation, Scenic and Exotic Lunches, Thursday Night Dinner which is held monthly, Art Gallery group, Movies, Music group, Book Club, Golf, and Plant Swap.

We organise 3 major luncheons per year, namely the President's Lunch, Christmas Lunch and the Birthday Lunch. They are traditional to our Club and always enjoyable.

We participate in a variety of outings, day trips and longer stay trips. These trips, apart from enjoying the destinations, are ideal opportunities to socialise and connect with other members. Hence friendships are often forged.

Hunters Hill Probus Club has gained a reputation for being a friendly club at which members look forward to mingling at monthly meetings. It is important that we maintain our standards.

Our current Membership stands at 92, with a number of Visitors we expect might apply for Membership soon.

I will proudly hand over to the incoming President the duty to preside over this Club, maintain its history, especially with the 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2026, AND to always uphold the Probus 3 "F'S", which are friendship, fun and fellowship.

Margaret

Charles' Acceptance Speech



I'd firstly like to make some comments about Margaret. I've had the opportunity to be Margaret's under-study and Vice President for a year, so have seen how she operates.

As we all know, she is unfailingly courteous and gracious, yet I've seen her be firm when she needs to be. Inevitably difficult issues occasionally arise and Margaret didn't flinch from addressing those promptly and effectively. She chaired the Management Committee in an inclusive manner, ensuring that all had their say.

I hope I can look to you, Margaret, for advice and guidance as I settle into this role. Please join me in thanking Margaret for doing an excellent job as our President.

A little over a year ago, David Lorschky asked me to consider being nominated for Vice President. Then, he asked me again, and then again, always politely and patiently.

Eventually I decided I could make the time; it was an opportunity to give back to the Club, and a huge privilege

So, there being no other nominations, here I am. If it doesn't work out, we can blame David.

I am committed to doing the best job I can as your President and there is an open invitation to everyone to give me advice if I could have done something better.

I'm glad Margaret acknowledged those who lead our focus groups and other activities which give purpose to our Club and options for our members. I mentioned "giving back" to the Club and those people certainly do that. It is worth recognising that we only see the tip of the iceberg for their efforts and time. Often, there is research, phone calls, and planning and other work done behind the scenes.

As well there are those who have given back in the past. There are 12 "Past Presidents" here, including Pat Cox who served a record 3 terms, and numerous others who have served on the Management Committee.

I thought it would be nice to let them know that they are appreciated.

Finally, and this has to be addressed. Of course when I became Vice President, I was mobile. Now, I am not.

Which means that I am deprived of the opportunities to socialise with you on the tours and trips as I can't handle the walking. That limits me to our luncheons and dinners including Shavarsh's, and the monthly meetings.

So, if you find someone hovering at morning tea, please don't be alarmed, it might just be me hoping to introduce myself.

Charles



Your 2025/26 Management Committee

Margaret Timbs - Past President, Jenny Thomson - Speakers, Marilyn Johnson - Treasurer, Charles Kent - President, Mike - Newsletter, Dellane Stewart - Vice President, Kevin Marnie - Membership, Margret Bowman - Secretary, Josephine McBride - Welfare. Absent Barbara Banner - *dedicated as always at the Activities Desk*

March Scenic Lunch - Drummoyne Sailing Club

After checking the weather forecast on Wednesday before our Scenic lunch day and, as the indication was to be a nice day on Friday, booked 2 tables outside on the terrace looking to the Harbour waters. But when I arrived on the day, I noticed that my message was ignored and 2 tables were set-up inside. At first, I was disappointed, but its turn-up a blessing in disguised as outside was going to be a torture with the temperature hitting 35° plus.

This was going to be another preselected affair from the Club's Grilled Menu and payable by each of their selected main. However, I was informed that it is not club's policy and that we had to pay one bill for all of us, after some heated, but polite discussion with the lady in charge, it was decided that each of us go to counter, indicate the choice from our list and pay individually.

Unlike other clubs and restaurants, they don't serve the dishes at the table, they gave us a couple buzzers (for all our orders) and when it buzzed, we had to go to the food counter to pick-up (2 plates at time in a tray + cutlery separately) and take them to our tables trying to find out who ordered what!

Here, I would like to thank Irene (I hope it is correct spelling) for her help, together we did the waitering, picking up and delivering individual plates to each person.

Nevertheless, dishes were nicely presented and generous, there were no complains! I could see that our members enjoyed the quality foods prepared while having good conversations among friends.



May Exotic Lunch

As April is a busy month with 49th Probus Club Birthday Lunch, Easter long weekend and ANZAC Day, it was decided that our next Exotic lunch to be on Friday 9th of May, in that regard, I have couple of venues in mind,

I will ask Mike to circulate the details as soon as I make the choice.



Shavarsh

(My thanks to Irene for providing the photos - Mike)

Music Group



I hope you enjoyed some of the music on offer last month. if you did, please let me know (if you didn't, you could also tell me about that!).

April is a bit thin, but there are two concerts aimed at the younger generation – your grandchildren might thank you for the experience.

I will be going to the April 5th concert by the Sydney University Graduate Choir presenting J S Bach's St John Passion. It is one of his greatest works and I clearly remember the enriching experience of singing in the choir in a performance 55 years ago.

Sunday April 5 7.00 pm.

THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CHOIR presents:

St John Passion by J S Bach

This dramatic sacred oratorio depicts Jesus' last days according to the Gospel of St John as powerful music with a deeply compassionate story, masterfully translated into extraordinary, expressive music of intense depth. The work's rich harmonies and intricate counterpoint make it a cornerstone of Bach's legacy and a deeply moving experience for both performers and listeners.

At St Thomas's Anglican Church, McLaren St and, Church St, North Sydney
Full, \$65, Pensioner, \$45.

Saturday April 5, 4.00 pm. Sunday April 6, 2.00 pm.

THE WILLOUGHBY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA presents:

Disney's Lion King Live in Concert.

"The Lion King" will be projected onto the big screen at The Concourse Concert Hall while the score is performed live by the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra.

At the Concourse, Chatswood.
Full \$99, Concession \$89.

Sunday April 13, 2.30 pm.

THE BEECROFT ORCHESTRA presents:

"The Vegetable Plot with Orchestra"

A Children's Concert

Including:

Vegetable Plot Songs

Thus Spake Zarathustra- introduction- Richard Strauss

Carmen Suite No. 2-Habanera- Bizet

Pictures at an Exhibition-Baba Yaga- Mussorgsky

And more!!

At Cheltenham Girls High School, The Promenade, Cheltenham .

Plenty of Parking onsite!

Full \$40, Concession \$30.

Two others to check out: Live at Lunch, www.theconcourse.com.au and The Mosman Concert Series, www.mosmanconcertseries.org.

I will be away for most of April and into May, so there may not be a PROBUS MUSIC for May, but by now you will know where to look!

Graham Holland

Probus Club of Hunters Hill & District Inc

PO BOX 1041



April Birthdays

Neville Davey	6
Rod Stewart	7
Dellane Stewart	12
Sandie Bredemeyer	19
David Crouch	22
Ann Juster	25
Ian Beasley	26
Elizabeth Hamilton	27
Sandy Mower	27
Fran Williams	28

Editors Musings - Ageing

- * Women rarely admit their age; men rarely act it.
- * Ageing gracefully is the polite way of saying you're slowly looking worse.
- * My wife's so vain, she'd rather pay full price than admit she's a senior citizen
- * When you're old, getting lucky is walking into a room and remembering exactly why you're there.
- * Old age is when your old classmates are so grey, wrinkled, and bald that they no longer recognize you.
- * When you're young, you make a lot of noise just having fun. When you're old, you make even more noise just bending over.

Barbara's Thought for the Month

"A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstance, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes."

Author: Hugh Downs

Some of you may remember our trip to the Riverina back in May 2024. You may also remember the photo, below, published in the Newsletter at the time



Well it seems that a warranty claim has been lodged for the particular model not performing as well as promised by the appropriate warranty conditions.



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

Committee

President	Charles Kent	0410 345 040
Vice President	Dellane Stewart	0405 557 345
Secretary	Margaret Bowman	0438 165 016
Treasurer	Marilyn Johnson	0427 668 182
Activities Convenor	Barbara Banner	0405 427 259
Speakers	Jenny Thompson	0484 676 124
Welfare Officer	Josephine McBride	0488 532 755
Membership Officer	Kevin Manie	0412 349 270
Past President	Margaret Timbs	0438 063 620
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	Shavarsh Bedrossian	0402 217 141
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

BANK: Acct No: 00902310 BSB: 062 182

Activities

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Meeting 10:00	2 Wine Appreciation The Heritage 15:00	3 Coffee - Sunroom	4	5
6	7 Golf Jim Macready	8 49 th Birthday Lunch	9	10 Coffee - Sunroom	11 Exotic Lunch TBA Shavarsh	12
13	14	15 Movies Sandy Mower TBA	16	17 Coffee - Sunroom	18 Good Friday Book Club Juliet Bishop	19
20	21 Easter Monday Golf Jim Macready TBA	22	23	24 Coffee - Sunroom	25 Anzac Day Art Group TBA	26
27	28	29	30 Western Sydney A/P Experience			

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Coffee - Sunroom	2	3
4	5 Golf TBA	6 General Meeting 10:00	7	8 Coffee - Sunroom	9 Scenic Lunch Shavarsh TBA	10
11	12	13	14	15 Coffee - Sunroom	16 Book Club Juliet Bishop	17
18	19 Golf TBA	20 Movies Sandy Mower TBA	21 Nan Tien Temple & Wollongong	22 Coffee - Sunroom	23 Art Group TBA	24
25	26	27	28	29 Coffee - Sunroom	30	31