



MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Information in this
Newsletter is for
Probud members only

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 1st September

General Meeting
10:00
Speaker:
Susi Hamilton
Aus Conservancy

Thursdays
Coffee Morning
Sunroom 10:00

Wednesday 2nd Sept
Royal Botanic Gardens
See Page 3

Monday 7th September
Golf
TBA

Thursday 10th September
Newcastle, Morpeth/
Maitland Tour

Friday 11th September
No Exotic Lunch
See Page 2

Tuesday 15th September
Movies
Sandy Mower
TBA

Friday 18th September
Book Club
Juliet Bishop

Monday 21st September
Golf
TBA

From the President

**Afternoon Tea with Her Excellency the Honourable
Ms Sam Mostyn AC, the Governor-General of Australia**



In the afternoon, of Monday 10th August 2026, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, the Governor-General, hosted an afternoon tea for the Probud Clubs' Fifty Years in Australia, and Hunters Hill Probud Club being the first Club, at Admiralty House, Sydney.

Myself, Vice President Dellane Stewart, Kevin Manie and Carole Clancy-O'Hehir, who have steered our 50th Anniversary Committee, were invited to attend and represent our Probud Club. We shared the afternoon with Probud Executives from each Australian State plus New Zealand, who were gathered in Sydney for their AGM.

Her Excellency spoke enthusiastically about the ideals of Probud and its place in our society, providing a network for retirees to find Friendship and Fellowship and Activities, after our years in the workplace. She explained that she knew a lot about Probud as her father has been a very active member of Probud for many years in Canberra.

August 2026, to my mind, has been a busy month. Yes, we have all filled out our Census Forms. Mine, just before bedtime when I remembered I had yet to go online and complete it! I did think it a shame that there was no mention of Probud.

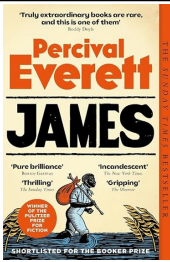
And wasn't our day travelling the Postman's Run on the Hawkesbury River a great day? Congratulations to Lex Lees on her fine organising. The weather was overcast, but it did not stop our enthusiasm. We shared the space with another Retirement Group, but there was plenty of room to move about and I enjoyed many conversations throughout the day.

We were treated to a light salad lunch and the Bar was open for those who chose a glass of wine.

As a welcome to Spring, Lex has booked us a Tour of the Botanical Gardens at 10.30am on Wednesday 2nd September. The Gardens are always a joy to visit. And in my little garden the Magnolia has just finished a magnificent show of blossom and now covered in leaf, and I am very proud of my show of daffodils. And to top off this work, I have just planted some tomatoes and lettuce, maybe I will have some to share at Probud in due time.

We have experienced a very cold winter and maybe that is why a number of our members have enjoyed time out with recent travels, some overseas, some local. Maybe they will have some stories to share with us.

Josephine

FOR YOUR DIARY	Book Club
Tuesday 6th October General Meeting 10:00 Speaker: Estate Planning ***** Thursdays Coffee Morning Sunroom 10:00 ***** Monday 5th October Golf TBA ***** Friday 9th October No Exotic Lunch ***** Tuesday 13th October Griffith Tour ***** Monday 19th October Golf TBA ***** Tuesday 20th October Movies Sandy Mower TBA ***** Friday 23rd October Annual Sausage Sizzle Kokoda Trail Bob Way ***** Friday 30th October Book Club Juliet Bishop Deferred due Griffith Tour ***** Zig Zag Railway TBA	 About 140 years ago many readers were entranced by the humorous but dramatic stories of Samuel Clemens (writing as Mark Twain). Skip forward 70 years or so, and many of our own generation were equally captivated. <i>James</i> is a modern retelling of <i>Tom Sawyer</i>'s sequel, <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>. It won the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for prolific American author and academic Percival Everett. The original was narrated in Huck's own voice. it told of his journey and friendship with the escaped slave Jim, down the Mississippi by raft and canoe. Huck himself was escaping from his drunken and tyrannous father. The story itself took place just before the American Civil War. Author Everett allows himself to put his own perspective on the social order of the times by telling the slave's version of the story. To achieve this he supposes Jim to be a well-read man who perceives himself as "James", and writes in an educated style. Whenever in the presence of anyone but his own wife and daughter, James acts the ignorant slave, using stereotypical "nigger" language if at all. His preferred and safest strategy is to go unnoticed. This device adds some very funny moments to what essentially is a tale of hardship and brutality. Beatings, lynchings and betrayals are never far below the surface. In a substantial section of the original Huck and Jim are separated. This gives Everett the opportunity to add his own adventures for James, introducing material that highlights the particular plight of female slaves. From a Book Club perspective, this was a gripping and pacy yarn with plenty to think about. For example, there is a perplexing scene involving a troupe of Black and White Minstrels, but two of them are actually black men, pretending to be white men, putting on blackface. What does that say about attitudes that survived within our own living memories? What next? We have <i>Flesh</i> - winner of the 2025 Booker Prize for Canadian-born British author David Szalay. Already knowing that Richard hated it, we are doing our best to suspend judgement. Bob Way
	Shavarsh Lunches Please see the message below from Shavarsh. <i>"Please take note that as I will not be available, there will not be a lunch on the second Friday next month - 11th of September. Furthermore, no lunch in October to encourage members to attend and participate Annual BBQ sausage sizzle lunch at Dakota track 23rd of October. Our next Scenic lunch will be on 13th of November - Details to follow in due course."</i> Given all the hard work Shavarsh puts into his lunches, he deserves a break but only for two months. Mike

Riverboat Postman 20th August

Blessed by warm sunny weather, we enthusiastically boarded the Riverboat Postman at Brooklyn for our cruise on the Hawkesbury River.

We relaxed at our allocated tables and enjoyed a morning tea or coffee, and a deliciously crunchy Anzac biscuit.

Our first stop was Dangar Island and by then many of us had taken advantage of the warm conditions to view the scenery and river life from either the front or the upstairs deck.

As we headed further upriver past the settlements of Bar Point and Marlow Creek we sat down to a fresh and tasty Ploughman's lunch which many of us paired with a glass of wine, followed by a second coffee and a chocolate.

We were all agreed that it had been a very scenic and relaxing morning out.



Reminder: September 2nd Royal Botanic Gardens Spring Tour

Payment has now closed for our RBG tour. I have 14 that have paid. :

The tour will start at 10.30am sharp just inside the Woolloomooloo gate. This gate is at the top of the Gardens on Mrs Macquarie's Rd (just a little past the Art Gallery).

Please arrive there by 10.20. We will finish at 12 noon in the lower garden, at which time anyone interested can have lunch or coffee (own expense) at either the gardens kiosk or the Calyx café.

THE COMING MONTHS....

I will be away during October, and many members will be busy participating in the multi day trip to Griffith.

There is a casual day out in November planned- details coming soon.

PROBUS MUSIC AUGUST 2026



I had a chat recently with Josephine and Dellane to come up with ideas for making the music program more accessible, easier to use and to encourage people to get together and go to what's on offer.

This month focusses on one event **MUSICA VIVA: MORNING MASTERS**, details below.

I will also be starting a WhatsApp group to make it easier for people to get together to go to something or to tell the group about something they have seen and can recommend or chat!

To maximise your choice, I also list websites of organisations which have something on in September.

Wednesday September 30 11.00 am

MUSICA VIVA presents:

Morning Masters: Trio Histoire

First there was Duo Histoire, Nick Russoniello and Murilo Tanouye's engaging saxophone and guitar ensemble. Then violinist Julia Russoniello joined them, *et voilà*, Trio Histoire. Enjoy an eclectic selection of music new, old and utterly entertaining.

Program

Rudy Wiedoeft *Sax-O-Phun*

Celso Machado *Musiques Populaires Brésiliennes*

Jacques Ibert *Entr'acte*

Barry Cockcroft *Rock Me!*

Felicity Wilcox *Tambourin*

Nick Russoniello *Werri Dance li*

At the Concourse, Chatswood. Full \$53.

Book via: www.musicaviva.com.au suggest booking early, particularly if a group is going.

Arrive early to sample the free delicious cakes and coffee!! Why not get together for lunch after the concert? I suggest (and recommend) "SMOQUE BRASSERIE" at the Concourse. www.smoque.com.au. Wednesday special \$39. Reserve on line or call 8021 0225.

For other September options see:

www.nssso.org.au; www.willoughbysymphony.com.au; www.kpo.org.au; www.mosmanorchestra.org.au;
www.rosevillemusicclub.com.au; www.musicaviva.com.au; www.sydneymozartsociety.com.au;
www.acms-australia.org.au; www.willoughbytheatreco.com.au; www.thebeecroftorchestra.net.au.

Graham Holland

Artificial Intelligence for Seniors

AI has 4 types: Narrow AI, b) Artificial General Intelligence (logic and reasoning, c) Artificial Future Intelligence (quantum computers) and Self Aware AI.

AI started in the 1950 with logic theorems (Eliza). 1969 It helped put man on the moon. 1997 IBM was formed and 2010 we saw Siri (voice recognition).

AI is used today in many ways; Google maps, Alexa, Search engines, banking online and shopping sites.

AI improves our lives by; getting answers on a wide range of topics, books, music, summaries of documents, how to (DIY and tasks), recipes, brain storming problems, education queries, storytelling, photo ID, location searches, reverse location searches, write speeches, travel planning, restore photos, technical help 24/7, scam watch, learn to play songs, financial and wealth management and entertainment and fun.

Be Aware; AI can hallucinate, (answers don't make sense), can be racist or biased lie or make up answers (always fact check) and never ever share personal information.

Will AI see jobs lost? There will be about 92 million jobs lost but 170 million jobs will be created.

AI won't take jobs but someone using AI may.

Is AI a threat to mankind? It could be and we have to learn to live with it.

AI also benefits mankind in Healthcare (diagnosing and analysing symptoms and AI scripts). In Education it can personalise learning, used in Fire Fighting, Shark Detection, Agriculture and Self Drive Vehicles.

Jenny Thomson

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

PO BOX 1041



September

Tony Saunders	4
Pat Cox	5
Giovina Scocco	7
Kylie Stolk	9
Robert Drew	18
Catherine Higgs	25
Mike Regnis	25

Editors Musings - Ageing

- * Being an adult is just walking around wondering what you're forgetting.
- * My kids are at an age now where they are beginning to understand embarrassment. This is my time to shine.
- * I always wanted to marry an Archaeologist. The older I would get, the more interested she would become!
- * Now that I'm older, I realize that my imaginary friend was really nothing more than an imaginary acquaintance.
- * I'm ageing like a fine banana.

Barbara's Thought for the Month

Time is not measured by the years that we live, but by the deeds that we do and the joys that we give

Author: Helen Steiner Rice

How Cool is This?

$$\frac{0}{1^{\circ}} = \text{One degree below zero}$$

No hands went up last month! so how about this one

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**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	Ashlyn Allum	0418 964 773
Speakers	Jenny Thompson	0484 676 124
Membership Officer	Kevin Manie	0412 349 270
General	Sandie Bredemeyer	0417 210 038
Past President	Margaret Timbs	0438 063 620
Newsletter Ed / Comms	Mike Allum (email: mike.allum@bigpond.com)	0417 596 300

Useful Contacts

Welfare	Barabara Jago	0418 119 632
Book Club	Juliet Bishop	0431 627 834
Exotic & Scenic Lunches	Shavarsh Bedrossian	0402 217 141
Movies	Sandy Mower	0478 630 620
Day trip/Outings	Lex Lees	0402 975 030
Golf	Jim Macready	0411 216 480
Music	Graham Holland	0416 232 507
Wine Appreciation	John Timmins	0412 944 722
Formal Lunches	Anne Day	0405 281 672
Honorary Auditor	TBA	

Activities

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 General Meeting 10:00 Speaker: Susi Hamilton Australian Conservancy	2 Royal Botanic Gardens	3 Coffee - Sunroom	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Coffee - Sunroom Newcastle/Morpeth	11	12
13	14 Golf	15 Movies Sandy Mower	16	17 Coffee - Sunroom	18 Book Club Juliet Bishop The Heritage	19
20	21	22	23	24 Coffee - Sunroom	25	26
27	28 Golf	29	30			

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 General Meeting 10:00	7	8 Coffee - Sunroom	9 No Exotic Lunch	10
11	12 Golf	13 Griffith Tour	14	15 Coffee - Sunroom	16	17
18	19	20 Movies Sandy Mower	21	22 Coffee - Sunroom	23 12:00 Sausage Sizzle Kokoda Track	24
25	26 Golf	27	28	29	30 Book Club Juliet Bishop Venue TBA	31