



# MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Information in this Newsletter is for Proboscis members only

### FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

General Meeting

Speaker: Eira Battaglia

“The Silver Buckle”

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Thursdays

Coffee Morning

Sunroom 10:00 am

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September

Exotic Lunch

Shavarsh

Toto's Pizza and Pasta

Five Dock

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#### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September

Good Old Days Concert

“Classical Gala”

11:00 am

Barbara Banner

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#### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September

Movies

Sandy Mower

TBA

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#### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Book Club

Juliet Bishop

TBA

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#### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

Golf

TBA

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September

Art Group

Peter Kelly

TBA

\*\*\*\*\*

### From the President

I have writer's block, so this month's report you may find a little different. Our world is full of contradictions, dichotomies that are sometimes challenging, certainties and uncertainties.

Uncertainties many of us face, and are pertinent to our age demographic, are or could be:

Will I maintain my current state of health?

How long will I be able to continue driving a car?

For how much longer will I continue to travel?

Certainties, however, can act as a counter balance.

The sun will rise tomorrow bringing warmth,

There is no war and ongoing fear in our land,

Spring is around the corner and we have already experienced a 26 degree day in August.

PROBUS presents certainties to our lives, continually making possible those 3 “f’s”:

**Fun, Friendship and Fellowship.**

For we Members, here at Hunters Hill & District, we have clear evidence of the certainties experienced as we prepare the 2026 celebrations of our Club being in existence for 50 years. Half a Century and ALSO, the first Proboscis Club in Australia.

I feel pride in being part of this certainty.

Margaret Timbs

Aging isn't always the most fun thing in the world, but it sure can be funny, if you approach it with a light-hearted attitude. In fact, joking about getting older—and the assorted health and life problems that come with it—can take some of the sting out of aging. Plus, science shows laughing is good for your health and well-being, so having an arsenal of old-people jokes in your back pocket is a win-win

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

General Meeting  
Members Art Show  
Tony Saunders  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursdays**

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

**Wednesday 2nd October**

Probacchanalians  
The Heritage  
15:00  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

Golf  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

Scenic Lunch  
Shavarsh  
TBA  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

Barbara's Wednesday  
Outing  
TBA  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

Probus/Rotary High Tea  
Bob Way

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

Golf  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

Art Group  
Peter Kelly  
TBA  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

Good Old Days Concert  
"Piano Passion"  
Barbara Banner  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

Seafood Dinner at West Head  
Barbara Banner  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Art Group**



Our next art group outing will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2024.

We will be visiting the State Library of New South Wales at 1 Shakespeare Place, Sydney NSW.

Inside is the most wonderful art gallery which has 300 paintings on display. There are also other fascinating art works on show in various nooks and crannies.

I suggest we all make our own way there and meet inside the main door at 11.00am

There is a café in the adjoining building that can be accessed across an internal bridge.

*Peter Kelly*

## Book Club



Like all five of her novels to date, Jane Harper's "The Survivors" is set in the depths of rural Australia and packed full of mystery and dark secrets. This one takes us into a tightly knit community in a small fishing/tourist town remote on the Tasmanian coast. The local seascape is dominated by a sculpture, known as The Survivors, commemorating a nineteenth century shipwreck that took many lives.

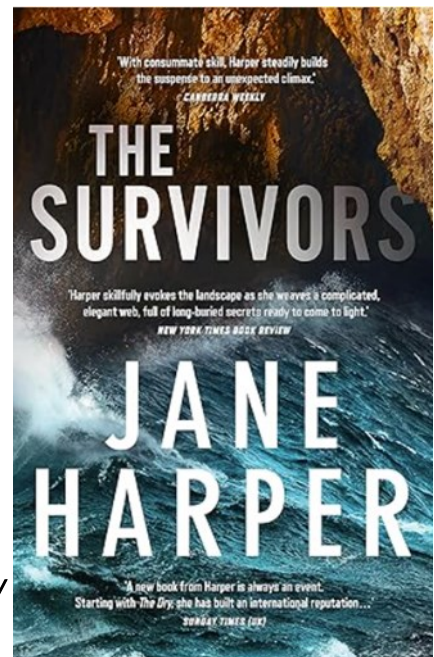
With his wife and baby daughter, Kieran has returned from the mainland to help his mother and father (who suffers from dementia) move house. But his visit resurrects the guilt that still haunts him from the day many years ago when his older brother was one of several people to drown in a huge storm. Now another body is found on the beach. The subsequent murder investigation divides the community, while bringing to light some new questions and surprising revelations about what actually occurred on that fateful day.

Once again, we had an almost full attendance and a lively discussion ably moderated by Juliette. While all but a couple of us gave the book the thumbs up, nobody was particularly enthusiastic about it. Many of us found the plot a bit too contrived.

This novel belongs to the "Outback Noir" genre of Australian crime fiction, in which capturing the essence of the exotic locale is as much a part of the story as is the solving of the crime. This was a distraction for some of us who prefer more action and intrigue in their crime novels. Others relish getting a feel for the setting and enjoy the descriptive passages and social insights. An important theme of the novel is the idea of what makes "a good Aussie bloke", and its intersection with toxic masculinity. Naturally this was a hot topic around the table.

September's challenge is to explore the way in which language and culture can survive in a changing world. This is reported to be the topic of "The Colony", the second novel by Irish-woman Audrey Magee.

**Bob Way**



### Scenic Exotic Lunch - Carmen's on the Park

Well, this was another successful '**Scenic**' Lunch, this time at Canada Bay.

It was a wonderful collaboration with Ms Carmen the owner and the proprietor of this Italian restaurant, she understood our needs and thoughtfully set 3 tables for us at the windows overlooking the Bay making sure that everyone had a view of the water.

This time there was 31 members on the list, it was the best record since I took over the task organising lunches, but unfortunately one didn't turn-up without notice, a bit more about this later!

Since everyone had already selected their dishes from the special lunch menu it gave us time to chat and enjoy each other's company while Carmen and her staff made sure that all the orders are delivered to our tables at the same time for us to enjoy together.

I am sure all of us agreed that we did have a wonderful time, the good service, well prepared the quality foods, plus pleasant company exchanging good conversations.

For me, it was special as it gave me time to go around and talk to many of the members on personal level, getting to know them and Vice Versa.

Now, the puzzle: as mentioned above, there were 31 on the list, but only 30 turned up, however Carmen delivered 31 dishes (and we paid for 31), we couldn't figure out where or who got that extra plate! If anyone got 2, I say; '*Bona Pettit*'

There is not much to add here, the pictures tell all.



Our next lunch is Exotic lunch 12:00 noon, 13th of September at Toto's Pizza & Pasta Restaurant at: 59 First Avenue – corner of Arthur Street roundabout - Five Dock Please note that, this will be another share all style dinner; this time Italian style, I will select & order a selection of antipasti, salads, pizzas, pastas & Gnocchi. Doesn't sale liquor, but it is BYO and doesn't charge for corkage or for the wine glasses. Any soft drink, deserts, gelato should be paid by you.

It will be \$40 each. For me to go ahead and inform the Restaurant, I will need the payments in cash on our next meeting Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. The restaurant doesn't do lunch, but the owner is doing me a favour, so will have the entire restaurant to us. Maximum number is 33. Currently I have 23 on the list.

Parking: Free Street parking around the Roundabout. Strongly recommend car-pooling.

I will have several copies of a map showing the location for those that aren't familiar of the area and don't have GPS.

**Shavarsh**

### Fish Market and Pittwater Seafood Dinner

On Monday 25th November enjoy a Seafood Fish Markets Pittwater and West Head Seafood Dinner and Twilight Tour.

We will enter Ku-ring-gai National Park via McCarrs Creek and travel out to Commodore Heights. While our sumptuous dinner is being prepared, there will be time for a short walk to take in some of the most picturesque scenery imaginable over Pittwater River across to Palm Beach and Barrenjoey Headland and over the Hawkesbury River across to the Central Coast, or just relax.

Cost \$125.00 per person including afternoon tea, National Park entry, Seafood BBQ dinner with dessert red and white wine or orange juice. Alternatives can be pre-arranged for those who don't like seafood.

Departs 1pm and returns approximately 8.30pm

*Barbara*

#### TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS

1. Talk to yourself. There are times when you need expert advice.
2. "In style" are the clothes that still fit.
3. You don't need anger management. You need people to stop irritating you.
4. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is: "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
6. "On time" is when you get there.
7. You've noticed people your age are much older than you.
8. Ageing has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
9. You still haven't learned to act your age and I hope you never will.
10. "One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house.

## Probus Music



As well as singling out two concerts in September for your delectation and delight, I also list organisations which are presenting concerts in September with their Internet addresses, so you can follow them up and make your own choices.

Sunday September 8, 3.00 pm

**THE RYDE HUNTERS HILL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** presents:

*Las Americas*

Astor Piazzolla, Verano Porteno (Summer) from Four Seasons of Buenos Aires

Arturo Marquez - Danzon No.2

Jose Pablo Moncayo - Huapango

Jose Barros - Navidad Negra

Leonard Bernstein - Mambo from Symphonic Dances from 'West Side Story'

Arthur Benjamin - Jamaican Rumba

Jose Pablo Moncayo - Amatzinac

At the North Ryde Community and Arts Centre

Cox's road, North Ryde.

Full \$25, concession \$22.50.

( I'd like to go, but (promo intended) I'll be with Stringybark Jazz at Chatswood Mall from 1pm to 4 pm.)

Sunday September 22. 2.30 pm

**HUNTERS HILL MUSIC** presents:

*Water Spirit with Diana Doherty*

Mustonen - Toccata for piano, string quartet and double bass

Westlake - Spirit of the Wild Chamber Concerto for oboe, piano, string quartet and double bass

Schubert - Piano Quintet in A Major, D. 667 'The Trout'

There are a handful of works for chamber ensemble that illicit a knowing smile when mentioned ... Schubert's 'Trout' Quintet is one such work. Written at the tender age of 22 when Schubert was basking in the sunshine of the Austrian countryside, it is charming, sunny and utterly irresistible!

Australian composer, Nigel Westlake, was equally inspired by the wonders of nature when he composed Spirit of the Wild for oboe virtuoso, Diana Doherty, recently retired from the SSO after 27 years as Principal Oboe. Composed after visiting the Bathurst Harbour on the South-West Coast of Tasmania, this reimagining for small ensemble and oboe is an extraordinary tour de force for the oboe, and in the hands of Diana, unforgettable.

Finnish pianist and composer Olli Mustonen's Toccata opens the program, a man for whom nature is at the heart of his life and work ... "the most important sounds are the wind, rain, trees."

At the Hunters Hill Town Hall.

Full \$45.

*Graham Holland*

### Probacchanalians



Our extremely dedicated and zealous “Waggers” (wine appreciation groupies) recently convened and navigated South American wines.

We were introduced to the varieties of Caladoc (a genetic cross of Malbec and Grenache) and Carmenere (a multicultural hotchpotch of many cabernets and merlot).

John Timmins apprised us of the history of the mite Phylloxera and its devastating effect on viticulture in France, resulting in a major change in varietals.

We discussed (?argued) as to whether it is SHIRAZ or SYRAH but concluded that whatever its moniker it is a great tippie! (particularly Aussie).

All the wines were acceptable, one or two malbecs from Mendoza in Argentina achieved gold medal status and overall they were good value for the dollar.

Our next challenge in October will be Cabernet Sauvignon.



In vino veritas



Richard Jones

### **ATTENTION ALL PROBUS ARTISTS**

As advised earlier, Hunters Hill Probus artists are invited to show their paintings at the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of our club.

So far, we have six members who will be displaying and talking about their art.

We want to make sure no one is left out.

So if you are an artist and a member, please let us know. We envisage four or five paintings each – dependent upon size.

For further information, please contact Barbara Enright 0409 041 219 or Tony Saunders 0407 417 214

## Speaker

### Ian Burnet's Voyages

Ian Burnet grew up in South Gippsland, Victoria, and graduated with a degree in Geology and Geophysics from the University of Melbourne.

He first went to work in Indonesia in 1968 as a young geologist and became fascinated by the diverse cultures and rich history of the archipelago. His work and interests caused him to live, work and travel in Indonesia for more than thirty years.

Ian is the author of six books that relate to maritime history, the spice trade and the Indonesian archipelago. These include *Spice Islands* (2011), *East Indies* (2013), *Archipelago* (2015), *Where Australia Collides with Asia* (2017), *The Tasman Map* (2019) and his latest book is *Joseph Conrad's Eastern Voyages* (2021)

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On the floor of The Mitchell Library vestibule lies the magnificent mosaic of the Tasman Map made up of 45 slabs of 22 mm thick marble, with coloured marble granules and inlays of brass used to outline the ships and decorative features. It tells of Abel Tasman's voyages of exploration in 1642/43 and 1644 and shows a recognisable outline of the north, west and south coast of Australia.

The story of these voyages told in Ian's Burnet's book *The Tasman Map*, made for an *engrossing* account of European search for exotic spices, long the domain of Indonesian seafarers who traded with China and India, The trade route stretched across the Silk Road and way along the Spice Route before Europe was reached.

In 1602 The Dutch [East India Company](#) was formed and given rights to [trade](#) exclusively in Asia and to buy the valuable spices. Among many of its powers, it could negotiate treaties, strike [its own coins](#), and establish colonies It traded across multiple colonies and countries from both the [East](#) and the [West](#),

The spices pepper, cloves, nutmeg and cinnamon were in high demand for multiple uses from being used to preserve the meat of slaughtered animals, to food flavouring or medicine, where cloves were for toothache or headache, for treatment for all sorts of stomach ailments, or to sweeten the breath.

Another purpose of the voyages to the southern seas was explained by the cartographer Abraham Ortelius' map of 1570. The map showed the northern hemisphere and an ocean which separated it from a large Antarctic continent -*Terra Australia Nondum Cognita* (The South Land Not Yet Known). This land mass in their minds had to exist to achieve the balance for the stability of the world. The voyagers also wanted to believe that this Land would be fabulously wealthy, with mountains containing gold and silver as was the topography in Peru. Unfortunately they saw only desolate coasts occupied by near-naked Aborigines. After the last Tasman voyage of 1644 the Dutch speculated there was no longer any commercial interest and abandoned further exploration of the land they had named Nova Hollandia.

Burnet writes that he marvelled at the length of these voyages halfway around the world, *"the deprivations of many months at sea, the lives lost to scurvy, pneumonia and shipwreck, the tragedy of the wreck of the Batavia, the desperate voyages to safety in an open boat, the sightings of unknown lands, attacks by cannibals – all stories which are part of the Tasman Map"*;

The Tasman Bonaparte map was not to change for another 125 years until the British explorer James Cook charted the east coast in 1770.

Here Ian Burnet visits the period of great voyages of natural history of Continent Australia in his *Where Australia Collides with Asia - The Epic Voyages of Joseph Banks, Charles Darwin, Alfred Russel Wallace and the Origin of Species*: Joseph Banks on the Endeavour, who with Daniel Solander becomes the first trained naturalist to describe the unique flora and fauna of Continent Australia that had evolved during its 30 million years of isolation. Charles Darwin on the Beagle, who after his observations in South America and the Galapagos Islands, sits on the banks of the Cocks River in NSW and tries to rationalise his belief in the idea of God and to understand the origin of species

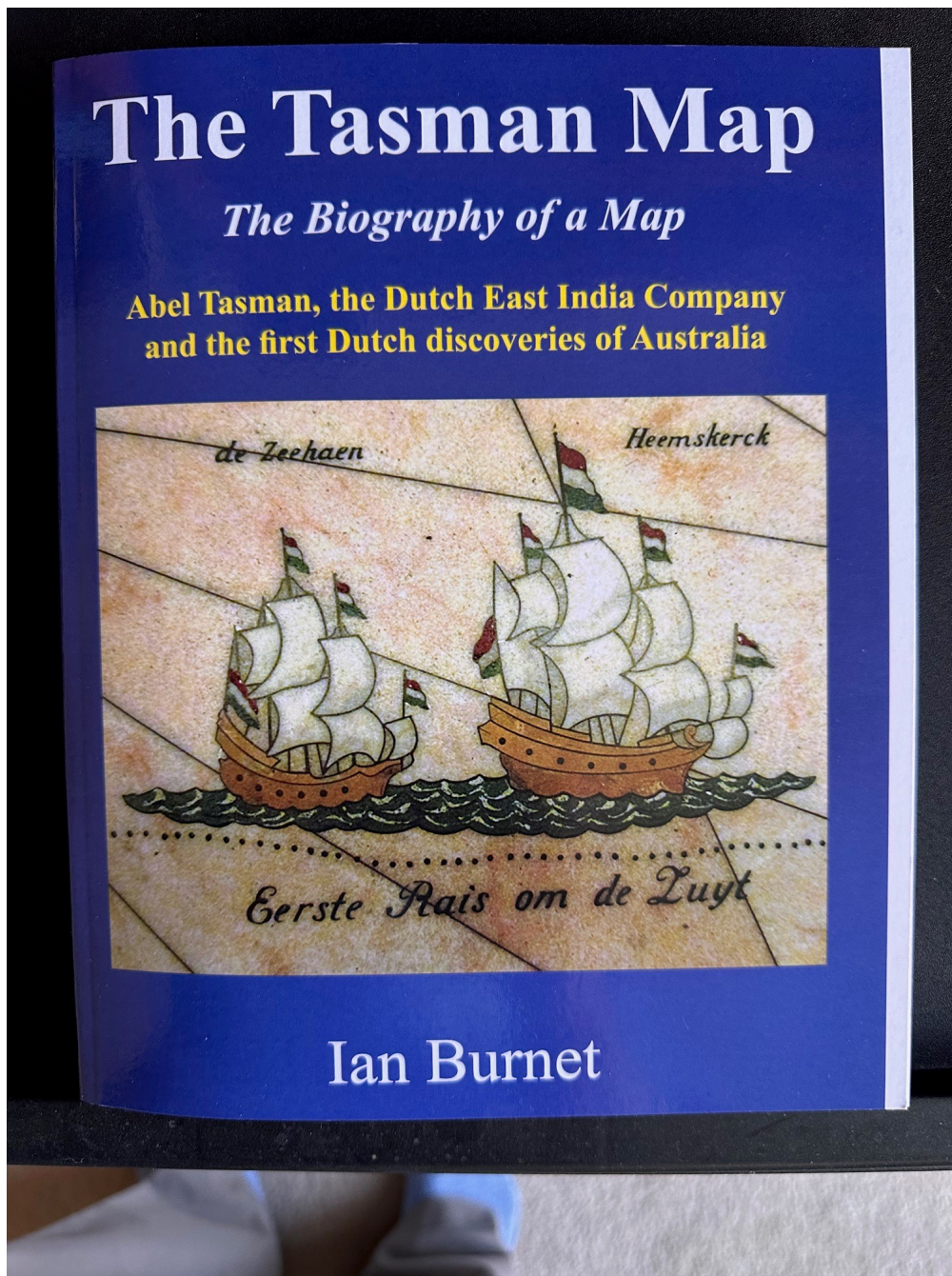
Alfred Russel Wallace, who realises that the Lombok Strait in Indonesia represents the biogeographical boundary between the fauna of Asia and those of Australasia. On the Asian side are elephants, tigers, primates, and specific birds. On the Australasian side are marsupials such as the possum-like cuscus and the Aru wallaby, as well as birds specific to Australia such as white cockatoos, brush turkeys, and the spectacular Birds of Paradise.

Burnet's wonderfully illustrated and narrated books and collection of maps reflect his dramatic transition from a geologist to that of writer, historian and voyager, vicariously experiencing the discoveries made by the great explorers of the past.

See next page.



Speaker



October Good Old Days Concert - Piano Passion

Monday, 28 Oct, 2024  
11am & 2.00pm

**"PIANO PASSION"**  
The 30th Anniversary  
Celebration"



In 1994, Bernard's debut album, "Piano Passion", conducted by Maestro Tommy Tycho, sensation-ally toppled The Three Tenors Dodgers Stadium concert album from the top of the Australian classical charts and firmly established Bernard Walz as one the leading performers of our country.

This concert celebrates Bernard's career-to-date of brilliant music-making, with The Good Old Days Concerts Orchestra and special guest, soprano **CLAIRE LYON** (featured in our November 2023 "MOVIES LIVE!" concert).

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

PO BOX 1041  
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110



**September Birthdays**

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Penny Gilchrist | 2  |
| Tony Saunders   | 4  |
| Pat Cox         | 5  |
| Barbara Enright | 23 |
| Catherine Higgs | 25 |
| Mike Regnis     | 25 |

**Editors Musings - Ageing**

- \* When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of algebra.
- \* Regular naps prevent old age, especially if you take them while driving.
- \* When I was born, I was so surprised I didn't talk for a year and a half.
- \* I tried to explain to my 4-year-old son that it's perfectly normal to accidentally poop your pants, but he's still making fun of me.
- \* "My doctor told me to watch my drinking, so now I drink in front of a mirror."
- \* My mum always used to say "40 is the new 30". Lovely woman... banned from driving.

**Barbara's Thought for the Month**

"If we threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back."

*Author: Unknown*

**From the August Meeting**

President Margaret inducting new member Annette Dale.



*A warm welcome to you Annette*

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

**Committee**

|                       |                   |              |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| President             | Margaret Timbs    | 0438 063 620 |
| Vice President        | Charles Kent      | 0410 345 040 |
| Secretary             | Anne Day          | 0405 281 672 |
| Treasurer             | Marilyn Johnson   | 0427 668 182 |
| Activities Convenor   | Bob Way           | 0406 754 099 |
| Speakers              | Jenny Thompson    | 0484 676 124 |
| Welfare Officer       | Josephine McBride | 0488 532 755 |
| Membership Officer    | Kevin Manie       | 0412 349 270 |
| Past President        | David Lorsch      | 0428 247 708 |
| Newsletter Ed / Comms | Mike Allum        | 0417 596 300 |

(email: [mike.allum@bigpond.com](mailto: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 217 141   |
| 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       | <a href="mailto:ramjones@bigpond.net.au">ramjones@bigpond.net.au</a> |
| Honorary Auditor        |                     | James Macready (member)  |

**Activities 2024**

**September**

| Mon                                   | Tue                         | Wed  | Thu                    | Fri  | Sat | Sun |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|--|-----|-----|
|                                       |                             |  |                        |  |     | 1   |
| 2                                     | 3<br>Meeting<br>10:00 am    | 4  | 5<br>Coffee - Sunroom  | 6  | 7   | 8   |
| 9<br>Golf                             | 10                          | 11<br>Barbara's<br>Wednesday Outing<br>TBA | 12<br>Coffee - Sunroom | 13<br>Exotic Lunch<br>Shavarsh<br>Toto's Five Dock | 14  | 15  |
| 16<br>Good Old Days<br>Barbara Banner | 17<br>Movies<br>Sandy Mower | 18   | 19<br>Coffee - Sunroom | 20<br>Book Club<br>Juliet Bishop<br>TBA            | 21  | 22  |
| 23<br>Golf                            | 24                          | 25   | 26<br>Coffee - Sunroom | 27<br>Art Group<br>Peter Kelly                     | 28  | 29  |
| 30                                    |                             |  |                        |  |     |     |

**October**

| Mon                                   | Tue                         | Wed  | Thu   | Fri                                     | Sat | Sun |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---|-----|-----|
|                                       | 1<br>Meeting<br>10:00 am    | 2<br>Probacchanalians<br>The Heritage<br>15:00 | 3<br>Coffee - Sunroom                               | 4                                       | 5   | 6   |
| 7<br>Golf                             | 8                           | 9  | 10<br>Coffee - Sunroom                              | 11<br>Scenic Lunch<br>Shavarsh<br>TBA   | 12  | 13  |
| 14                                    | 15<br>Movies<br>Sandy Mower | 16<br>Barbara's<br>Wednesday Outing            | 17<br>Coffee - Sunroom<br>Probus/Rotary High<br>Tea | 18<br>Book Club<br>Juliet Bishop<br>TBA | 19  | 20  |
| 21<br>Golf                            | 22                          | 23   | 24<br>Coffee - Sunroom                              | 25<br>Art Group<br>Peter Kelly<br>TBA   | 26  | 27  |
| 28<br>Good Old Days<br>Barbara Banner | 29                          | 30   | 31<br>Coffee - Sunroom                              |   |     |     |
|                                       |                             |  |   |   |     |     |