



MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Information in this Newsletter is for Probud members only



FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 3rd December

General Meeting
Speaker
David Short
"Royal Flying Doctor Service"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
Sunroom 10:00

Wednesday 4th December

Wine Appreciation
The Heritage 15:00
Richard Jones

Friday 6th December

Christmas Lunch
Sporties
Bob Way

Mon 9th - 11th December

Hunter Valley Lights
Ashlyn

Tuesday 17th December

Movies
Sandy Mower
TBA

Wednesday 25th December

Christmas Day

Thursday 26th December

Boxing Day



From the November Meeting



At the time of going to press our President Margaret was unable to submit her usual article but we do have a record of two new members to introduce,



Giovina Scocco



Elizabeth Hamilton

A warm welcome to you both.



Hardship Collection



As previously advised, we will have our "Hunters Hill Community Aid Hardship Collection" at our next meeting on December 3rd.

Again, the following are some suggestions, not exhaustive, for us to donate:-

- Longlife milk (Full Cream and Light) in one Litre cartons
- Vegemite
- 2 minute noodles
- Tins of Spam or other meals, casseroles etc, in tins
- Packets of instant potato and instant peas
- Packets of cereals
- Packets of pasta meals
- Shampoo, soap, toilet paper toothpaste
-

As in the past, Harrie Hall will have his "Ute", and extra trailers if required, strategically placed near the Club entrance.

On behalf of Vincie, Thank you in advance,

FOR YOUR DIARY

2005

Tuesday 7th January

General Meeting
Speaker
Mark Bundy
"Rookwood Cemetery"

Thursdays

Coffee Morning
Sunroom 10:00

Monday 13th January

Golf
Jim Macready

Friday 17th January

Book Club
Juliet Bishop

Tuesday 21st January

Movies
Sandy Mower
TBA

Monday 10th February

Lucas Heights Discovery Centre
Barbara Banner
being planned

Friday 14th February

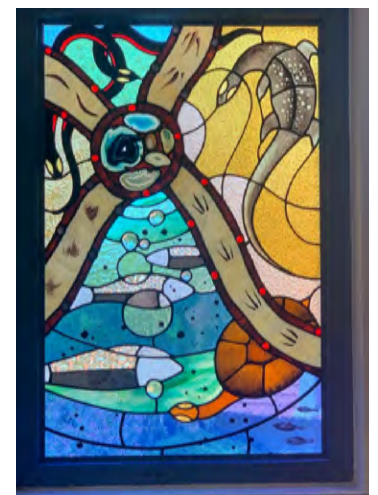
Exotic Lunch
Marcus Cafe in Chatswood
Rescheduled from Nov 29th 2024
Shavarsh

Art Group



On Friday 22nd November twenty two of our members attended Mosman Art Gallery, our final outing for the year.

The Curator, Althea, gave us a wonderful tour of the gallery.



Many of us then proceeded to CHAOS, a nearby restaurant where the food was fantastic.

Peter Kelly

Dorrigo Tour

An interesting trip right from the outset, a limited number, an interesting itinerary and, by all accounts and an interesting “business class bus.

Once advertised to our membership it was a quick sellout, with a couple of standby positions if your luck prevailed. A day before departure, yours truly, having been feeling “unwell” revisited his GP to be told “*chronic pneumonia has it’s hold on you, you’re going nowhere*. The only reason I’m sharing this with you is because this was to be my travel report and by the time impact of the news hit, the bus had left and was well on it’s way up north to pastures Dorriggo.

Enough said. Words with Peter Kelly, “fill in” tour leader in my good lady wife’s absence, were had. He would cover the narrative and photos would send to me as appropriate.

So here goes. Three brief sets of thoughts from very experiences contributors bring you the essence of the trip.

In no particular order:

There are many joys in our Probus club trips away. One such is being able to meet the “locals” as they go about their lives. Sometimes the meeting is with our group as a whole, at others it is one-on-one. I had the pleasure of a brief, but pleasurable exchange while our group enjoyed a relaxed club lunch overlooking the working harbour and beach at Coffs Harbour. Sun shining, walkers and others strolling the promenade, wind-surfers on one side and moored fishing vessels on the other.

Generally, when we gather for lunch at a club we know the fare is pre-ordered and we expect a, well, fairly ordinary but hearty meal. Not this time. It was fish, chips and salad. The chips were clearly NOT as generally served. They were from real spuds. The salad was fresh and appealing. And the meal was by all standards, hearty. The real pleasure, though, was in the fish – battered but of firm flesh, sweet and beautifully cooked. I was in my element.

As I was tucking into my meal our (very) young waitress again walked past. I turned to her and asked: “Excuse me, can you please tell me what sort of fish this is?” She did look a little bemused. Considered. And replied: “Fillets.”

PS: Our waitress did later ask the kitchen. The “fillets” were of locally caught Snapper

Mike Regnis

Where do I start. Travelling on a first class bus, the wonderful company, fantastic accommodation, great food, outstanding day trips. We loved the Pet Porpoise Pool.

Wonderful views, the Bellingen Markets, the Urunga elevated boardwalk, sensational coastal walks. Waterfalls and bush views. Watching the ladies shop. Terrific luncheon venues.

Peter Kelly

While we experienced several different events during our excursion e.g. jumping dolphins, trout hatchery etc the most impressive part for us was the scenery.

The mountain, with drifting clouds, waterfalls, the bush with large trees and fantastic views. We had a very good friendly go up and a good driver

Ann & Garth



Over the next few days I’ll organise for a collection of some 21 photos to be uploaded to our Website.

Mike

Book Club & Lunch



"Horse"

Australian author Geraldine Brooks won the Pulitzer Prize in 2006 for her novel "March", based on the fictional family immortalized in Louisa M Alcott's classic "Little Women". In "Horse", one of her many subsequent New York Times bestsellers, the author returns to those years leading into and through the American Civil War.

She cleverly uses the rediscovery of two paintings to link three stories which together offer insights into the connections between art and history, and between animals and humankind, and also the persistence of racial discrimination. The paintings executed in the 1850s were of a very remarkable racehorse, Lexington - the ancestor of the principal bloodlines in the American stud book. One also includes an attendant whom the author reimagines as Jarret, a slave boy with a deep devotion to this exceptional horse. This fictional character coexists with Lexington's various real-life owners and the painter Thomas Scott (also real). His encounters with the realities of slavery and the chicanery of the racing world leave a deep impression.

It was Scott who made two paintings of the famous horse, one of which was part of a collection bequeathed to the Smithsonian Institution by Martha Jackson. She was a highly influential dealer of abstract art in mid-twentieth century New York. The second strand of the novel touches on Jackson and her close friends including Jackson Pollock, to imagine how such a painting might have found a place alongside works such as his.

The whole novel is tied together with the fictional story, set in very recent times, of a love affair between Jess, a white Australian scientist and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian who has chanced upon the other painting. Together they resurrect the story of Lexington's origins and fame as Jess re-articulates his skeleton for exhibition at the Smithsonian. At the same time, they are confronted by modern racial prejudice and its consequences.

For the last time this year we gathered at The Heritage to discuss our reactions. Although one or two of us had not managed to complete the book in the face of present-day commitments, we were awed by the novelist's skill in weaving these threads together so that each story serves to complement the other two.



Richard confessed that he hates both horses and horse-racing. As we discovered last month with "The Marriage Portrait", he also has reservations about the whole genre of historical fiction, but these were appeased by the author's meticulous care to distinguish between her inventions and the historic record. For all that, we found "Horse" to be a very worthwhile and absorbing novel that enhances the author's already bright reputation.

We rounded out the year with a convivial lunch at "On Cowell" in Gladesville. Sadly, Margaret Timbs, Carole Timmins and Richard Jones were unavailable, but the remaining seven enjoyed the meal and the company.

Bob Way

A Cautionary Tale

Recently I foolishly made an assumption regarding domestic travel insurance.

Ashlyn and I were due to travel with other members to Dorrigo. So far so good. Insurance cover provided by our Probus Insurance - no problem. Until the need to cancel on the day prior to departure for health reasons.

A quick call was made to PSPL to request a Claim form for cancellation of a trip because of a health issue. Our call was met with "sorry we don't cover claims for cancellation due to health issues". No discussion, end of matter.

A quick check confirmed the worst, as stated NO claims allowable for cancellation due to health reasons.

I include this item in the Newsletter with some embarrassment. As a seasoned traveller I should have checked and not assumed that such cover would be a given.

It may serve as a "memory jogger" for others.

Mike

This has been a Community Announcement

The Lusitania Disaster

Our November speaker, Kez Hasanic from the "Naval Historical Society of Australia", gave an interesting presentation on the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915.

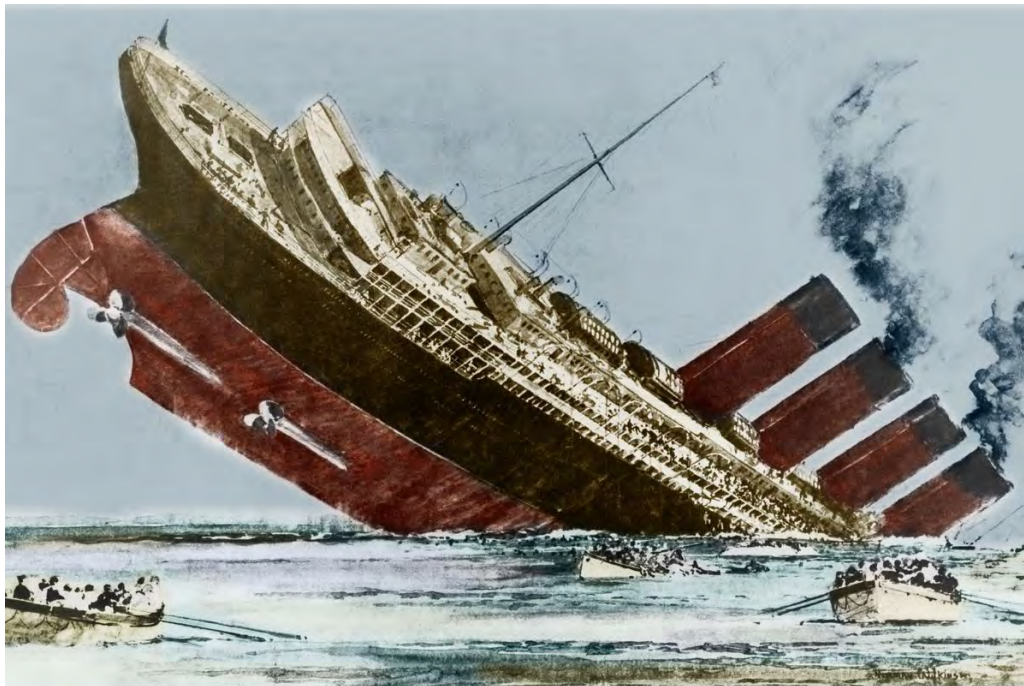
His theme was: **"Who was to blame?"**

The official verdict was Captain Turner, the captain of the Lusitania when she sank. The "truth" is, there were many factors, the cargo, the Germans' submarine fleet position and the naval escort that never arrived.

Lusitania was a Cunard Ocean Liner in peace and was designed to be easily converted in war time to carry arms and personnel and was designated as such in the Navel Ships Register. She had all "mod cons," steam turbines and an electrical system [lights, air conditioning and radio communications] but no radar. On the 1st May 1915, she set sail for Britian, who at the time was at war with Germany.

Other factors were that Captain Turner was told that the German Submarine fleet Was not in the area of Ireland. Lusitania's life boats were not well maintained and could not be launched correctly and there were not enough boats for all the passengers and crew. The escort vessel was called back to Ireland so she was on her own. On her list of cargo [manifest] were explosives [303 machine gun ammunition, aluminium and copper powder and gun cotton called unrefrigerated gee and butter.

The ship was very fast and could outrun the subs but she turned towards the sub and was hit by a torpedo. The ship was hit mid-ship and it hit the cargo and exploded inwards destroying the turbines thus cutting the electrical supply [lights and lifts]. People down below had little chance to escape.



The ship went down by the bow and many were thrown into the water and drowned when the faulty winches on the lifeboats did not let the boats down evenly. Survivors were picked up by fishing vessels in the area.

Some say that Churchill wanted to bring USA into the war but that did not happen until later when the USA heard that Germany was encouraging the Mexicans to begin a war with the USA.

Altogether, a very sad time for many families who lost loved ones and sometimes whole families.

Jenny Thomson

Probacchanalians



Tasting Notes for the Wine Appreciation Group and all Probus



Members

The next meeting of WAG (Wine Appreciation Group) will be held on Wednesday 4th December at 3pm (the day after the December General Meeting) in the Dining room of the old quarters of the Heritage.

The theme will be blends of Grenache Shiraz and Mourvedre (a la southern Rhone).

- * Chemin des Papes, Cotes du Rhone France GSM 2023 14.5% screw cap
Aromas of dark plum, black currant and hints of spice-soft spicy succulent palate with supple tannins-very drinkable
- * Yangarra Blewitt Springs McLaren Vale South Australia G42% S33% M25% 2022 14.5% screw cap
Perfumed and elegant old French oak (top of its game!!) succulent Grenache fruit /plum cherry chocolate Shiraz ,solid tannins
- * Domaine de Blayac , Minervois, France G S Carignan 2021 13.5% cork
Intense nose, black fruit and spice, floral notes . Palate of roasted coffee, vanilla, raspberry blackberry and blackcurrant ,silky rounded tannins
- * Torbreck Cuvee Juveniles Barossa, South Australia GSM Carignan etc 2023 15% screw cap
Bright colours . Aroma of graphite and slate, nutmeg and crushed black pepper, aged in old oak medium body, long acidity balancing fresh fruitiness with firm tannin
- * Domaine Gour de Chaule , Gigondas France GSM 2019 14.5% cork
Deep red ; bouquet of menthol, dark berries, herbs—sweet dusty tannins, oak cherry pepper earth and mineral ,exotic spice
- * Gabriel Meffre Saint Vincent Cotes du Rhone France GSCM 2023 14% screwcap
A hint of mint and currants on the nose; flavours of plum and dark berry fruits , medium body juicy ripeness, dusty tannins

IN VINO VERITAS

Richard Jones

News from the Movies



Trevor, Sandie, Tony, Bronwyn, Kathy and Peter went to see the movie “Lee” on Tuesday 19th November.

“Lee” is the incredible true story of Lee Miller (played by Kate Winslett) a fashion model who became an acclaimed war correspondent/photographer during World War 2 for Vogue magazine.

After the movie we enjoyed lunch at a local Thai restaurant.

Trevor and Sandie

Probus Music



December is Messiah month. If you wish to hear the full version with orchestra and choir you will have to cross the bridge to the city, otherwise go to Waitara for the "best of" the Messiah. I've listed three other concerts for your delectation this month. I particularly commend the concert by Hunters Hill Music featuring the superb tenor Andrew Goodwin. Support your local musicians! I will refrain from promoting jazz!

Thursday December 12, 8.00 pm.

THE HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI ECUMENICAL CHOIR presents:

Handel's Messiah

At Our Lady of the Rosary
Hornsby Catholic Cathedral
23 Yardley Avenue
Waitara, NSW 2077
Full \$30, concession \$20.

Friday December 13, 8.00 pm; Saturday December 14 and Sunday 15, 1.00 pm.

THE SYDNEY PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS present:

Handel's Messiah.

This will be a 'big' Messiah, with all the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs and Orchestra joining their annual Christmas Choir, but you're guaranteed a performance that's as stylish and fine-tuned as it is rousing. Hallelujah!
At the Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House.
Various prices, see: www.sydneyphilharmonia.com.au.

Saturday December 21 and Sunday 22 at 3.00 pm.

THE RADIO COMMUNITY CHEST presents:

Handel's Messiah

Their 83rd annual performance featuring a 300+ choir, the world renowned Town Hall organ, a professional conductor, soloists and orchestra.
At the Sydney Town Hall.
\$45 to \$60.

Sunday December 1, 2.30 pm

THE NORTH SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA presents:

Summer Concert

Their final concert features a more relaxed presentation, introductions to the works and a range of well-known, accessible music suitable for all the family to enjoy. From the majestic chords of Wagner's Tannhouser Overture to the brilliance of Anderson's Sleigh Ride, there is something for everyone!

At North Sydney Girls High School.
Full \$40, concession \$30.

Saturday December 7, 2.30 pm.

THE MOSMAN SYMPHONY CHORUS presents:

Choral Christmas Concert – A Christmas Celebration

At the Mosman Art Gallery.
Full \$30, concession \$20.

Sunday December 15, 2.30 pm.

HUNTERS HILL MUSIC presents:

Joyeux Noel

Featuring the magnificent voice of Australian tenor, Andrew Goodwin, the program will feature reimagining's of cherished works by history's greatest songsmiths: Dowland, Purcell, Handel, Britten, Korngold, as well as adaptations of the poetry of Goethe and Shakespeare.

At the Hunters Hill Town Hall
Full \$45 with a free glass of wine!

Graham Holland

From the Editor's Desk

Well, the end of another year approaches. I think it fair to say a busy year and I suspect next year will e even busier as the plans for our 50th Birthday celebrations get into full swing.

I would like to thank all those of who have contributed to the Newsletter this past year.

We have a regular supply of contributors;

- * Magaret Timbs - "From the President"
- * Peter Kelly - Art Group
- * Juliet Bishop / Bob Way - Book Club
- * Barbara Gardner with her "Thought for the Month"
- * Shavarsh Bedrossian - Exotic/Scenic Lunched
- * Richard Jones - Wine Expert Extraordinaire
- * Reports on our Speaker presentation primarily Margaret Bowman
- * Members who have submitted reports on a varied number of activities, events and outings over the year.

I hope I haven't missed anyone and thank you all for making my job a little easier each month.

One last thing.

I'm not sure if any of you visit our Website www.huntershillprobus.org but we recently uploaded a number of photos from our Members Art Exhibition meeting in October.

We had a few technical issues, hence the delay

So, if you

- * log on as above
- * Click on the "Gallery"
- * Select "Members Art Exhibition"
- * Explore other options while you're there

All being well, see you of Tuesday.

Mike

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

PO BOX 1041



December Birthdays

Judith Keller	11
Gayle Macready	19
David Lorsch	25

Editors Musings - Ageing

- * I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one'.
- * Day 12 without chocolate. Lost hearing in my left eye
- * I miss the 90's when bread was still good for you and no one knew what kale was.
- * I'm a multitasker. I can listen, ignore and forget all at the same time!
- * At my funeral, take the bouquet from my coffin and throw it into the crowd to see who is next.

Barbara's Thought for the Month

"A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstance, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes."

Author: Hugh Downs

Gladesville Probus Activities

As you are probably aware we are often joined by Gladesville Probus members on our organised outings, the upcoming Hunter Valley Lights trip being a good example.

I am advised they are organising two events and have offered an invitation to our members.

- * Wednesday 19th February. Sydney Harbour Seafood Buffet Cruise.
- * Saturday 12th April. Six day Coach holiday package visiting Mudgee, Hill End, Gulgong and Abercrombie House Bathurst

If you are interested in either of these activities you will need to contact:

Joan Lloyd: Mob: 0419 472 563

**PROBUS CLUB OF HUNTERS HILL 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)

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	ramjones@bigpond.net.au
Honorary Auditor		James Macready (member)

Activities 2024

December

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3 Meeting 10:00	4	5 Coffee - Sunroom	6 Christmas Lunch Sporties	7	8
9 Hunter Valley Lights	10 Hunter Valley Lights	11 Hunter Valley Lights	12 Coffee - Sunroom	13	14	15
16	17 Movies Sandy Mower TBA	18	19 Coffee - Sunroom	20 No Book Club	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29
30	31 New Year's Eve					

January 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 New Year's Day	2	3 No Exotic Lunch	4	5
6	7 Meeting 10:00	8	9 Coffee - Sunroom	10	11	12
13 Golf Jim Macready TBA	14	15	16 Coffee - Sunroom	17 Book Club Juliet Bishop	18	19
20	21 Movies Sandy Mower TBA	22	23 Coffee - Sunroom	24 No Art Group	25	26 Australia Day
27 Golf Jim Macready TBA	28	29	30 Coffee - Sunroom	31		