



MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Information in this
Newsletter is for
Probus members only

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 6th January

General Meeting 10:00
The History of Rowing in
the Hunters Hill Area”

Thursdays
Coffee Morning
Sunroom Closed

Monday 5th January

Golf
Jim Macready

Friday 19th January

Golf
Jim Macready

Monday 23rd January
“Secrets of the City Circle”
City Walk
See Page 4
Barbara Banner

From the President

Dear Probus Members,

Sadly, I feel I must begin this Newsletter by acknowledging the recent trauma that occurred on Sunday 14th December at Bondi - at this time of National Pain we mourn the loss of life and remember the brave. We can rejoice in the strength within our country as helpers and help quickly came forward to support the Jewish community. Support will be required into the distant future to help mend the scars from this horrendous incident.

Another School Year has finished and the NSW Higher School Certificate Results of the highest scoring pupils have been published in the Press. However, I understand that an estimated 83,000 students in NSW did sit the 2025 exams and we must remember that success means many things to many people – some will top the score list and while others will have persevered and completed Year 12. I am sure there are some very proud Grandparents in our Probus Club now celebrating family achievements and results.

Congratulations must go to Barbara Banner and her team of helpers for the grand Christmas Lunch at the Deckhouse on 10 December. It is a wonderful venue and the Lunch was superb. I am sure Members will agree, it was a wonderful and happy event on which to finish our 2025 Activities.

Another piece of good news is that when we visit the local Fruit and Vegetable Shop, the summer’s stone fruit has arrived – apricots and peaches and nectarines, plus wonderful mangoes. And to add to this, it is the cherry season.

And remember, we have a very busy 2026 in front of us as we celebrate the 50th Year of Hunters Hill and District Probus - the first Probus in Australia. Our 50th Committee have worked so hard, co-ordinating what will be, an amazing celebration.

So, I conclude by passing on my Best Wishes for the New Year. May it be a happy and healthy year for each and every one of you,

Josephine

From the December Meeting



New member Felicity Gabrielli was inducted into our club.

A very warm welcome to you Felicity

Our special guest for morning tea was Anthony Roberts, our local State MP, Member for Lane Cove. He will be our host for Our 50th Birthday lunch at The Strangers Room, in NSW Parliament House.

He gave us a brief history of his background, spoke about his family and his career before mingling with our members and joining us in an informal morning tea.



1 months and 2 days

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 3rd February

General Meeting 10:00
 50th Birthday Morning Tea
 Several VIPs attending

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
 Sunroom 10:00

Monday 9th**Golf**

Jim Macready
 TBA

Friday 13th

Scenic/Exotic Lunch
 Club Ryde 13:00
 Shavarsh

Tuesday 17th

Movies
 Sandy Mower
 TBA

Friday 20th

Book Club
 Juliet Bishop

Monday 23rd

Golf
 Jim Macready
 TBA

Book Club



December being such a busy time, we read nothing and devoted our Friday meeting to a jolly Christmas lunch at "On Cowell" in Gladesville.

Our photo shows that we were all able to be present, although you can only see a tiny bit of Vickie's back, on my right.

As we did last year, for January there is no "set" book – we are each asked to read and review a book of our own choice.

Here follows a quick review of our readings in 2025. In March we reviewed *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, written by the renowned American author James McBride. Then followed Judi Dench's anecdotes collected as *Shakespeare: The Man who Pays the Rent*. In May we met to discuss *You Are Here* – a love story combined with an English countryside walk, written by David Nicholls. In June we turned to the celebrated Irish author Colm Tóibín for *Long Island*, set partly in New York but principally in Ireland.

It was appropriate that our first Australian novel for the year should be titled *Homecoming*, written by Kate Morton. Then came the rather lightweight *Good Material* by English Journalist Dolly Alderton.

In September we turned away from the novel for some British naval history, David Grann's *The Wager*, following up with an autobiographical memoir - *Always Home, Always Homesick* by Australian writer Hannah Kent. Finally, our November meeting discussed another Australian novel, Jane Caro's *Lyrebird*.



Bob Way

2025 Christmas Lunch

On Friday 10th December 70 of our members, yes 70 amazing, arrived at The Deckhouse, Woolwich to celebrate Christmas with a special lunch.

On arrival we were offered a drink, red/white wine bubbles beer or soft drink to kick off the event. Our room looked very seasonal with views across to the Harbour Bridge, thanks go to the Deckhouse for the table decorations. We provided the Bon Bons, not Christmas without them. I love the silly 'jokes' inside, how about you?

I think I can speak for everyone when I say the food was excellent and the staff very professional and obliging.

After our main course our hard working President Josephine gave a beautiful speech. She was quite correct. It is good to share a meal and celebrate the friendships that make our club so special.

As this year comes to a close, 2026 is going to hit us with a BANG.

Rest up over Christmas. You will all need to be in fine fettle for the upcoming year.

I wish you all and your families a very Happy and safe Christmas. Here is to 2026.



Barbara Banner

January 23rd, 2026

“Secrets of the City Circle”

A Walking Tour \$25.00 Approx 2.5 hours

- * Meet Central Station Platform 1 - entrance next to the booking office
- * Guide will be wearing Yellow hi-vis vest.
- * Comfy shoes for walking and standing.
- * You will need an OPAL card, debit or credit card to travel on the City Circle
- * Minimum 20. 14 so far
- * Lunch Central Station Cafe next to the light rail Grand Concourse (suggested by Tour “Chappy”)

Barbara Banner

February Scenic/Exotic Lunch

The next lunch is a combination of Scenic & Exotic, Friday 13th February - 1 pm at “**Club Ryde**”, 728 Victoria Road, enter via Cowell St, Ryde.

It is typical Club Menu, Western Dishes also Asian. They are changing their caterers in the new year, I intend to visit in a few weeks and obtain their new Menu to have it for our Feb meeting.

I already booked for 20 people, I hope there will be more. Being a Club, everyone can order their meal and pay for it.

Shavarsh

Editor’s Comments

Now we’ve moved into 2026 it’s time to think about nominating for a position on the club Management Committee.

Our AGM falls due on Tuesday March 3rd and our morning tea will have been and gone and our lunch at State Parliament House taking place on Friday March 20th. There are other events planned as you know and the 50th Anniversary sub-Committee will continue implementing those plans.

I encourage you to all to give it serious consideration to take an active part in the running of the Club.

I’m aware that Barbara Banner will not be nominating for the position of Activities Convenor next year, nor will Ashlyn. Both of whom have done a great job in giving us all the opportunity to participate in a variety activities. both single and multi-day outings. The 2025 program include an international trip to Samoa, which by all accounts was very successful. In addition, we had the three lunches, President’s, Birthday and Christmas.

I can’t imagine our club without interesting activities, can you?

If you have an interest in a role, feel free to speak with the present incumbent and find out more.

Just as a reminder, the Committee positions are:

- * President
- * Vice President
- * Secretary
- * Treasurer
- * Activities Convenor
- * Speakers
- * Membership
- * Newsletter Editor
- * Immediate Past President

Incidentakky, I was underwhelmed with the feedback to my comments about the Newsletter in the December issue.

Mike

Australian Inventions

There are many significant Australian inventions and ideas that have been adopted by the World.

Our speaker, Martin Kinsky, a retired corporate lawyer, clearly was looking for something to do and oddly this 'something' found him. He went to a local event and due to a non-arrival of a speaker someone stood up and spoke about inventions by Hungarians. This sparked Martin's quest to go digging for stories about Australian inventions and inventors. He researched extensively, taking hours, days and years (ask his wife) as very little had been published.

He unearthed a treasure trove of inventors and wanted "to represent dates, places and ideas", that is history, but categorically refused to talk about smashed avocado toast or vegemite (which by the way was invented in 1922 as a local alternative to British marmite).

The following is but a very small extract from Martin Kinsky's some 28 significant discoveries:

- * **Ice-making machine:** From mid-19th century ice was being shipped to Australia from the US and later Norway as a luxury, incurring enormous costs of importing ice and maintaining ice houses. In 1851 James Harrison put his first mechanical ice-making machine in operation, the device becoming a viable alternative for the remote Victoria colony. In 1854 his commercial ice-making machine followed and in 1855 a patent for an ether refrigeration system was granted. Now people could have regular deliveries by the iceman and ice chests became a fixture in many homes. Founder of Victorian Ice Works, James Harrison was often called "the father of refrigeration".
- * **An accidental apple:** Maria Ann Smith, a mother of eight, immigrated from England with her husband in 1839, purchased a small orchard in Eastwood and propagated an apple cultivar from a chance seedling. In 1890 she won a prize for the "Smith's Seedling" and in 1895 The Agriculture Dept. began to grow the trees and promote the green apple. Now known as 'Granny Smith', the apple has achieved popularity and fame – even featuring as part of US Apples Postcard set in 2013.
- * **Wine:** Dr. Thomas Angove immigrated from UK in 1886 and settled in the Tea Tree Gully area, Sth. Australia. He became a winemaker and developed a cardboard box to contain wine in a plastic bag with an inserted tap. Known as cask wine, it was also fondly dubbed as 'Chateau Cardboard'.

And, there is the Hills Hoist, not invented by Hill, the Victa lawn mower and the StumpJump plough to join the Pantheon...

Margaret Bowman

Probacchanalians



The Verdict WAG

Ah! The glories of Aussie Shiraz—blend it with what you like and it's still a shiraz, well except with a pinot (and Viognier —personal opinion!)

Our French friends would take umbrage at Shiraz Cabernet blend (eat your heart out Bordeaux) but it can be a mini Grange.

And so we continued with French Italian and European varietal blends, but by consensus the Jury voted the most favoured flavour as Grenache, Shiraz, Mataro, a ubiquitous GSM, the preferred blend of Chateauneuf de Pape.

Next year a new taste exploration as we venture into Sauterne styles and a mystery wine from my cellar with a prize for the champion
A very happy Christmas to Probians from WAG



in vino veritas

Richard Jones

Probus Music - January



This won't take long to read as there are no events by any of the orchestras, music clubs or other small ensembles in January. I guess they're all on holiday or preparing for February and March when there will be a number of concerts.

I'd like some feedback on what I offered in 2025, was it useful, was the format useful, accessible.? Are there any other kinds of music that you would like identified? Please let me know.

But there will be jazz in January.

But not much on the North Shore I'm afraid. The Freeway Hotel in Artarmon has jazz on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 2.00 to 5.00, with a different band each week. As well, on 14 January from 12.30 to 3.30 the Jive Bombers will be performing at there.

There are good gig guides at: www.sydneyjazzclub.org.au and www.sydneyjazz.com.

Graham Holland

<p>Probus Club of Hunters Hill & District Inc</p>	<p>Barbara's Thought for the Month</p>																																															
<p>PO BOX 1041</p>	<p>"Fear is that little dark room where negatives are developed."</p>																																															
	<p><i>Author: Michael Pritchard</i></p> <p>My wife asked me what I was going to do today. I told her, "Nothing".</p> 																																															
<p>January</p> <table> <tr> <td>Jill Regnis</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Margaret Timbs</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barbara Jago</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ian Adair</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Denise Drew</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robert Herzog</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Margaret Dick</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bambi Michael</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leon Wilson</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sarah Mannix</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </table>	Jill Regnis	2	Margaret Timbs	2	Barbara Jago	6	Ian Adair	6	Denise Drew	15	Robert Herzog	17	Margaret Dick	20	Bambi Michael	22	Leon Wilson	28	Sarah Mannix	30	<p>She said, "You did that yesterday". I said, "I wasn't finished".</p> <p>PROBUS CLUB OF HUNTERS HILL and DISTRICT PO BOX 1041 HUNTERS HILL 2110</p> <p>Committee</p> <table> <tr> <td>President</td> <td>Josephine McBride</td> <td>0488 532 755</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice President</td> <td>Dellane Stewart</td> <td>0405 557 345</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Ian Beasly</td> <td>0408 407 409</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Marilyn Johnson</td> <td>0427 668 182</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Activities Convenor</td> <td>Barbara Banner</td> <td>0405 427 259</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Speakers</td> <td>Jenny Thompson</td> <td>0484 676 1241</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership Officer</td> <td>Kevin Manie</td> <td>0412 349 270</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Past President</td> <td>Margaret Timbs</td> <td>0438 063 620</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newsletter Ed / Comms</td> <td>Mike Allum</td> <td>0417 596 300</td> </tr> </table> <p>(email: mike.allum@bigpond.com)</p>	President	Josephine McBride	0488 532 755	Vice President	Dellane Stewart	0405 557 345	Secretary	Ian Beasly	0408 407 409	Treasurer	Marilyn Johnson	0427 668 182	Activities Convenor	Barbara Banner	0405 427 259	Speakers	Jenny Thompson	0484 676 1241	Membership Officer	Kevin Manie	0412 349 270	Past President	Margaret Timbs	0438 063 620	Newsletter Ed / Comms	Mike Allum	0417 596 300
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<p>Editors Musings - Aging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Went shopping while hungry. Now I'm the proud owner of Aisle 6 * At my funeral, take the bouquet from my coffin and throw it into the crowd to see who is next * Retired: under new management. See spouse for details. * I don't have grey hair. I have wisdom highlights * Never laugh at your spouse's choices. You are one of them * I went line dancing last night. OK, it was a roadside breathalyser test. same thing. 	<p>Useful Contacts</p> <table> <tr> <td>Welfare</td> <td>Barabara Jago</td> <td>0418 119 632</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Book Club</td> <td>Juliet Bishop</td> <td>0431 627 834</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Group</td> <td>TBA</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exotic & Scenic Lunches</td> <td>Shavarsh Bedrossian</td> <td>0402 217 141</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Movies</td> <td>Sandy Mower</td> <td>0478 630 620</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Golf</td> <td>Jim Macready</td> <td>0411 216 480</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Music</td> <td>Graham Holland</td> <td>0416 232 507</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wine Appreciation</td> <td>Richard Jones</td> <td>ramjones@bigpond.net.au</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Honorary Auditor</td> <td>James Macready (member)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>WEBSITE: www.huntershillprobus.org BANK: Acct No: 00902310 BSB: 062 182</p>	Welfare	Barabara Jago	0418 119 632	Book Club	Juliet Bishop	0431 627 834	Art Group	TBA		Exotic & Scenic Lunches	Shavarsh Bedrossian	0402 217 141	Movies	Sandy Mower	0478 630 620	Golf	Jim Macready	0411 216 480	Music	Graham Holland	0416 232 507	Wine Appreciation	Richard Jones	ramjones@bigpond.net.au	Honorary Auditor	James Macready (member)																					
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Activities						
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January 2026						
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Years Day	2	3
4	5 Golf Jim Macready	6 General Meeting 10:00	7	8	9 No Exotic Lunch Shavarsh	10
11	12	13 No Movies	14	15	16 Book Club 14:00 Juliet Bishop Own Choice of Book	17
18	19 Golf Jim Macready	20	21	22	23 Secrets of the City Circle Walk See page 4	24
25	26 Australia Day	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
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1	2	3 General Meeting 10:00 50th Morning Tea Several Guests attending	4	5 Coffee - Sunroom	6	7
8	9 Golf Jim Macready	10	11	12 Coffee - Sunroom	13 Scenic Lunch Club Ryde 728 Victoria Road, Ryde Shavarsh	14
15	16	17 Movies Sandy Mower TBA	18	19 Coffee - Sunroom	20 Book Club Juliet Bishop	21
22	23 Golf Jim Macready	24 Valentine's Day			27	28