



## MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Information in this  
Newsletter is for  
Probos members only

### FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Tuesday 6th October

General Meeting  
10:00  
Speaker:  
Palisha Manandhar  
Estate Law  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### Thursdays

Coffee Morning  
Sunroom 10:00  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### Friday 9th October

No Exotic Lunch  
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#### Monday 12th October Golf

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#### Tuesday 13th October

Griffith Tour  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### Tuesday 20th October

Movies  
Sandy Mower  
TBA  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### Friday 23rd October Annual Sausage Sizzle

Kokoda Trail  
Bob Way  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### Monday 26th October

Golf  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### Friday 30th October

Book Club  
Juliet Bishop  
\*\*\*\*\*

### From the President

Dear Probos Members

It is October and time to celebrate Probos Month.  
Firstly, I would like to share with you, a message sent from our Probos Administration re Probos Month:

#### What is Probos Month

*Our Community celebrated the inaugural Probos Day on 1 October 2020 – in line with the United Nations Day of Older Persons, which is recognised worldwide. In 2021 and 2022, Australia and New Zealand celebrations of Probos Day grew, with our communities and media recognising the important role Probos serves.*

*Probos Clubs held a wide range of special events to showcase and rejoice everything their Clubs mean to them. Monthly meetings became a festival of blue and gold, Probos Clubs took to their local parks, stadiums and public spaces for the jubilee. Landmarks across Australia and New Zealand were lit-up in Probos colours of blue and yellow and it has become clear that one day a year is just not enough to celebrate all that Probos does. .*

*Probos Month gives us an opportunity to celebrate what Probos is all about, it also creates awareness of Probos within the wider community.*

And yes, Hunters Hill Probos is indeed celebrating Probos Month in October. Many of us are booked and looking forward to, the Six Day Coach Tour to the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, with accommodation in Griffith. I am sure Members will agree that such an activity is a wonderful way to promote the Friendship and Fun of Probos and we thank Ashlyn and her Team for their work in co-ordinating this activity.

And also, we will be celebrating Probos Month with more Fun and Friendship at our Annual Barbecue on Friday 23 October at the Kokoda Trail Park at Concord. This is the day we have our Annual Sausage Sizzle. It is a lovely bushland setting, the barbecue area has a protective roof, be it from hot sun or rain, plus a walkway along the river if you fancy exercise. If you require transport, do ask.

On another happy note, I would like to mention that Caye Higgs has been celebrating a significant Birthday this past week – I am sure Members will join with me in wishing Caye health, happiness and love as she celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Happy Birthday, Caye.

And of course, on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October, we put our clocks forward one hour so that we can enjoy more daylight and longer summer evenings!

Josephine

### From the September Meeting



Meet our latest inductee, Rosalie Bittar.

Rosalie, a very warm welcome to you.

**FOR YOUR DIARY****Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

(Due Melbourne Cup)

General Meeting

10:00

Judith Dunne

Past Time Tours

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**Thursdays**

Coffee Morning

Sunroom 10:00

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**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November****Golf**

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**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Wine Appreciation

The Heritage

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**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

Scenic Lunch Royal Sydney

Yacht Squadron

Shavarsh

See Page 6

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**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

Movies

Sandy Mower

TBA

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**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November****Book Club**

Juliet Bishop

\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November****Golf**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November****Waratah****Heritage Cruise**

Kevin

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**2027****Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February****2027**

Zig Zag Railway

See Page X

**Book Club**

This novel is the sixth work of fiction from David Szalay. Born in Canada, he grew up in London and now lives in Vienna. We all found it quite remarkable that *Flesh* won the 2025 Booker Prize, and concluded that the judging criteria must be far removed from what any of us appreciate in a novel.

*Flesh* introduces us to István when he is fifteen years old and living with his mother in an apartment in Hungary. He is being groomed and sexually exploited by a too-neighbourly married woman. This leads him to commit manslaughter, and then his life spirals out of control.

The consequences of this early trauma are evident as we follow episodes from István's subsequent life in Hungary, Afghanistan and London: in prison, in the army, as a nightclub bouncer, as a chauffeur, as the lover of his employer's wife and then as her wealthy husband, as a stepfather and father, and finally as a widower.

All of these stages of a fairly unremarkable life are recounted using very sparse language and relying on trivia to add uninteresting flashes of detail. And rather too much of the banal detail lies in explicit description of sexual experiences.

Suffice to say not one of us found the novel in the least engaging. None of the characters were likeable or able to express or demonstrate emotion. For all that, we held a lively discussion around some of the social attitudes touched on in the novel, and enjoyed our afternoon tea.

Our October assignment is Trent Dalton's second novel, *All Our Shimmering Skies*. This was published in 2020, two years after his extraordinary debut with *Boy Swallows Universe*.

**Bob Way****Wine Appreciation**

Our August Wine Appreciation Group tasting celebrated Australian Shiraz from different regions across the country. 'The more things change (terroir), the more they stay the same (Shiraz grape flavours)! In other words, while there were regional descriptor differences, the basic Shiraz flavours showed through, to the enjoyment of all the tasters, demonstrating while Shiraz remains Australia's favourite grape variety.

The next Wine Appreciation meeting will be on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November (following our Probus meeting on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup>), 3:00 pm at The Heritage, 35 Gladesville Road, Hunters Hill.

We explore wines of unusual grape varieties from a variety of countries. We will taste six wines, three whites and three reds, from unusual grape varieties that you may not have experienced before.

You may have eaten Pecorino cheese before but have you drunk Pecorino wine?

No, don't worry, it's not from fermented sheep milk!

Glasses, cheese and biscuits supplied.

**John Timmins**

## Tour of the Royal Botanic Gardens

Thirteen of us met on a warm Spring morning to be guided through our beautiful harbourside gardens by our very knowledgeable and entertaining guide, Lynne.

With a focus on the historical aspect of the RBG, which are the oldest botanic gardens in Australia, we saw some of the oldest plants in the gardens and learnt of the ingenious co-dependence of some of our native plants and insects.

We enjoyed an unusually warm blue sky day, and finished the morning off with lunch at the gardens café.

Hopefully in 2027 we can return for a guided tour of the glass houses, which are not normally open to the public.



\*\*\*\* NOTE \*\*\*\*

**ZIG ZAG Railway and LEURA**  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2027

Join us for a full day by coach to the mountains, enjoying a 45 minute ride on the Zig Zag railway, restaurant lunch in Leura with some free time for browsing, and return coach transport from Sporties Gladesville.

COST: \$137 per person

*Lex*

## Morpeth, Maitland & Dungog Trip

I'm very pleased to report and give you a bit of insight into our 2 day, 1 night trip away.

We made our own way to Epping station meeting up with the rest of our group. We all managed to be seated in the same upstairs carriage for the journey to Newcastle Interchange. On arrival we had the obligatory coffee stop before meeting up with lovely Keira and Nathan from Newy Tours. Once boarded in one of two respective comfortable 10 seat mini buses, we took off on an informative drive around Newcastle Harbour and given interesting information about the city.

Our next stop was at the Commercial Hotel, Morpeth where we all enjoyed a delicious lunch. Afterwards a guided Heritage stroll around Morpeth which is one of Australia's oldest towns. Some free time allowed us to explore the town and enjoy the sights, the Gourmet Pantry and the Antique Emporium.

We then started on our journey to Maitland enjoying beautiful country roads, taking in that amazing happy feeling of being in a group of people enjoying just being together.

Our overnight stay was at "The Punthill", contemporary apartments which were fresh and quite new. After relaxing and settling into our rooms we all met up in the lobby for a short stroll to our dinner at an Italian restaurant. Our full and interesting day finished and I hope for everyone an enjoyable one.

Next morning our first port of call was Dungog made famous by Doug Walters cricketer extraordinaire. We stopped at The Trading Post, an old-world charming cafe right in the main street where we enjoyed a street side long table breakfast. The staff were such lovely country folk. They even came out of the kitchen to wave us all goodbye.

Keira and Nathan then took us on another guided tour of this town. Highlight being the James Theatre - Australia's oldest continuously operating cinema (1912). Just our lucky day the cinema was hosting the town's Dungog Tea Party, where a spectacular showcase of over 250 tea cosy and trivet entries awaits us, along with artwork created by local school students displayed at the IGA and larger works exhibited at the theatre.

Next stop, and my favourite, was a 3 hour guided experience to Tocal Homestead. This visit started with the most informative insight into the characters and activities in Tocal's 200 year history. We had a presentation in the garden by a staff member who had lots of interesting stories to tell. Also a visit into the homestead itself and surrounding out buildings. We then had a traditional farmer's baked dinner in the College Dining Hall which is also part of the Tocal.

Time to go home !! Only one more hours travel to Newcastle Interchange for our journey back to Sydney.

What a pleasure it was to join in on such an adventure. It's such a great way to spend time with our Probus family. I will always remember how well we were treated by Keira and Nathan. What a fabulous young and happy couple you could ever wish to meet. From start to finish they looked after all our needs with care. Never did they rush us and regularly enquired if everything was good and we were comfortable.

I hope to organise another short trip with them again soon.

The only downside of the trip was Ian and Barbara Beasley's early exit on the Friday due to a health issue.

*Ashlyn*



Lunch in Morpeth



Breakfast Dungog

Morpeth, Maitland & Dungog Trip - cont



James Theatre - Australia's oldest continuously operating cinema.  
Home of the "Tea Cosey" exhibition that weekend



Local hero Doug Walters



All smiles



Trevor ignoring the Tea Coseys



A Happy Crowd

### November Scenic Lunch

**ROYAL SYDNEY SQUADRON CLUB  
33 PEEL STREET – KIRRIBILLI Tel 9955 7171  
1:00 PM FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2026**

Due to Melbourne Cup Day on the first Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, our November meeting has been moved to the 10<sup>th</sup>. Our next Scenic lunch is scheduled for Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> November.

So, if you are interested in attending, please come and register with me at our October meeting. during the coffee break so I have an idea of numbers to book a table, and for Tony to notify the Club!

We will finalise and confirm the numbers on 10<sup>th</sup> of November.

It is a classy club, dress code is casual smart. To enter the club, you need a valid ID card, such as drivers Licence. They have a typical Club menu and daily specials, you will order your dish at the counter and pay individually.

To enter the carpark, at the boom gate you need to call the reception and tell the receptionist that you are Tony Saunder's guest. Otherwise you need to find street parking hence carpooling is always recommended.

Cheers,

**Shavarsh**

### Australian Wildlife Conservancy

Australian Wildlife Conservancy was founded in response to Australia's mammal extinction crisis. Over a third of the world's mammal extinctions in the last 400 years have occurred in Australia, and Australia has already lost 31 species of mammal. Many of these extinctions could have been prevented with effective conservation measures in place.

Australian Wildlife Conservancy operates under a unique model for conservation, using science (predominantly biodiversity survey work and targeted research) to inform on-the-ground land management, such as control of fire, feral animals, and weeds. There is a strong focus on wildlife conservation: consequently, about 80% of all staff are based in the field and, as of 2021, 83.5% of AWC's total expenditure is invested in conservation programs.

Susi Hamilton is the Philanthropic Manager of Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) and has been for 3 years after also being a donor for the last 15 years. Her journey into conservation began with the Franklin Dam protests and her love of plants and animals.

In Australia since colonisation 100 plant and animals have become extinct, and since 1960, 47 more mammals have followed. There are three main reasons, introduced predators (cats, foxes and pigs), destruction of habitat (land clearing) and climate change.

Half of global activities depend on Nature e.g. drinking water, timber from forests, oil, gas and air.

AWC was started by Martin Copley 35 years ago. His mission was to conserve wildlife by rewilding areas. He did this by buying land and protecting it with fences. There are now 10 properties owned by AWC and a further 7 properties in partnership with their owners. They help property owners with fire management, elimination of feral animals, weed control and degradation of land caused by hard hooved animals.

The special fencing costs \$85000 per kilometre to install and is inspected 3 times a week for damage. This is funded by public donations. Once the fences are erected feral animals and weeds are eliminated and suitable native animals are reintroduced to the area.

Bullo Station in N.T. is an example of restoration of wetlands. 85% of bullo is conservation area and 15% is used for cattle now. Other participants are North Australian Pastoral Comp. and the Dept. Of Defence's training ground at Yampi Sound.

AWC also carries out genetic testing of animals in conservation areas. It also gives employment to first nations people using their knowledge in fire management and their country.

**Jenny Thomson**

## Probus Music October 2026



It wasn't too difficult to choose a concert to recommend, as there is little on this month.

As you will see, the recommended concert is at Shore school in North Sydney. I don't know much about eateries in that area, except there's some nice ones down on Blues Point Road and The Old Commodore Hotel, also on Blues Point Road, has recently been refurbished.

As usual, there's a list of websites guiding you to what else is on.

**Friday October 9, 7.30 pm, Saturday October 10, 1.30 pm, 7.30 pm, Sunday October 11, 1.30 pm.**  
**GILBERT AND SULLIVAN OPERA SYDNEY** presents: **Trial by Jury**

Gilbert and Sullivan's second opera, *Trial by Jury*, serves up a cheeky one -act operetta that pokes fun at the British legal system like no courtroom ever has. When Angelina sues her ex -fiancé Edwin for ditching her at the altar, chaos ensues with eccentric judges, fickle jurors and a trial that's more farce than fact. Expect witty tunes, sharp satire and an hilarious verdict.

### **The Savoyards**

*Not Another G&S* is a clever pastiche that weaves together the beloved music of Sullivan and Gilbert's vibrant characters from 10 of the 14 classic Gilbert and Sullivan operas. It offers a playful homage infused with sharp satire and an irresistible new storyline.

At the Smith Auditorium, Shore School, North Sydney.

Full \$58, Concession, \$50. Book via the web site: [www.gsosydney.com.au](http://www.gsosydney.com.au).

For other events see: [www.killaramusicclub.com.au](http://www.killaramusicclub.com.au); [www.lanecovemusic.org.au](http://www.lanecovemusic.org.au); [www.huntershillmusic.com.au](http://www.huntershillmusic.com.au); [www.sydneymozartsociety.com.au](http://www.sydneymozartsociety.com.au); [www.musicaviva.com.au](http://www.musicaviva.com.au).

*Graham Holland*

## 50<sup>th</sup> Twilight Cruise



Our last 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration activity will be a harbour cruise on the steam tug, Waratah, on Friday evening, 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Waratah is a coal-fired tug and was built at Cockatoo Island, Sydney. She was launched on the 21st May 1902. She is the oldest tug in working order in Australia. Today she is sailing with the Sydney Heritage Fleet. After a subsequent five-year restoration program by Sydney Heritage Fleet volunteers, she is now, once again, fully operational and regularly takes passengers on trips around Sydney Harbour. For those steam enthusiasts, Waratah is powered by a two cylinder, compound steam engine which generates 275 horse power (205kW). Passengers will be able watch the engine turn and talk to the engineers.

Our twilight cruise will depart Woolwich pier at 5 PM, returning at 7:30 PM.

Thee cost of the voyage will be \$120 per person including food and drinks.

At our October meeting, names of those wishing to sail on Waratah will be taken. The ship can only take 40 Club members so, early registration is recommended.

If the cruise is oversubscribed a ballot will be necessary.

Payment must be finalised on, or before, our November meeting.

*Kevin*

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

PO BOX 1041



**Barbara's Thought for the Month**

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that you reach in life,  
as by the obstacles you overcome while trying to succeed.

*Author: Booker Washington*

**Has anyone tried the first Two?**

= One degree below: Q  
1°

=H

A = Hard up

R

D

Last Chance: **Disembark 12 inches (incorrect)**

**October**

Kalev Wilding 7

Graham Holland 16

Anne Day 17

Leslie Pike 17

Barbara Gardener 23

**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<br>(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                 |              |

**Editors Musings - Ageing**

- \* Being an aged 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.

Activities

October 2026

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

November 2026

| Sun | Mon        | Tue                                               | Wed                                     | Thu                    | Fri                                                  | Sat |
|-----|------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1   | 2          | 3<br>Melbourne Cup                                | 4                                       | 5<br>Coffee - Sunroom  | 6                                                    | 7   |
| 8   | 9<br>Golf  | 10<br>General Meeting-<br>Speaker:<br>Judith Dunn | 11<br>Wine Appreciation<br>The Heritage | 12<br>Coffee - Sunroom | 13<br>Scenic Lunch<br>Royal Sydney Yacht<br>Squadron | 14  |
| 15  | 16         | 17<br>Movies<br>Sandy Mower<br>TBA                | 18                                      | 19<br>Coffee - Sunroom | 20<br>Book Club<br>Juliet Bishop<br>The Heritage     | 21  |
| 22  | 23<br>Golf | 24                                                | 25                                      | 26<br>Coffee - Sunroom | 27<br>Heritage Cruise<br>Waratah<br>5pm - 7:30 pm    | 28  |
| 29  | 30         |                                                   |                                         |                        |                                                      |     |