



MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Information in this Newsletter is for Probus members only

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 9th January

General Meeting
Gladesville Sporties - 10:00

Speaker: Eira Battaglia
"Wild Life Carer"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
Recommences January 11th
Sunroom 10:00 am

Monday 8th January

Golf
Jim Macready
Massey Park 8:15

Tuesday 16th January

Movies
TBA
Sandy Mower

Friday 19th January

Book Club
Juliet Bishop
0431 627 834

Monday 22nd January

Golf
Jim Macready
TBA

Looks like a quiet month.

However:

February

Thursday 22nd February

48th Birthday Lunch
"Carmen's on the Park"
Five Dock
Bob Way: 0406 754 099

March

Monday 18th March
"Good Old Days" Concert
David Hobson in Concert
with Bridget Costello
Sydney Town Hall 11:00 am
Book with Barbara Banner
At the January meeting

From the President

Happy 2024 to all Probians and their families! I wish you all good health in the years to come. I look forward to another year of fun, friendship and fellowship with you in the various activities arranged for Club members.

I hope that you all enjoyed Christmas and the festivities that go with it safely. 65 members and guests got the festivities off to a great start with the Club Christmas lunch on December 12th. Gladesville Sporties served us a generous Christmas lunch and Bob Way MC-ed a couple of games for our amusement. I hope everyone else thought the occasion was as successful as I thought it was.

Club membership subscriptions of \$80 per year are due from 1 January 2024. Please pay promptly after 1 January by EFT to Probus Club of Hunters Hill and District Inc., BSB 062182, Account Number: 00902310 if you can, because this is the most economical and efficient method. Alternatively, you can pay by cash or by EFTPOS at General Meetings, but the last method costs the Club a Tyro transaction fee, which reduces Club income.

Our Secretary, Margaret Bowman, will have forms available at the January and February General Meetings (or to provide on request at other times) for members to nominate for positions on the Management Committee. Nominations close at the end of the February meeting and the election will take place at the AGM on 5th March 2024, after all Committee positions are declared vacant.

I repeat what I said in the December Newsletter: Members need to contribute to the management of the Club, as they agreed in their membership applications, by service in operation and management of the Club. We need newer members to nominate for positions. Please ask any current Committee member if you want more information about any positions. We need a new Treasurer.

Three Committee members have served more than the maximum three years in their current positions. It is time for new members to consider nominating and they could use the time between now and February to learn what is involved. It isn't onerous, it can be fun and a satisfying experience, but the Club can't continue without enough energetic volunteers, so now is the time to come forward.

Although I expect to induct three people into Club membership at the next General Meeting, we still have vacancies for three more members. If you have an opportunity, please encourage people considering retirement or who recently retired in our Club area around Hunters Hill to come to our meetings as visitors to see what we can offer them to help occupy their leisure time. We need more young new members to ensure the Club's future vitality.

I look forward to welcoming members to the first General Meeting for 2024, starting at 10 am on Tuesday 9th January. See you then.

David

Member News

I recently contacted Christopher, Les Osborne's son, to enquire about Les's health and wellbeing.

In short, an extract of Christopher's reply follows'

Hi Mike,

Thank you for contacting me about Les.

Dad is still going albeit not as spritely as you would remember him.

He is now 104 and is less interactive and alert. He had a fall in October where he hit his head and this has changed his level of alertness and his ability to interact with his surroundings.

Best wishes and Merry Christmas,

Christopher Osborne

Mike

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 6th February

General Meeting

Gladesville Sporties - 10:00

Speaker: Cindy Broadbent

"Life in the Turkish Harem"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning

Sunroom 10:00 am

Tuesday 2nd February

Art Group

Peter Kelly

TBA

Monday 5th February

Golf

Jim Macready

TBA

Friday 9th February

Exotic Lunch

Dos Senoritas

Shavarsh Bedrossian

0402 217 141

Friday 16th February

Book Club

TBA

Juliet Bishop

0431 627 834

Monday 19th February

Golf

Jim Macready

TBA

Tuesday 20th February

Movies

TBA

Sandy Mower

Thursday 22nd February

48th Birthday Lunch

"Carmen's on the Park"

Five Dock

Bob Way: 0406 754 099

Monday 23rd February

Art Group

Peter Kelly

TBA

2023 Christmas Lunch

Gladesville Sporties was the venue for our Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 12th December, well attended by 65 members and friends.

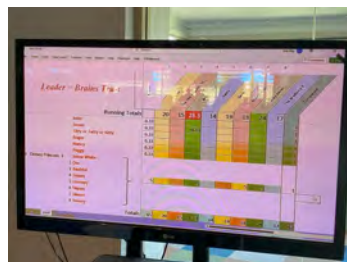
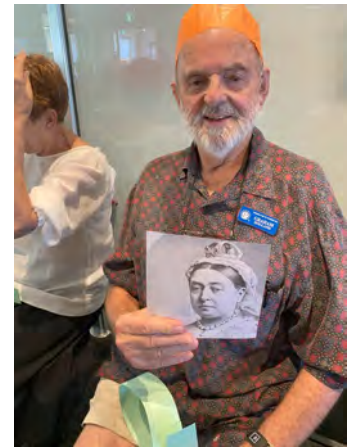


The pre-lunch queue for the "included" beverages prior to the Presidential welcome speech.



David welcomed everybody before handing over to Bob Way, our MC for the day, to get proceedings underway.

The usual events took place with Graham Holland winning the "Who Am I" competition, followed by the Trivia quiz.



The Trivia competition caught our collective attention in that Bob had designed a PC driven scoring system to make the recording, tabulation and analysis of the results simpler.

I'll let Bob determine if his venture was successful.

2023 Christmas Lunch - (cont)



Unfortunately the photo of Peter Kelly's table mysteriously disappeared between taking it and preparing it for the Newsletter. Rather than ignore the fact I've decided to record the fact for posterity.

A Busy Meeting

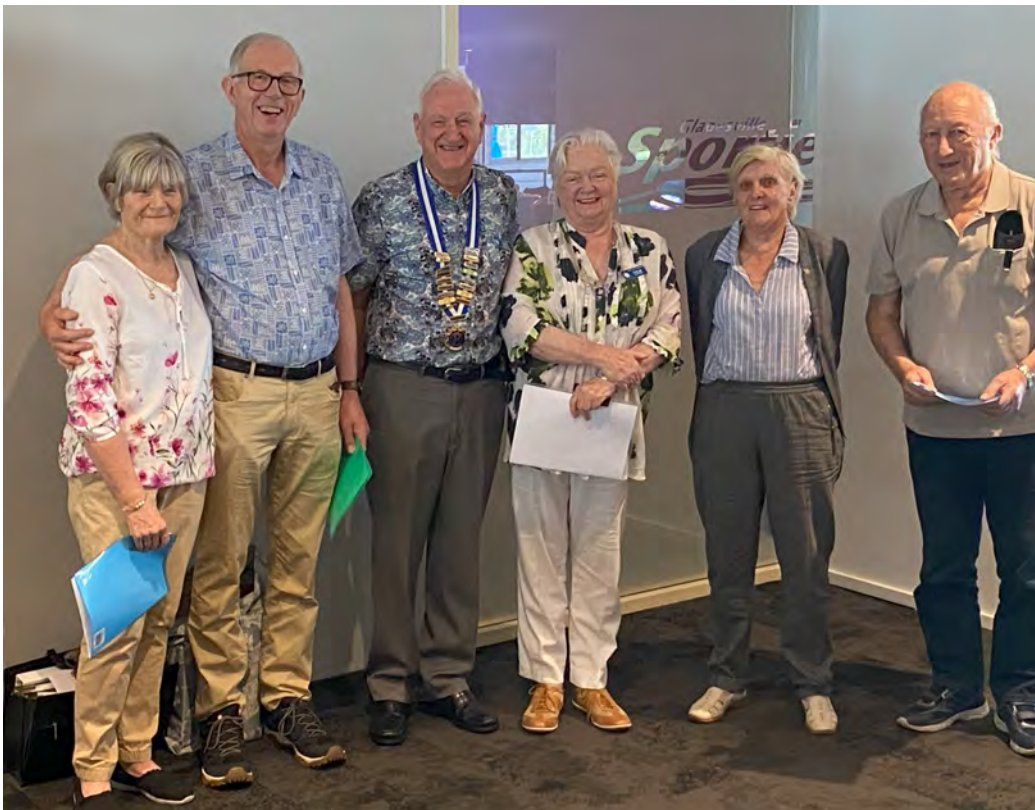
Our final meeting for 2023 was a busy one for our President, David.

He had the pleasure of presenting Dellane and Rod Stewart with the "10 Year" certificates.



He then inducted five new members, I think this was a first induction of that number at one meeting.

A big welcome to you all.



L to R: Sandie Bredemeyer, Trevor Edgoose, David, Sarah Mannix, Marilyn Johnson, Robert Herzog

Exotic Lunch

December

This was a fine Chinese lunch at “Wok Passion” in Lane Cove and enjoyed by all participants.

The menu was well catered for all tastes with generous servings, the hot Spicy dishes were not too hot to our nonexotic pallets.

There was also a good selection of the blackboard lunch time dishes with very modest costs that some preferred.

The venue was simple with minimum décor, good service provided by the host. Devina, the owner together with her assistant waitress, were cheerful and helpful, always obliging making sure that every request was delivered.

The individual billing was also very helpful, as some selected light lunches from the Blackboard menu in lieu of full-size servings from the main menu.



February

Mexican Lunch

‘DOS SENORITAS’

2/3 Cowell Street, Gladesville

12:00 pm Friday 9th February

I investigated several venues for our next Exotic Lunch 9th of February, not many restaurants cater for lunch time and if they do, they are not offering individual billing! So, I decided for this Mexican restaurant that is open on Fridays for lunch.

The owner, who is also the Chef, Domenico is from Guadalajara, I had a good chat with him about our group, he promised he will look after us.

It is in Gladesville, entry from Cowell Street Council’s carpark.

I took a copy of their menu, they have a good selection, I perused the reviews received, it seems most are positive, with total rating of over 4* with favourable comments; saying that the servings are generous, and service is **good**.

The Restaurant is fully licenced, but it is BYO wine only, I will check and confirm this.

I printed copies of the menus for you to peruse to get some ideas of dishes that are on offer. Plus, there are a few pictures of the interior and an exterior of the restaurant that I photographed.

Please indicate your attendance during the January meeting tea/coffee break for me to be able to book.

Shavarsh Bedrossian

Probus Music



Most of Most orchestras and music clubs have not published their concert dates for the year. Perhaps they need a good holiday after all their efforts last year.

The only ones I've found so far are in February.

The Willoughby Symphony Orchestra presents:

Saturday, February 3rd at 7.00 pm, Sunday, February 4 at 2.00 pm.

An evening with James Bond

At the Concourse, Chatswood. \$79, full, \$69 concession.

Symphony in the park – East meets West.

Friday, February 23rd 7.00 pm

A collaboration between the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and Artists by Any Other Name, the concert gracefully weaves together melodies from East and West.

So get your picnic rugs and folding chairs to Chatswood Oval and indulge your taste buds at the onsite food stalls offering a delectable array of culinary delights. From savoury treats to sweet indulgences, there's something for every palate. At Chatswood Oval, Free.

BUT LOOKING AHEAD

There are many enthusiastic amateurs putting on musicals on the North Shore. If you're keen to join in, unfortunately most the auditions for the upcoming musicals are closed! Here's a sample of what will be on offer. Check their websites.

Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Sydney, presents:

April 27th and 28th at the Shore School North Sydney.

Trial by Jury and G and S favourites.

The Eastwood musical society presents:

May 4th to 18th

Fiddler on the Roof

The Hornsby musical society presents:

May 3rd to 12th.

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

BUT FOR MUSIC NOW - AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

The Australian digital concert hall now has over 100 programs available on demand. This is an extraordinarily rich resource of diverse music from all over Australia direct to your computer screen. Each concert costs \$24, most of which goes to the artists.

Just go to the website www.australiandigitalconcerthall.com and click on On-Demand library.

IF YOU BEEN TO ANY CONCERT, YOU CAN SEE HOW MUCH ENJOYMENT AND FULFILMENT THE PLAYERS HAVE. WHY DON'T YOU JOIN THEM?

Ryde Band is excited to announce that in 2024 our musical director, Phil Arnold, will introduce an adult beginner band program at our rehearsal space in North Ryde. The band will be open to all adults wishing to take up a wind instrument or to return to playing in a group environment within a structured training program, starting at a most fundamental level suited to those who have never played a musical instrument before. The band has some instruments for hire so you can try before you commit to investing in a new instrument.

Phil has over 20 years experience in leading start-up bands and was instrumental in growing the Lane Cove Bands organisation from from a single, small concert band to, now, over 200 members across 6 bands, ranging in repertoire from classical music to traditional, popular and jazz. It's never too late and here is your chance!

I began playing the trombone when I was 70 in the Lane Cove beginner band led by Phil. I'm still playing and enjoying every minute of it.

Contact Phil on 0402 650 020 or 8021 8259 or phila1025@gmail.com.

Graham Holland

The First Fleet - (cont)

Lord Sydney's letter of appointment to Phillip in April 1787 as Captain General and Governor in Chief authorised him to establish a Court of Civil Jurisdiction within the territory. This, combined with the acts passed by parliament, formed the basis for the laws of England to be transferred to the new settlement.

It took 1½ years to make ready for the voyage to store seeds, tools, medical supplies, livestock and a piano stored on *Sirius*, belonging to the ship's surgeon (some months ago it was discovered in Perth and sent back to England to be restored - and then returned to Perth).

The cost of First Fleet was deemed expensive, equivalent to around AUD 110 million today. It was made up of 11 boats: two Royal Navy ships, six convict transports, and three supply vessels. Of the 1,400 people aboard (no accurate figures exist), only about half – some 580 men and 190 women (plus 14 of their children) – were actually convicts. The rest were the ships' crews and officials, plus 250 or so marines and their wives and children.

After weeks waiting in Portsmouth, they finally put to sea, and headed for the Canary Islands, where they took on fresh supplies. From there they headed across the Atlantic to Rio de Janeiro, where they stayed for a month, making repairs. Arthur Phillip spoke two or three languages and had good rapport with the Portuguese. Then onward to Cape Town where after 39 days of an uneventful trip there awaited delays, due to long and tedious negotiations with the Dutch. This took two weeks to resolve. And then there was a sideshow with a lady convict, Phoebe Norton, falling into the harbour while using an outside latrine. She was fished out by one of the sailors (none the worse for wear).

After 250-odd days, 15,000 miles and 48 deaths, the fleet finally arrived in Botany Bay on 18 January 1788. But the swampy land did not live up to the expectations raised by Cook's descriptions from his first voyage and it was decided to venture further along the coast to find a suitable anchorage. They came to Port Jackson (so named by Captain Cook in 1770) which Arthur Phillip renamed 'Sydney' in honour of the British Home Secretary. In a letter he described the harbour as "*the finest in the world*" where "*a thousand sail of the line may ride in the most perfect security*". A convict settlement at Sydney Cove was set up on 26 January 1788 - the beginning of convict settlement in Australia.

Captain Arthur Phillip was a man ahead of his time. The convicts were given the liberty of the deck in the day and many during the night, "*which has kept them much healthier than could have been expected*" he wrote to a friend. And he averted scurvy with fresh food "*as the Dutch supplied us with mutton, vegetables and all other things for the preservation of men's lives on so long a voyage*". They had spent eight months at sea, it was observed on their disembarking that the convicts presented well and their attire was clean.

'There shall be no slavery in a free land' he famously wrote when preparing for the expedition of the First Fleet. That was the first law for Australia, a country that only he believed would ever become a nation. Australia had abolished slavery in Governor Phillip's first law 20 years before Britain and long before the rest of the world.

The convicts proved to be law-abiding and hard working and only 2% re-offended. The rewards for good behavior were considerable: Ticket of Leave, Certificate of Freedom, Conditional Pardon, Absolute Pardon and Royal Pardon, Land Grants – 30 acres for the emancipated single convict, 50 if married and additional 10 acres per child.

One outstanding example was Francis Greenway. In 1812 he was sentenced to death for the crime of forgery. However, this was then changed to transportation to NSW for 14 years. He arrived in Sydney in February 1814, and his wife and three children arrived a few months later.

As a trained architect, Greenway was valuable and in 1815 was given a Ticket of Leave. The following year Governor Macquarie appointed him to act as Civil Architect. In December 1817 he was granted Conditional Pardon and in May 1819 the Governor rewarded him with Absolute Pardon. Greenway's body of works include the lighthouse at South Head, the female factory at Parramatta, Hyde Park barracks in Sydney, churches at Sydney, Windsor and Liverpool, and courthouses in Sydney and Windsor. The St. James Church built in 1824 still stands today opposite the barracks.

Margaret Bowman

My thanks to Margaret for her report on Dennis's presentation - Mike

She added the following comments for your interest.

Worth visiting – State Library of NSW, the Natural History Museum for paintings, books and maps or take a walk commencing from the First Fleet Park at Circular Quay.

The following Hyperlink provides more detail on the park and the Walk.

<https://www.visitsydneyaustralia.com.au/walk-phillips-sydney.html#:~:text=This%20park%20is%20located%20where,years%20offloaded%20their%20cargoes%20here>

The First Fleet

Dennis Smith from the *"Fellowship of First Fleeters"*, an organisation comprised of descendants of those who arrived in Sydney Cove with the *First Fleet* on 26th January 1788 and also those interested in the First Fleet. Dennis is also member of two Probus Clubs – Lane Cove and Waverton.

Preamble

Thomas Townshend, 1st Viscount Sydney PC was a British politician (1733 – 1800). As the British Home Secretary, now Lord Sydney, he was responsible for the plan to establish a penal settlement at Botany Bay in New South Wales, Australia. Sydney in New South Wales, Australia, was named in his honor in 1788,

With the doctrine of terra nullius in hand, 11 convict ships from Great Britain sailed into what was Port Jackson in NSW on January 26, 1788. Shortly after their arrival, Captain Arthur Phillip made his way to the shore and raised the British flag claiming the land in the name of King George III.

And so the story begins

What is called First Fleet Park and adjoining George Street, up against the Cahill Expressway is a little grass area carrying a small street sign, was the site of Sydney's original town centre.

This park is located where the first shipbuilding and repair facilities on Sydney Cove were built. The ships of the 2nd and 3d fleets and subsequent ships during Sydney's first 25 years offloaded their cargoes here. And here too the marketplace sprang up at the public wharf, also where public punishments were meted out to those who transgressed.

The point across the cove where the Opera House now stands was first known as Cattle Point. It was there that first the human cargo of convicts and afterwards the cattle, sheep and other livestock which arrived on board the ships of the first fleet were brought ashore.



Behind the park, below the rocky hillside that was to become known as The Rocks, a tent hospital was erected to take care of the sick among the First Fleeters.

The first Act in England, authorising the transport of felons was passed in 1597 being *'An Act for the Punishment of Rogues, Vagabonds and Sturdy Beggars... to be banished out of this Realm, and all other Dominions thereof...'* The Act introduced penal transportation for the first time as a punishment and alternative to capital punishment. Further Acts were passed in 1664, 1666, and 1718, permitting transport to the American Colonies for indentured service (7 years for lesser felonies and 14 years for more serious crimes).

Until 1782, English convicts were transported to America. However, after the American War of Independence ending in 1783 and the signing of the peace agreement, America refused to accept any more convicts.

The loss of the colonies was a devastating blow to the British government and King George III had great difficulty in accepting it. The influx of returning soldiers, increasing lawlessness, the insufficiency of deterrent punishments, the overcrowding of prisons, The pressures of finding a lasting solution to the problems caused by the hulks (where the conditions were filthy) made the urgency of transportation even more acute. A colony in Africa was recommended, but this proved not to be worthwhile.

It was not until August 1786 when the Home Secretary, Lord Sydney, with William Pitt's full consent, presented a detailed plan for sending convicts to New South Wales, Botany Bay, on the east coast. The Admiralty on 12th October 1786 acknowledged the King's pleasure about the arrangements and promptly proceeded to fulfill the wishes as outlined in the 'Plan' and prepared ships and men for the tasks.

In January 1787, when opening the Parliament, the King officially made it known to the members of the plan. He said, *"My Lords and Gentlemen, A Plan has been formed, by my direction, for the transporting of a Number of Convicts, in order to remove the inconvenience of criminals which arose from the crowded state of the gaols in the different parts of the kingdom"....* and that it would be economically beneficial to the country. This is another expression of the economic benefits derived by sending the convicts to New South Wales.

The rule of New South Wales was to develop under the military and naval control of Arthur Phillip (British Royal Navy officer) which really meant that the Home Office had control. The rights and freedoms of British citizens were carried over as well and these were to form the basis of a freer prison settlement.

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

PO BOX 1041
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



January Birthdays

Jill Regnis	2
Margaret Timbs	2
Barbara Jago	6
Ian Adair	6
Robert Herzog	17
Deborah Lohman	19
Bambi Michael	22
Leon Wilson	28
Sarah Mannix	30

Editors Musings- Puns

- * John Travolta tested negative for coronavirus last night. Turns out it was just Saturday night fever.
- * I saw an ad for burial plots, and thought to myself - that's the last thing I need.
- * Intelligence is like underwear. It is important that you have it, but not necessary that you show it off.
- * Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?
- * A courtroom artist was arrested today for an unknown reason. Details are sketchy.
- * People are making end of the world jokes like there's no tomorrow.
- * Whatever you do, always give 100%. Unless you're donating blood
- * What did Snow White say when she came out of the photo booth? Someday my prints will come.

Barbara's Thought for the Month

"If you don't have a vision for the future, then your future is threatened to be a repeat of the past."

Author: A. R. Bernard (Clergyman)

Book Club



On Friday 12th Dec Book Club members met at Ironwood for our annual Christmas Lunch. The only difficulty was in finding parking, due to the popularity of the venue but once gathered we relaxed and enjoyed our self chosen lunch. and a tippie for some!

This venue is thoroughly recommended but we had reserved our table in October. It was good to chat about family, Christmas and holiday plans with no books involved!

Unfortunately Richard, Bob and Margaret (Stuart) couldn't be with us as they had other commitments.

We look forward to our first meeting of the year - gathering on 19th January at 2 pm at The Heritage in the beautiful front room with adjoining kitchen. I will provide afternoon tea. Members will talk about a book they have read over the recess and if we run dry I guess we'll just talk! I will have another book to hand out, though as yet I don't know what that will be.

As usual if you are unable to attend please let me know.

If you want to put your name of our waiting list please contact me on 0431 627 834 - a message is always a good idea, as if the phone number is unrecognised I'll likely think it spam and not respond.

Juliet Bishop

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

Committee

President	David Lorschy	0428 247 708
Vice President	Margaret Timbs	0438 063 620
Secretary	Margaret Bowman	0438 165 016
A/Treasurer	Josephine McBride	9817 5632
Activities Convenor	Bob Way	0406 754 099
Speakers	Jenny Thompson	0484 676 124
Welfare Officer	Josephine McBride	9817 5632
Membership Officer	Kevin Manie	0412 349 270
Past President	Dean Letcher	9816 5632
Newsletter Ed / Comms	Mike Allum	0417 596 300

(email: mike.allum@bigpond.com)

Useful Contacts

Book Club	Juliet Bishop	0431 627 834
Art Group	Peter Kelly	0411 696 583
Exotic & Scenic Lunches	Shavarsh Bedrossian	0402 217 41
Movies	Sandy Mower	0478 630 620
Golf	Jim Macready	0411 216 480
Fishing	Peter Kelly	0411 696 583
Music	Graham Holland	0416 232 507
Wine Appreciation	Richard Jones	ramjones@bigpond.net.au
Honorary Auditor	James Macready (member)	

WEBSITE: www.huntershillprobus.org

Activities 2004

January

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Golf Jim Macready	9 Meeting	10	11 Coffee - Sunroom	12 Exotic Lunch Dos Senioritas Shavarsh	13	14
15	16 Movies Sandy Mower TAB	17	18 Coffee - Sunroom	19 Book Club Juliet Bishop	20	21
22 Golf Jim Macready	23	24	25 Coffee - Sunroom	26 Australia Day Art Group ?????	27	28
29	30	31				

February

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 Coffee - Sunroom	2 Art Group Peter Kelly TBA	3	4
5 Golf Jim Macready	6 Meeting	6	8 Coffee - Sunroom	9 Exotic Lunch Dos Senioritas Shavarsh	10	11
12	13	14	15 Coffee - Sunroom	16 Book Club Juliet Bishop	17	18
19 Golf Jim Macready	20 Movies Sandy Mower TAB	21	22 Coffee - Sunroom Birthday Lunch Carmen's Bob Way	23 Art Group Peter Kelly TBA	24	25
26	27	28	29 Coffee - Sunroom	30	31	