



# MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Information in this  
Newsletter is for  
Probus members only

## FOR YOUR DIARY

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

General Meeting  
Speaker  
Mark Bundy  
Rookwood Cemetery  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Thursdays

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

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January

Book Club  
The Heritage  
15:0  
Juliet Bishop  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January

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

## From the President

Ramblings about December memories. December has been a significant month in many aspects of my life. As a Primary school child it would always mean the end of a school year and the beginning of eight weeks of freedom, holidays.

Santa Claus visited in December though I used to wonder how he would enter my house because it did not have a chimney. This never deterred him so on Christmas morning there would always be presents and evidence he'd been because the reindeers had partially eaten the carrots and Santa had sipped the beer.

Into me teenage years, December meant swimming and surfing, sunburn and peeling of skin. No wonder the Dermatologist is now earning his keep burning off those unwanted skin lesions. Crystal clear harbour waters and clean sand beckoned daily after riding my bike up a huge hill to get there.

Sometimes it would be the surf I enjoyed with my friends. The surf taught me to respect the power waves and their differing heights and strengths. Many times I and friends would be the furthest out beyond the breaking waves. Never did I give sharks a thought. How times have changed.

I was married in the month of December and foolishly got a dose of sunburn whilst on honeymoon. Enough said.

My late husband was diagnosed with a cancer in the month of December. On the day of his last Christmas he was in hospital and I was allowed to bring him home for the Christmas feast, but had to take him back to hospital at the end of the day.

Now, this December I am walking the final journey with my Mother who is aged 103. I don't yet know if she will reach Christmas day, but the memories with her are beautiful to experience. She is the Matriarch of the family. I think this means that after she leaves us, the new Matriarch will be me.

*Margaret Timbs*

## Hardship Collection



A "Ute load" on it's way to where it's needed the most. Well done.

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

General Meeting  
 Speaker  
 TBA  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Thursdays**

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

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Golf  
 Jim Macready  
 TBA  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

Wine Appreciation  
 15:00  
 The Heritage  
 Richard Jones  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

Lucas Heights Discovery Centre  
 Barbara Banner  
**5 more people required for  
 this trip to go ahead**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Exotic Lunch  
 Marcus Cafe in Chatswood  
 Shavarsh  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

Golf  
 Jim Macready  
 TBA  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Book Club**



Yes, the Book club will meet again on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in the Mary McKillop Room of The Heritage.

Each member is to briefly present a book to the group that they've read since the last meeting - a teaser about it without giving away the plot, and maybe a thumbs up or down! (The synopsis on the cover will help if stuck!).

Jenny Thomson has kindly said she will take her turn to provide the afternoon tea. We look forward to our gatherings for the year ahead.

Please message Juliet if you aren't able to attend. 0431 627 834

*Juliet Bishop*

**Probacchanalians**



The first WAG meeting in 2025 will be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at the usual venue, the Heritage at 15:00.

*Richard Jones*

At the time of going to press we do not have the theme for the day

**Art Group**



The Art group is in "recess" at the moment. Resuming in March.

There are no events planned for January of February, largely as Peter is away at present and I'm not aware of anybody filling the breach in his absence.

*Mike*

**Christmas Lunch**

After a few forced late withdrawals there were 56 of us to celebrate Christmas at Sporties on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Our popular president Margaret and VP Charles were two of those unfortunate absentees, but Mike Allum stood in to give us a hearty welcome.

As usual Sporties' kitchen came through with a very delicious traditional Christmas repast.

Ashlyn impressed us with her perspicacity in winning the game of "Who am I?", but there was such a buzz of bonhomie that it was quite unnecessarily intrusive to introduce more games.

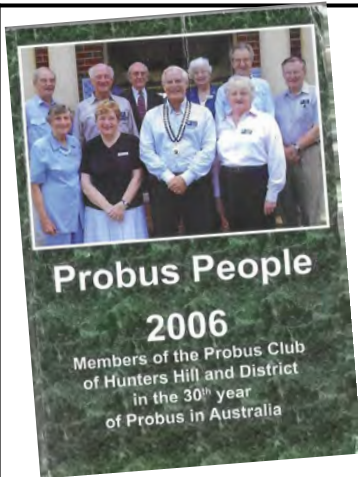


*Bob Way*

*Regrettably our regular roving correspondent, me, wasn't performing to his usual high standard on the day, hence the briefer than usual report.*

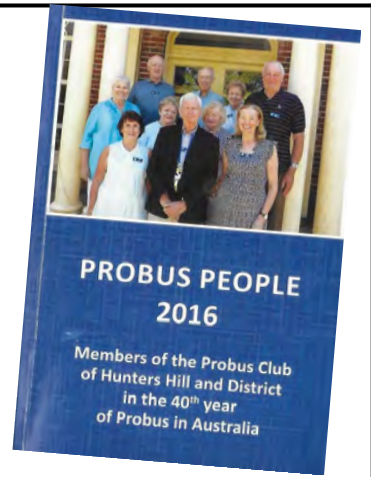
*Mike*

PROBUS 50th Anniversary Book



PROBUS People 2026

Your stories go here



A you are well aware there is a significant amount of work taking place in readiness for our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in February 2026. One such activity is the preparation and production of an appropriate equivalent of the “Probus People” publication where members provide some text describing their background in their own words, and a photo.

Sandy Mower is leading this project and to this end has submitted the following request to kick the project off.

\*\*\*\*\*

*To All Members,*

*I would like to like you to send me via email a recent photo and a summary of your life in no more than 300 words.*

*You might like to write about your family, background, job, interests and any other anecdotes you are happy to share with your fellow members..*

*In the subject section on email put your surname in Capitals followed by given name eg MOWER Sandy. This is so publisher can easily sort out your contributions into alphabetical order.*

*If you're not computer savvy, ask a friend or family member (probably a grandchild) to help you.*

*You have until June to do this but the sooner the better.*

*Please send your 'story' to [sjmower@hotmail.com](mailto:sjmower@hotmail.com)*

*Thanks Sandy*

\*\*\*\*\*

To provide some guidance, not compulsory, in how you might prepare your input, Jill and Mike Regnis, very heavily involved in previous issues, have prepared an article sections of which I plan to include in this and the next issue. Who knows it might trigger some thoughts for you.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROBUS PEOPLE – SNIPPETS FROM PAST EDITIONS  
2003, 2006 and 2016.**

Sandy Mower and her colleagues on our club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sub-Committee have now invited all of us to join in writing our profiles for inclusion in a new - a 2026 - version of *Probus People*. There have already been three publications: 2003, 2006 and 2016. On each occasion the then members did show themselves as being able to shrug off any inhibitions or doubts and to write, within a word-limit framework, about what they had seen, done and experienced; whether this was of family and friends, childhood, adulthood, work life, achievements, retirement, life's pleasures or simply observations on life itself. In other words, whatever was of interest to them.

For our 2026 profiles we will be subject to some limitations. The number of words we can use (300, give or take a very few!) will be decided by the expected size of the book, the font type that has been agreed, photos to be included, other word-pictures, and the inevitable introductory remarks. We will need to look to our powers of recall and to our imaginations. We will also have to find within ourselves a preparedness to hit our “self-start” buttons. Of course, now, as was the case for the past three productions, there will be ready advice help should it be needed. Sandy and her fellow team members will be available in this regard. However, as a starter-guide, who better to turn to than Gil Wahlquist, editor of the 2003 and 2006 editions? In his Introduction of 2003 he made the wise observation:

## PROBUS 50th Anniversary Book - cont'd

*Members had the opportunity to tell their stories in any way they wanted. Some took the long road, others kept it short. As M. said – how much do you leave out, how much do you put in?"*

What follows is our (i.e. Jill & Mike Regnis) somewhat random selection of short extracts from Profiles of 2003, 2006 and 2016. Hopefully, they do pick up on the aspects which we identified in paragraph 1 above, and which do amplify Gil's words. We have deliberately NOT used anything from current members of the club or from their partners. While the extracts are in no particular order we do believe they will keep you interested and entertained – and isn't that the aim in publishing these books?

Further, perhaps there is a guide for you in how you approach writing your profiles in the very wise words of Elizabeth Bennet (*Pride and Prejudice*):

*"Think only of the past as its remembrance gives you pleasure"*

Please read on:-

### **Charles M. (2003):**

"Retirement, I felt, would be the golden years of free choice, quiescence and long-awaited indolence.

"Bridge is like golf. Play once a week and spend the other six days having post mortems. If only I hadn't sliced that tee shot on the ninth. I didn't really mean to trump my partner's ace.

### **Kip F. (2016):**

"As a child I knew my destiny was with a foreign land. I arrived at the New Gold Mountain (Australia) on 1 May 1940 ---. I left China by the back door, as the Sino-Japanese war was raging. The enemy forces occupied Guangzhou (Canton). It was a perilous journey on land and water. The boat I was travelling in was shot at and nearly sank in a violent storm at the mouth of the Pearl River.

### **Deirdre W. (2016):**

"My parents were English and had lived in London since their marriage ---. One day my father suggested an adventure – a few years sojourn in another country. Why Australia was decided upon I was never told, but my father bought a pith helmet and a rifle, and bought tickets on a liner heading for Sydney.

### **Anne C. (2016):**

"My mother was from Scotland and on her arrival in the early 1920's she stood on the ship deck crying with fear and loneliness -- she was overwhelmed by the enormity of leaving her close knit family for a country she knew little about except it was inhabited by Aborigines and strange animals. From a deck chair behind her an elderly man said 'Wipe your tears Lassie. I've seen every harbour in the world and Sydney Harbour is the most beautiful of them all'. My mother said she could not see its beauty for her tears.

### **Tony de L. (2003):**

"I was born in Italy and migrated to Australia in 1950. --- In 1954 my wife and I took out a loan of 500 (pounds) and bought a tabletop truck and fruit and vegetable business in Lane Cove. --- at the time the most popular vegetables were carrots, fresh peas, potatoes, pumpkin, beans, swedes and parsnips. However, none of the customers were familiar with vegetables I knew well back in Italy, such as zucchini, eggplants, capsicum and garlic. These vegetables caused quite a stir when I began to stock them, and my wife and I spent countless hours trying to encourage our customers to try them.

### **Arthur C. (2003):**

"My first Mallee memories were of living with Grandfather C. and Grandma --- on their wheat farm at South Waitchie. --- One brief memory is of Grandma riding side-saddle wearing long black skirts and a cardigan on a huge draught horse, dragging heavy harrows around the fence line.

### **Graham P. (2003):**

"Saturday was a busy day for me. My great-uncle -- owned milk runs in Balmain. I always went to bed early on a Friday night to rise early in the morning to help Uncle -- on his run in his state of the art custom-designed Morris Cowley milk van. Most milk runs were horse and cart. Part of his run took in Goat Island, and my job was to row a little dinghy with the two of us together with milk cans and measures (no bottles) from Simmons Point to the nearby wharf on the island where we delivered milk to the sixteen families who lived there plus the workers' canteen.

### **Mona B. (2016):**

"I -- worked for ten years in the research laboratories (of Australian Wireless Australasia) as a secretary -- where my mathematical and physicist colleagues influenced my thinking forever. --- [then, on returning to Australia after two years in England] I asked the ABC for a job in their engineering department. However, I was told the ABC did not have an engineering department – the Post Office did their engineering. There was a job going in the religious department which I took. After about eighteen months I was offered training for a job which, in simple terms, amounted to being a producer of radio programs.

More examples next month.

**Mike**

### Hunter Valley and Christmas Lights Trip

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December a band of some 37 intrepid travellers, members, friends and Gladesville Probus members, set off toward the Hunters Valley.

The aim to explore the scenic beauty and aesthetics of the region but more importantly experience and savour the offerings of some of the many vineyards in the region. The teetotalers among us would say the aim was to experience the Hunter Vally Gardens illuminated in a Christmas theme by a reported 4 million lights.

After an appropriate morning tea and “comfort” stop, we headed off along the convict built Great North Road toward Australia’s oldest wine growing district establish way back in the 1820’s.

I’m sure we would all remember Ben Ean (Moselle springs to mind), formally known as Lindeman’s Estate, and their subsequent demise. However, Ben Ean, , has been acquired by the McGuigan and Peterson families, returning the property to its historical roots of the



Hunter Valley.

This was our first stop for lunch and a very generous wine tasting enroute to our accommodation at the Mercure Resort.



However, we made a further compulsory stop at the Hunter Valley Chocolate Company and Fudge Factory after fitting in a second wine tasting on the way.

### Hunter Valley and Christmas Lights - cont'd

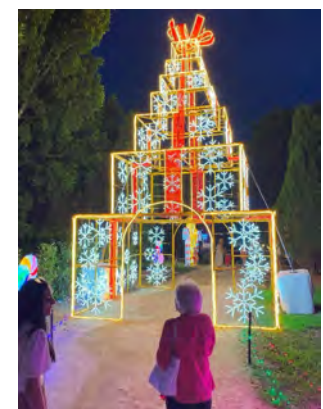
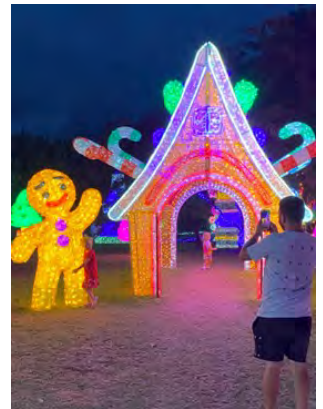


Tuesday was a free morning to spend around the resort or walk to and explore the Hunter Valley Gardens Shopping Village, a unique collection of bespoke shops offering everything from meals, coffee and wine, to glassware, jewellery and unique clothing. If that didn't catch your imagination there was always the option of visiting a nearby Cellar door and sampling more of the local product.

Lunch followed at 4 Pines at the Farm, a local brewery where one could cleanse the palette before moving on to our next winery for more tastings then returning to our accommodation to prepare for our visit the illuminated gardens. Truly a spectacular experience.

A Christmas themed dinner was enjoyed by all before we set off to the Gardens for the light show.

The photos that follow do not do the whole spectacle true justice.



### Hunter Valley and Christmas Lights - cont'd

Wednesday had us returning home but not before a slow drive-thru the city of Newcastle with our driver, Tony, pointing out the highlights of the city and harbour area. He clearly had an deep affection for the place from his younger days and provided a very interesting commentary with a local's perspective.

The final portion of our tour was a 2-3 hour cruise on the Hunter River enjoying all the sights that the harbor has to offer, a picturesque forshore, the ports coal lodingfacility, tug butts and big vessels close up.

The cruise was of the lunchtime variety hence yet more food and in case of withdrawal symptoms, more wine to taste.



All in a very enjoyable and interesting three days on the road with good group of ravelling companions.

Mike

## Probus Music



Well, there isn't much on in January, in fact nothing! I guess they're all on holiday or busy rehearsing for their February and March concerts.

However, there is jazz on and this gives me the opportunity of promoting a number of venues and events. Unfortunately, the only one on the North Shore is the Freeway Hotel, see below.

### Jazz at the Freeway Hotel

Cnr Reserve Road & Gore Hill Freeway, 115 Reserve Road, Artarmon.

Wednesday Jazz (Sydney Jazz Club) - on the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the month 12pm-3pm

Saturday Jazz – on the 1st and 3rd week of the month 2pm-5pm

### Jazz at the House

At Government House

Sunday, 26 January 2025 - as part of AustraliaDay@theHouse - the Australian Army Band (midday to 2:40pm) and the Royal Australian Navy Band (3:00-5:40pm)

### At the Oldest Pub in Sydney

The Hero of Waterloo, in the Rocks, Old time Jazz (played by some old time players!) Saturday 2.30 to 6.30 pm, Sunday 3.00 to 7.30 pm.

### Finding gigs

Try these web sites: [www.sydneyjazzclub.org.au](http://www.sydneyjazzclub.org.au), [www.sydneyjazz.com.au](http://www.sydneyjazz.com.au)

And these venues: [www.foundry616.com.au](http://www.foundry616.com.au) in Ultimo.

[www.lazyboneslounge.com.au](http://www.lazyboneslounge.com.au), [www.camelotlounge.com](http://www.camelotlounge.com).

Both in Marrickville.

*Graham Holland*

## Exotic Lunch

Just a reminder, there are no luncheons in January.

The next one which is an 'EXOTIC' is 12:30 pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 'Marcus Cafe', Shop 2 Spring Street, Chatswood.

It will be share like lunch with 3 entrées, 5 mains and a desert - \$30 ahead, cash only, register on at our January meeting, payable on our 4<sup>th</sup> February meeting. Further details, Menu, BYO, etc. at our meeting days.

*Shavarsh*



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

PO BOX 1041



**January Birthdays**

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

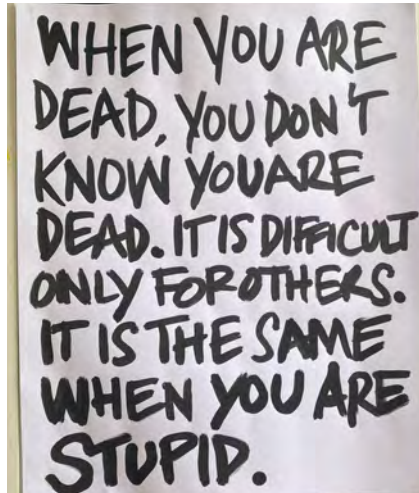
**Editors Musings - Ageing**

- \* I know a guy so old that when he orders a three-minute egg, they ask for the money up front.
- \* A stockbroker urged me to buy a stock that would triple its value every year. I told him, "At my age, I don't even buy green bananas."
- \* I'm at an age when my back goes out more than I do.
- \* There was a guy Iso old they cancelled his blood type.
- \* It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
- \* Aging gracefully is like the nice way of saying you're slowly looking worse.
- \* The first sign of maturity is the discovery that the volume knob also turns to the left.

**Barbara's Thought for the Month**

"The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of a wise man is in his heart."

*Author: Benjamin Franklin*



**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 Lorschy	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)

**WEBSITE: [www.huntershillprobus.org](http://www.huntershillprobus.org)**

**BANK: Acct No: 00902310**

**BSB: 062 182**

**Activities**

**January 2025**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			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	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 Australia Day
26 Australia Day	27 Australia Day Holiday	28	29	30 Coffee - Sunroom	31	

**February 2025**

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