



3rd February 1976

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3rd February 2026

Happy Birthday to Us



MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Information in this Newsletter is for Proboscis members only

FOR YOUR DIARY

3rd February

50th Birthday

No General Meeting
Celebratory Morning tea
VIP Guests
Musical Entertainment

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
Sunroom

Wednesday 4th February

Wine Appreciation
The Heritage 15:00
See Page 7
Richard Jones

Monday 9th February

Golf
Jim Macready

Friday 13th February

Scenic Lunch
Club Ryde
See Page 4
Shavarsh

Tuesday 17th February

Movies
Sandy Mower
TBA

Friday 20th February

Book Club
14:00
The Heritage

Monday 23rd February

Golf
Jim McReady

Wednesday 24th, February

“Valentines Day”

From the President

Dear Fellow Probians,

I do hope Members have been enjoying the summer holiday season. However, with the recent heat waves, perhaps you are like the stars in the sky and only come out after dark! Or otherwise, it is off to the Air-Conditioned Shopping Centre!

And we have had some exciting news this week re the Hunters Hill 2026 Australia Day Awards.

Among those nominated by their peers, five Awards were presented to selected citizens, one being our esteemed Proboscis member, Rod Stewart.

As reported per local media:

Rod Stewart was deeply humbled to be named Hunters Hill Citizen of the Year for his long-standing service to the community. As President of the Hunters Hill Historical Society and a key-committee member of the RSL Sub-Branch, Rod has played a vital role in preserving local heritage, participating in Remembrance services, and supporting countless ex-service personnel. His generosity, resilience, and commitment have made a significant impact on Hunters Hill.

I am sure Members will join me in offering our Congratulations to Rod on his receipt of this community recognition.

And, once again, our organised outing on Friday 23rd January to “Explore the Secrets of our City Circle Rail System” highlighted the true spirit of Proboscis – the friendship, fellowship and fun, as our Guide made us aware of the City Circle Rail history and the hidden treasures at each Station.

I am sure you all can feel the excitement of our big 50th Birthday Celebration. My reckonings are that it has been a two-year plan – committees and sub-committees, interaction with Proboscis Australia, Guest Lists, Menus and even balloons!

As Members, we must be mindful of the work and preparation prior to the event and be supportive of the Organising Committee for their continued dedication and hard work behind the scenes. Your efforts to support and attend the celebrations will ensure that our celebrations will run smoothly and be enjoyable and engaging for everyone. Your commitment is truly appreciated.

Stay Cool, Calm and Collected and thus enjoy the Fun, Friendship and Fellowship that is the ideal of Proboscis Members.

Josephine

Membership Trivia

Since formation of the Club on February 3rd, 1976 until today, we have:

- * Had a total of 375 members
- * 188 Female, 53%, 177 Male 47%
- * Longest serving members Pat Cox and Vincie Wahlquist, both 30 years
- * Newest member Felicity Gabbriella, 2 months
- * Our current membership stands at 94
- * 61 Female 65%, 33 Male 36%
- * 6 vacancies

Mike

3 days

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 3rd March

General Meeting 10:00
 Followed by
2026 AGM

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
 Sunroom 10:00

Monday 9th March
Golf

Jim Macready
 TBA

Friday 13th March

Exotic Lunch
 Shavarsh
 TBA

Tuesday 17th March

Movies
 Sandy Mower
 TBA

Friday 20th March

50th Celebratory Luncheon
 Strangers Room
 NSW Government House
 12:00
 Our Host:
 Anthony Roberts MP

Friday 20th March

Book Club
 Juliet Bishop

Monday 23rd March

Golf
 Jim Macready
 TBA

Book Club



We began the New Year by welcoming Elizabeth Hamilton into our little group, thus bringing our number up to ten. This is our limit, being the maximum number of copies of each book supplied by the Lane Cove Library.

As usual, we did not focus on a common book over the summer holiday season. Instead, each of us paid our \$5 annual subscription and gave a brief summary of our reactions to whatever we had been reading.

Our devoted convenor Juliet mentioned several recent readings but focused her commentary on **Lola in the Mirror** by **Trent Dalton**, famous for *Boy Discovers Universe*. Again the background is the Brisbane underworld of the hopeless, the homeless and the criminal. The principal figure is an orphan girl who does not even know her own name yet has an ambition to develop her artwork. Juliet found this a gripping story with fully realized believable characters. "Maybe a little hard to get into at the start, but then a rollercoaster ride!".

Although Jenny declares herself no monarchist, she found a great deal to interest her in the life story of Princess Margaret as revealed in **Lady In Waiting** by **Anne Glenconner**.

Alison recommended actor **Bryan Brown's The Hidden**, a crime thriller set on the NSW North Coast. She was uncomfortable with "too many characters" but charmed by his command of the vernacular: "a nice turn of phrase".

Sandie reported very favourably on two novels - **What Happened to Nina?** by **Dervla McTiernan** (an engrossing mystery) and **Here One Moment** from **Liane Moriarty** (how people react to foreknowledge of their fate).

Richard was given **David Szalay's** 2025 Booker Prize winner **Flesh**, and hated the style, the coarse language and the story. Don't get him started on it!

In complete contrast, Margaret is now delving into Volume I of the collected **Letters of Queen Victoria** and finding them fascinating. She was very disappointed in **The Mushroom Tapes: Conversations on a Triple Murder Trial** put together by **Helen Garner, Chloe Hooper and Sarah Krasnostein**. On the other hand she found the rural romance **Milking Time** by Tasmania's **Rachael Treasure** to be joyous and uplifting.

Peter was spellbound by the brilliant **David Balducci's Nash Falls**, a thrill-a-minute tale of vengeance involving well-developed characters.

Carole is an aficionado of crime thrillers, and recommended **Legacy** - the eighth offering of former SBS and print journalist **Chris Hammer**.

I too love to relax with a good crime thriller, and one of my favorite exponents is **Michael Robotham**, who despite being Australian and living in Sydney, bases his characters and stories in the U.K. My happy choice was **Storm Child**, the fourth in the Cyrus Haven series introduced by his brilliant **Good Girl, Bad Girl**. This was light reading following my absorption by **journalist Nick Bryant's The Forever War: America's Unending Conflict With Itself**, in which I found a cogent analysis of the roots of that country's present malaise.

Bob Way

The History of Rowing – Ken Macrae

The History of rowing goes back to about 5000BC. Rowing was needed to transport goods and people across the water. It was also needed later when there was no wind to sail boats. Early Whalers used row boats to harpoon whales and then hung on until the whale was exhausted.

The first known “rowing” race was between Gondoliers. There were many informal races between boats ferrying goods and services, but the first recognised regatta was the Henly Royal Regatta held on Henly on Thames in England.



This regatta was held in 1820, it was for “professional” men only. It was raced over 6kms. A number of Australians competed in the Diamond Sculls Regatta (considered to be the world championship). The ones who won it were Edward Trickett, Henry Searle, George Towns and Stewart McKenzie who won it every year from 1957 to 1962. McKenzie was a bit of a larrikin.

Technology has changed racing rowing boats, in that the original boats were made of wood, then came fibreglass and now carbon fibre making them lighter therefore easier to row. The shape of the oars was also changed. There are various sizes and shapes, single and double sculls, tub 4s, 4s and 8s.



Ken has a long history with rowing at St Josephs College and explained the training routine for a rowing 8. This often starts before dawn. First, the stretches then into the boat and the coxswain starts the drills. They start by rowing using only their arms then arms and body then arms, body and legs. They also row only with 4 members then 6 then 8. They practise starts and then full races. They are encouraged to feel, hear and smell the boat. Once back at the shed the boat is hosed inside and out.

The first schoolgirl rowing in Sydney (Loreto Normanhurst) started from the “Joeys” shed in 1989 (helped by Ken).

They now have their own regattas against a growing number of other schools in NSW.

Jenny Thomson

February Scenic Lunch - Club Ryde

Just a gentle reminder.

The next Scenic lunch will be at “Club Ryde”, 728 Victoria Road, Ryde, on Friday 13th February at 13:00.

Our next meeting, 3rd February, will not be a “normally”, rather an occasion to celebrate our 50th birthday, therefore if you are interested in attending the **Scenic lunch** but are yet to register, please call or text me on: 0402 217 141 or E-mail me: ssbedrossian@hotmail.com.

These days we do not need to be members of Club Ryde of the club to enter, I have booked the balcony with a view for us, hopefully will be the only ones in the balcony.

The dishes are both; the usual Australian/European Club dishes, plus they have a selection of Asiatic dishes on the Black Board. I am told that We'll be able to select order and pay individually. Being a club, there is NO BYO.

They have a new caterer, I obtained their new menu, plus; a photo of the Black board, they also have daily special which one can choose on the day. I printed several menus that one can peruse or take it, printed also maps for those that are not familiar with the location and the point of entry of this club's site.

You need to come from the East/from city/Gladesville.

Club's Parking is somewhat limited; there are some free parking on Cowell Street just before entering club's parking lot. Car pooling is recommended.

Shavarsh

Secrets of the City Circle Walking Tour

On Friday the 23rd January, 30 of our members met at Platform 1. Central Railway Station. We were then taken on a guided walking tour through Sydney's City Circle railway stations that uncovered hidden stories, intriguing urban legends of the city's rail network.

Starting at Central we explored stops including Museum, St James, Circular Quay, Wynyard and Town Hall all while hearing about abandoned 'ghost' platforms, the dramatic 1917 Army Riot, wartime air-raid shelters, and visionary plans of engineer John Bradfield who helped shape Sydney's transport system.

The experience had historical insights and fascinating storytelling by Marc, our tour guide (excellent) and lasted about 2.5hrs.

I think we will all have a different perspective on our stations next time we travel underground.

Several of us had lunch at The Eternity restaurant at the station before our journey home.



Contrasting architecture, the old and the new.
The old Concourse and the Metro precinct.

Viewing old artefacts found
during the development work



An original set of escalators saved for posterity



Marc, our guide pointing out the "map" of the City Circle

Barbara Banner

Probus Music - February 2026



Below is a full list of what's on this month. Most ensembles are gearing up for March, so expect more next month. I've added two community theatre performances which might take your interest.

Sunday, February 8, 2.30 pm.

THE BACH AKADEMIE presents:

Bach's Motets

The only vocal works of Bach that remained in constant performance until the Bach revival of the early 19th century, the motet's themes of comfort, resurrection, and joy reflect their use in funerals and celebrations.

Featuring: Bach Akademie Australia

The Song Company

Iris Korfker, guest alto

Madeleine Easton, Artistic Director

Mosman Art Gallery, Full \$75/65, concession \$65/55.

Saturday, February 14, 7.00 pm, Sunday, February 15, 2.00 pm.

THE WILLOUGHBY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA presents:

Hollywood!

Experience showstopping numbers from classics like *Cabaret*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *The Wizard of Oz* alongside modern anthems like *Skyfall* from the thrilling James Bond film and *Let it Go* from the Disney phenomenon *Frozen*. Marvel at the power of a live orchestra in full flight as the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra brings to life music from *Star Wars*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *The Godfather* and much more.

At the Concourse Chatswood. Full \$88, concession \$78.

Sunday, February 19, 7.00 pm.

THE PHOENIX COLLECTIVE QUARTET presents:

Heart Strings

For their first concert of 2026, Phoenix Collective delve deeply into themes of love and romance. Written as a gift for his wife, cellist Alexander Borodin's tender String Quartet no 2, with its famous slow movement, remains the gold standard of Romantic chamber music.

By contrast, Australian superstar composer Ella Macens's hauntingly beautiful 'A Love Worth Fighting For' details an emotional response to a relationship break-up. Three Scandinavian traditional wedding tunes balance out the program, each one artfully representing different stages of married life.

Killara Uniting Church, Full \$55.

Sunday, February 22, 2.30 pm.

THE MOSMAN CONCERT SERIES presents:

Voices From The Vacant Lot

Renowned for its vibrant embrace of world music and folk genres, the Choir captivates audiences with a spirited selection of songs and choral works. This Aria nominated group celebrate unity and community through music, performing dynamic concerts for significant figures like Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Mosman Art Gallery, \$30.

THERE'S THEATRE AS WELL!

From February 20 to March 1, 7.30 pm.

THE LANE COVE THEATRE COMPANY presents:

Calendar Girls

Set in the rolling hills of Yorkshire, *Calendar Girls* tells the story of a group of ordinary women who, in the face of grief, decide to do something extraordinary. When Annie's husband John dies of leukaemia, she and best friend Chris resolve to raise money for a new settee in the local hospital waiting room. They manage to persuade four fellow Women's Institute members to pose nude with them for an "alternative" calendar.

At The Pottery Lane Performance Space, 1 Pottery Lane, Lane Cove.

Full, \$35, concession \$30.

Probus Music - February 2026 - contd

From January 16 to February 28,

THE GENESIAN THEATRE COMPANY presents:

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd by *Agatha Christie*.

Hercule Poirot is back on the case! He's out of retirement, using his little grey cells he must untangle a web of secrets, lies, and scandal surrounding the mysterious death of Roger Ackroyd.

St Joseph's Church Hall ,2B Gordon Street, Rozelle. Full \$38, concession \$33.

More info: www.genesiantheatre.com.au.

Easily accessible by the 506 and 501 buses.

Graham Holland

Probacchanalians



A News Bulletin from the Wine Appreciation Group

Dear Wine Appreciation Group and all Probians,

At our next meeting on Wednesday 4th February, 3pm in the Mary MacKillop room of the Heritage, our Pilgrimage will be to Sauternes and the Australian "Wannabees". The French and one Australian are higher priced, the rest are reasonably priced. Is the cost premium worth it? We will decide on the 4th!

There will be a competition. I have selected a special wine from my cellar (a gift to you) and five options. The winner will receive a special Jones wine (a gift to you) . If there is more than one winner the lucky member will be drawn from a box. If there is no winner , the prize will go to the first drawn from all in the box (it could be a tight squeeze!)

The wines we will be assessing are, in no particular order—

Peter Lehmann Botrytis Semillon
De Bortoli Vat 5 Botrytis Semillon
Hollick Coonawarra "The Nectar"
Cookoothama Botrytis Semillon
Lerida Est Botrytis Semillon
Chateau Filnot Sauternes

Epilogue

The WAG convenor (and adored assistant) are going on Sabbatical in 2026 and hope that all who have attended have enjoyed the last three years of vinous exploration . Like Macarthur "i will return" (hopefully) . I thank you all!

Adieu et a bientôt

Richard Jones

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

PO BOX 1041



February

Probus Club of Hunters Hill	3
Ada Radovan	5
Norbert Snashall	7
Ashlyn Allum	8
John Timmins	9
Alison O'Neill	16
Jim Macready	18
Dawn Saunders	19
Jan Griffiths	19
Juliet Bishop	19
Nancy Hattersley	23

Editors Musings - General

- * Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
- * Always borrow money from a pessimist. They won't expect it back
- * Some people cause happiness wherever they go. Others whenever they go.
- * You're never too old to learn something stupid.
- * Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- * Do you realize that in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?

Barbara's Thought for the Month

TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER IN LIFE.

"Take care of your thoughts when you are alone",
And
"Take care of your words when you are with people".

Unknown



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

Committee

President	Josephine McBride	0488 532 755
Vice President	Dellane Stewart	0405 557 345
Secretary	Ian Beasley	0418 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
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Useful Contacts

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Book Club	Juliet Bishop	0431 627 834
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
Art Group	TBA	
Honorary Auditor	James Macready (member)	

Activities

February 2026

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		+50th Morning Tea 10:00 VIP Guests Entertainment	Wine Appreciation Heritage 15:00 Richard Jones	Coffee - Sunroom		
8	9 Golf Jim Macready	10	11	12	Coffee - Sunroom Scenic Lunch Club Ryde 728 Victoria Road, Ryde Shavarsh	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>
15	16	17 Movies Sandy Mower TBA	18	19	Coffee - Sunroom Book Club Juliet Bishop	21
22	23 Golf Jim Macready	24	25	27 Coffee - Sunroom	27	28

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 General Meeting 10:00 AGM 11:00	4	5	6	7
8	9 Golf Jim Macready	10	11	12	13 Exotic Lunch Shavarsh TBA	14
15	16	17 Movies Sandy Mower TBA	18	19	20 50 th Luncheon NSW Parliament House 12:00	21
22	23 Golf Jim Macready	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				