



MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Information in this Newsletter is for Probos members only

FOR YOUR DIARY

3rd March

General Meeting
10:00
Followed by
Annual General Meeting

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
Sunroom

Monday 9th March

Golf
Jim Macready

Tuesday 17th March

Movies
Anne Juster
TBA

Friday 20th March

50th Luncheon
NSW Parliament House
Strangers Room
Host: Anthony Roberts
12:00

Monday 23rd March

Golf
Jim McReady

From the President

Dear Members of Hunters Hill Probos Club Inc,

I do hope you have all recovered from our big Party Day on Tuesday 3rd February - it was a great success. As you are all well aware, it was not just a celebration of the first meeting of Hunters Hill Probos fifty years ago - it was also recognising the first Probos Club Meeting in Australia! Thus, the Administrators and Staff from Probos Head Office joined us for the double celebration.

Heather Ewart, Probos Ambassador for the Probos 50th Anniversary Celebrations, whose remit is Australia Wide, chaired the morning's procedure. Heather was very gracious in her role of introducing the Guest Speakers.

The speakers included Michael Ransom, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Probos, Zac Miles, Mayor of Hunters Hill, John Howard OM AC our retired Local Member for Bennelong and Prime Minister of Australia for a little over eleven years.

And to brighten our Morning Tea even more, Probos South Pacific Ltd came with decorations, including balloons and chocolates and the Meeting Planning.

We must also recognise "the little surprise" initiated by Silvana Martignago, from PSPL, which was the personal medallions that were given to every member of our Club at the end of proceedings, commemorating Fifty Years of the First Probos Club in Australia.

Jerome Laxale, Member for Bennelong, was unable to attend our celebration due to a commitment in Federal Parliament. He did however, send us a message of Congratulations, per Internet, from Parliament House. Thank you, Mike Allum, for forwarding this email to our members.

I would like to acknowledge here, the work of our Organising Committee, chaired by Kevin Manie. Committee members being: Ashlyn Allum, Carole Clancy-O'Hehir, Sandy Mower and Diane Kelly, who worked tirelessly to achieve such a successful Birthday celebration, and sadly, before his health issues intervened, Charles Kent who did make significant contributions.

Without rest, this Committee is now concentrating on the final details for our Formal Lunch on Friday 20th March at the Strangers Dining Room, which will be hosted by Anthony Roberts, our Local State Member for the Lane Cove Electorate.

And of course, another highlight at our Birthday, was the distribution of the book, "Probos People 2026". Sandy Mower is to be congratulated on the results of her work, publishing this book within the time constraint. Thank you also to each Member who did contribute making this publication another way of getting to know our fellow members.

Happy reading, Members!

Josephine

59 Years, 11 Months, 6 Days to our 100th

Celebratory 50th Morning Tea

A Brief Summary of Events

The big moment finally arrived, 10:00 Tuesday 3rd February, 2026, 50 years to the day since the founding of the Probus Club of Hunters Hill and District.

In addition to a great turn out of members, a number of invited guests were in attendance.

- * 50th Anniversary Ambassador and our MC for the day, Heather Ewart
- * Speaker: Michael Ransom (Chair PSPL)
- * Speaker: Mayor of Hunters Hill - Zac Miles
- * Director Judith Maestracci AM
- * Director Nick Erby
- * Barbara Enright – representing Hunters Hill Rotary
- * Martin Kinsky, President Gladesville Probus

Graham Holland arranged for a string quartet to entertain us during the meet and greet time and morning tea. The quartet, “Sound Posts” are all members of the Amateur Chamber Music Society and were glad of the opportunity to perform for the occasion. They stayed on for the talks and presentations which they found interesting. We thank them for their performance on our special day.

With the arrival of our special guest, John Howard AM AC SSI, President Josephine called the meeting to order for the National Anthem, ably led by John Timmins. Josephine then introduced Heather Ewart,, our MC and handed the meeting over to her..

Heather’s first official duty was to read a letter from the Governor General. She then introduced our speakers. Official speeches and presentations then followed.

Our special guest, John Howard gave an interesting talk, and in particular referred to the observation that nowadays there seems to be a reluctance in people actually joining clubs. A sign of the times maybe. However, he went on to praise Hunters Hill Probus for it’s longevity, continuing to retain a healthy membership.

He finished his address with the presentation of a plaque “50 years of Probus in Australia presented to the Probus Club of Hunters Hill”

The official cake cutting followed together with numerous photo calls, a “thank you” from our President Josephine and the closure of the meeting.

Following the formalities, members were presented with their copy of “Probus People - 2026” and a personal memento from PSPL.

As you maybe are aware, P SPL took on the task of recording the event in both video and photos.

Subsequent to the morning tea, PSPL have provided me with some 278 photographs of the event taken at our event. Clearly, I am not about to publish them all but have included a handful in this Newsletter. However, with Bob Way’s valuable assistance, we hope to have a large selection uploaded for display at our March meeting..

Mike

Reminder

20th March - PARLIAMENT HOUSE - Luncheon



Please arrive no later the 12 noon and proceed to The Strangers Dining room.



The Program for the day will start at 12.30pm sharp, so please be seated at your allocated table by that time. I will have one of our members direct you and advise your table number.

Also be aware you will have to go through the security screening process which could take extra time, it’s at the entrance into Parliament House - 6 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

We have a wonderful day ahead of us.

Enjoy,

Ashlyn

Photos



“Sound Posts” - our musical entertainment during morning tea



Heather Ewart reading the Governor General's letter to the meeting



Michael Ransom - Chair PSPL



Zac Miles - Mayor of Hunters Hill



The Honourable John Howard



Josephine receiving the “50 Years of Probus” plaque

Photos



Finally Josephine with our hard working 50th Birthday Organising Committee:

Ashlyn Allum, Carole Clancy O'Heir, Sandy Mower, Kevin Mamie, Chair and Diane Keelly.
Special mention to Charles Kent who resigned from the Committee due to poor health.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 7th April

General Meeting
10:00
Speaker: Danika Armytage
"Life Stories"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
Sunroom 10:00

Monday 6th April

Golf
Jim Macready
TBA

Friday 10th April

Exotic Lunch
Shavarsh
TBA

Tuesday 21st April

Movies
Sandy Bredemeyer
TBA

Friday 24th April

Book Club
Juliet Bishop

Monday 20th April

Golf
Jim Macready
TBA

Book Club



In February we met to discuss our "book of the month", *Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghy. This award-winning and bestselling Australian author is known for her climate-driven and literary fiction novels, including *Migrations* and *Once There Were Wolves*. She was born in Darwin in 1988 and began writing at the age of fourteen. Already this is her seventeenth published novel. Charlotte lives in Sydney with her partner and two children.

Wild Dark Shore opens with a shipwreck: the badly injured sole survivor is Rowan who had persuaded a fisherman to transport her to remote Shearwater Island (think Macquarie Island) in the Southern Ocean. After their home in Australia was destroyed in a bushfire, her husband Hank had taken a job there with a team of scientists. Communications have been cut off, and Rowan is desperately responding to an earlier message from him that his life is in danger.

Rowan is nursed back to health by Dominic Salt and his three children. They are a dysfunctional family left to guard a vital global seed vault. As rising seas and violent storms close in, the scientists have been withdrawn. The family is evasive when attempting to explain why Hank has left without taking his papers.

The substance of the novel is the conflict between Rowan's developing affection for Dominic and his family and her need to find out the shocking truth of what has happened to Hank.

Our panel found this book an intriguing read, which cleverly weaves many aspects of climate change into a dark story of characters haunted by their personal histories. There was plenty to chew over in the decisions they take and their reasons for them.

Our next assignment plunges into an entirely different world. *Best of Friends* by Kamila Shamsie begins with three upper class schoolgirls in Karachi who are destined to develop their friendships in England.

Bob Way

Probacchanalians (The WAG Meeting)



At our last imbibing we slowly savoured the "stickies" - some were sweeter than others, indeed a little cloying but overall the "botrytis" Aussies (riesling and semillon) compared favourably with the Sauterne - a nice finale to my time as facilitator of the WAG.

John Timmins has kindly agreed to assume the role of Wine Appreciation Group chair and I know that his knowledge of wine and wine making will ensure a convivial and learning experience for us all

Sayonara,

Richard Jones

With Richard stepping down as Convenor of the WAG, he has asked me to take over from him and I have agreed to do so.

Our meetings will now be held at the same venue, The Heritage, Gladesville Road, Hunters Hill, at the same time: the first Wednesday of the month at 3:00 pm, but now every three months instead of every two.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, 6th May at the Heritage, 15:00.

We all appreciate the time, effort and expertise that Richard and Mikki have put into conducting the meetings and thank them very much. They will still attend the wine tastings.

Kind regards,

John Timmins

As Editor of our humble Newsletter I would like to add my appreciation for Richard's bi-monthly updates on the wine group activities, in particular the colourful prose he used to describe the various wines. Several times I resorted to searching the Web in order to better understand his comments.

Congratulations Richard on a job, more likely a passion well done.

Mike

Probus Music - March 2026



We're getting back into the swing of things with six concerts listed below. There are a couple of others which I've provided links to. The North Sydney Symphony Orchestra is performing, but it's at the Verbrugghen Hall at the Con - that's across the water which many have said is a bit difficult.

Please tell me if it isn't.

Monday March 2, 7.30 pm

THE KILLARA MUSIC CLUB presents:

The Hayes Street Collective - flute, cello and piano.

They will present a diverse range of musical voices including those of Ludwig van Beethoven and Fanny Mendelssohn. (See my note about this group below.)

At the Ravenswood School Auditorium. Full \$40.

Tuesday March 10, 7.30 pm.

THE LANE COVE MUSIC CLUB presents:

Gilbert and Sullivan - a comedy Opera world

Highlights and excerpts from the famous G&S comic operas - the Pirates of Penzance, HMS Pinafore, the Mikado, Patience, the Sorcerer, the Yeomen of the Guard - and other comedy opera gems!

At Lane Cove Mowbray Anglican Church, opposite the Canopy. Full \$30.

Friday March 13, 7.00 pm, Sunday March 15, 5.00 pm.

THE HAYES STREET STUDIO presents:

Schumann's Companion

Schumann, Piano Quartet Opus 47.

Andrew Norman, Companion Guide to Rome (2010)

Violin: Helena Rathbone (ACO).

Cello: Chris Pidcock.

Piano: Lee Dionne.

At 11 Hayes Street Neutral Bay. Full \$45, concession \$35.

This is real chamber music. I was at their last concert on 21 February with 23 other people in an elegantly refurbished former shop-front. Sitting in the front row, the cellist was a metre from me. A rare experience. And a glass of wine is included!

Saturday March 14, 7.30 pm, Sunday March 15 2.30 pm.

THE MOSMAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA presents:

Masterpieces

Beethoven; Coriolan Overture.

Beach; Symphony in E minor.

Bruch; Violin Concerto no 1.

At the Mosman Art Gallery, Full \$40, concession \$25.

Sunday March 15, 3.00 pm.

THE KU-RING-GAI PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA presents:

Handel, Mozart and Mahler

Handel; Royal Fireworks Suite.

Mozart; Piano concerto No 20.

Mahler; Symphony No 1 "Titan".

Handel's - a joyous and festive work comprising a rousing overture and dance movements. Mozart's - a brooding key of D minor conjuring up a stormy picture.

Mahler's - a large orchestra revealing a wide palette of tonal colours.

At the Concourse. Full \$60, Concession \$45.

Probus Music - March 2026 - contd

Sunday March 29, 2.30 pm.

HUNTERS HILL MUSIC presents:

One, Two, Three, Four, Five

A sonic journey with violinists Ike See (ACO) and Lerida Delbridge (SSO), violists Stephanie Farrands (ACO) and Justin Williams and cellist of the Chroma Quartet, Eliza Sdraulig. Unmask the individual sound world of each instrument with the music of Garth Knox, Martinu, Mozart and J.S. Bach. The program culminates with Dvorak's ebullient String Quintet Op. 97.

At Hunters Hill Town Hall. Full \$50. Including a glass (or two) of wine.

There is more: Wyvern Music: www.wyvernmc.weebly.com; Mozart Society: www.sydneymozartsociety.com.au; NSSO: www.nssso.org.au.

Graham Holland

February Scenic Lunch - Club Ryde

This was a very pleasant club luncheon, 19 of us enjoyed our get together in the balcony setting that I had booked, we had the entire space to ourselves as if it was a private function room.

Surprisingly, this club's new menu is very extensive with usual traditional club dishes, plus Asian specialties, what more, a good inexpensive 'Lunch Menu', which many took advantage of the selection offered.

The servings were well presented and generous, everyone enjoyed their lunch. Later, in a relaxed atmosphere of the privacy of the balcony, many stayed behind socialising with a cup of coffee, with dessert or with generous serving of ice-cream.

Here, I like to mention that, friendly Maria and her colleagues looked after all our needs always with a smile; both, at the food counter and at the bar. Therefore, without any hesitation, I would like to recommend patronage to this club to our Probus members.



Next Exotic Lunch

As we have the State Parliament lunch on 20th of March, I will not organise any lunch for next month.

Our April lunch is the turn of an exotic lunch; it will be another 'Share all affaire', details to follow.

Shavarsh

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

PO BOX 1041



March

Diane Kelly	1
Karl Romandi	1
Robyn Beckhaus	1
Vincie Wahlquist	1
Fay Likidis	6
Marilyn Johnson	8
Carole Clancy-O'Hehir	28
Margaret Stuart	28
Dean Letcher	31

Editors Musings - General

- * Old age makes us great multitaskers. Why, I can sneeze and pee at the same time!
- * Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind getting older, then it really doesn't matter.
- * I called the incontinence hotline recently. They asked if I could hold.
- * Don't let ageing get you down; it's too hard to get back up again.
- * At my age, the only pole dancing I do is while holding on to the safety bar in the bathtub.

Barbara's Thought for the Month

The Four Agreements

- ◆ Be impeccable with your word – speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid using the word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your word in the direction of truth and love
- ◆ Don't take anything personally. Nothing others do is because of you. What others say and do is a projection of their own reality, their own dream. When you are immune to the opinions and actions of others, you won't be the victim of needless suffering.
- ◆ Don't make assumptions – Find the courage to ask questions and to express what you really want. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness, and drama. With just this one agreement, you can completely transform your life.
- ◆ Always do your best - Your best is going to change from moment to moment; it will be different when you are healthy as opposed to sick. Under any circumstances, simply do your best, and you will avoid self-judgement, self abuse, and regret.

Author: Don Miguel Ruiz

**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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Newsletter Ed / Comms	Mike Allum	0417 596 300

(email: mike.allum@bigpond.com)

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	John Timmins	0412 944 722

Honorary Auditor TBA

WEBSITE: www.huntershillprobus.org

BANK: Acct No: 00902310

BSB: 062 182

Activities

March 2026

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		General Meeting 10:00 Followed by AGM		Coffee - Sunroom		
8	9 Golf Jim Macready	10	11	12 Coffee - Sunroom	13 No Exotic lunch	14
15	16	17 Movies Sandy Mower TBA	18	19 Coffee - Sunroom	20 NSW Parliament House Luncheon	21
22	23 Golf Jim Macready	24	25	26 Coffee - Sunroom	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Coffee - Sunroom	3	4
5	6 Golf Jim Macready	7 General Meeting 10:00	8	9 Coffee - Sunroom	10 Exotic Lunch Shavarsh TBA	11
12	13	14	15	16 Coffee - Sunroom	17 Book Club Juliet Bishop The Heritage	18
19	20 Golf Jim Macready	21 Movies Sandy Mower TBA	22	23 Coffee - Sunroom	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Coffee - Sunroom		