

Probus Club of Hunters Hill and District Inc

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Volume 50 Number 3

March 2025

Information in this Newsletter is for Probus members only

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 4th March General Meeting followed by Annual General Meeting

> No Speaker *****

Thursdays Coffee Morning Sunroom 10:00 *****

Monday 10^h March Golf Jim Macready TBA *****

Friday 14th March Scenic Lunch Drummoyne Sailing Club Shavarsh TBA *****

Tuesday 18th March Movies Sandy Mower TBA *****

Friday 21th March Book Club Juliet Bishop *****

Monday 24th March Golf Jim Macready TBA

Friday 28th March No March Event Peter Kelly *****

From the President

Almost an entire year has passed since I was elected President, so this will be my last report in the Newsletter. In many ways I have enjoyed this experience, as it was an honour to guide our Probus Club throughout the year. Mind you, it was not without its difficulties at times which mostly stemmed from the adage, "You can't please all of the people all of the time" etc.

Working in conjunction with the members of the Management Committee namely, Charles, Anne, David, Marilyn, Kevin, Josephine, Jenny, Bob and Mike was a delight and their support and friendship was and is invaluable.

I made a commitment to our Probus Club for three years and I'm now 2/3rds of the way through that commitment. Next year, 2026, will be an exciting and meaningful year as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Probus Club of Hunters Hill. What an achievement.

My last very sincere request to all the Members is to please support our Club's Birthday Lunch which has been rescheduled for Tuesday 8th April 2025.

Thank you for the Honour of being your President for the last year.

Margaret Timbs

From the February Meeting

Ann and Garth Juster receiving their 10 Year Service pins from President Margaret





Margaret in action again inducting Denise and Robert Drew.

A warm welcome to you both.

10 months and 30 days to our "50th"

FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 1st April General Meeting 10:00

Speaker: Jo Anne Berthelsen *****

Thursdays Coffee Morning Sunroom 10:00 *****

Wednesday 2nd April Wine Appreciation Heritage 15:00 *****

Monday 7th April Golf Jim Macready TBA ***** Tuesday 8th April 49th Birthday Lunch Nth Ryde RSL 12:00 for 12:30 *****

Friday 11th April No Exotic Lunch due to proximity to Birthday lunch Shavarsh *****

> Tuesday 15th April Movies Sandy Mower TBA *****

Good Friday

Friday 18th April Book Club Juliet Bishop *****

Easter Monday Monday 21st April Golf Jim Macready TBA

25th April

Anzac Day Friday 25th April Art Group 10.00 Peter Kelly *****

Wednesday 30th April Western Sydney Airport Experience See Barbara at the meeting *****

Book Club



All ten of us attended our February meeting to discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* - a very successful debut novel from American author, Shelby van Pelt.

The story is set in a small one-store town on Puget Sound in the Northwest United States, where the widow Tova Sullivan loves her job working nights as a cleaner in the aquarium. It is her habit to talk

to the various exhibits while she works, and gradually she builds a tenuous rapport with Marcellus the Giant Pacific Octopus, who likes to escape his tank at night to enjoy a seafood dinner.

It is a known fact that the octopus family is highly intelligent. Being also perceptive and resourceful, Marcellus can discern that Tova lives in grief, an emotion he recognises because he himself laments the freedom and lifestyle he lost when he was taken from the sea. (Why shouldn't the author project that an octopus can feel grief? After all he has three hearts to feel it in!)

Tova is grieving that creeping old age will require her to move on from the home she loves, and which her late husband built. She is in the process of selling up and moving into a retirement village. But more than this she grieves the losses of her husband and her son Erik many years ago. At the age of eighteen he mysteriously disappeared from his boat.

In parallel with this story we follow Cameron, a thirty-year-old semi-dropout who comes to town in the belief that a local developer might be his father. His teenage mother had abandoned him at a very early age. It is Marcellus who realises that Tova and Cameron are connected, and engineers a potentially happy outcome.

Our discussions ranged around such topics as our own encounters with octopi, octopods or octopuses, retirement decisions, the difficulties of small print and the pluses and minuses of zoos and aquariums.

In general, we enjoyed the book but without great enthusiasm.

Next month we will be reviewing The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride.

Bob Way



Art Group

On Friday 28th February 22 of our members were registered to attend the Art Gallery of NSW for a guided tour of both galleries.

Unfortunately, only 8 people showed up on the day.



Those of us that did both tours all agreed that we had a great day including a wonderful lunch.

Our guide, Debora Vacchi, was not only very knowledgeable but she is also an artist. Born in Rome, she came to Australia 12 years ago.

Visit to (Ansto) Australia's Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

On Monday 10th of February, 38 members set off from Sporties to visit the Lucas Heights Nuclear facility for a fascinating tour of Australia's only nuclear reactor and associated facilities.

Upon arrival our driver (Mark) set up a lovely morning tea of coffee, tea and biscuits which were all quickly devoured. After going through a security check, we were then escorted into the facility by the Federal Police and then met by our tour guides.

Due to our numbers we had to split into 2 groups of 19 each. The lead guide (Robin) gave us a 20-minute talk on all things Nuclear and the purpose of the facility, we were then taken on a 1.5-hour tour of the reactor and its associated buildings.

The reactor is known as OPAL which stands for 'Open Pool Australian Lightwater' reactor. The OPAL reactor is a state-of-the-art multipurpose reactor that uses low enriched uranium fuel to achieve a range of activities to benefit human health, enable research, support the environment and provide innovative solutions for industry.

OPAL is a reactor that is designed to produce neutrons used in research and to produce radioisotopes for use in Hospitals to power their nuclear medicine units. Each week ANSTO delivers 10,500 patient doses of potentially lifesaving nuclear medicines to over 250 partner hospitals and medical practices across Australia. On average 1 in 2 Australians will benefit from the nuclear medicines that originate from the ANSTO Lucas Heights facility in their lifetime.

After leaving the facility we travelled to the Bundeena RSL Club where we enjoyed a 2-course lunch overlooking Port Hacking Bay. From there we boarded the local Bundeena ferry for a very enjoyable 20-minute trip to Cronulla where our driver (Mark) was waiting to whisk us back to Sporties for a 5pm drop off.



Lunch at Bundeena



Breakaway Art Group



A successful outing. None of us "glowing"



Please Note:

The Club's Birthday Lunch, scheduled for February each year, is one of three major annual Club events.

Until Members determine otherwise, the Committee considers these events should proceed. Unfortunately, for various reasons, this year only about 35 members registered and paid for the originally planned Birthday Lunch on 19th February before the cancellation date set by the RSL Club, which requires payment for a minimum 50 diners.

Therefore, as Members were told by email messages, the Committee cancelled the original Lunch booking and rebooked for 8th April 2025 to give Members a chance to reconsider their attendance.

The Committee looks forward to increased support from Members for this rescheduled Lunch.

On behalf of your Committee

February Exotic Lunch - Marcus Cafe

Friday 14th February. This was definitely a different experience for us all; having fully preordered organised lunch in a 'al Fresco' casual setting in a café (not a restaurant).

It seemed everyone enjoyed being undercover outdoor, even though the weather was not the best, and there was some momentarily drops of rain, no one got wet!

Once again, this was all preordered 'Share all Affaire': 3 entrée, 5 mains and a desert which our members appreciate as no need to go through the menu to



b through the menu to choose, ordering and waiting to be served individually.

Thought there were some miner delays, i.e. serving one of the 'Entree's, the 'Roasted Duch Burrito' and one of the mains, 'Roasted Chicken Wings'; nevertheless, overall, the consensus were favourable. Late as they were, the 'Chicken Wings' were very tasty.



Right on time at 12:30 pm, 'Entrées' started to be delivered, followed by of the 'Main' dishes that seemed endless of servings! All dishes were delicious prepared with fresh ingredients.

Again, I like to thank all that conveyed their approvals of the venue and the selection of dishes.

As per our Newsletter, the next Lunch, at 12 pm on Friday 14th of March will be of the Scenic variety.

It will be at the Drummoyne Sailing Club, 2 St. Georges Crescent, Drummoyne. Fortunately, membership is no longer required to get in, all one needs is an ID, such as a Driving Licence. Ample parking is available on the Club Parking lot and beyond. Please consider Carpooling.

This will be another that we need to preselect our choice of the main to help the kitchen to prepare and serve all main dishes at the same time, the deserts, coffee/tea can be ordered on the day. I am told that we'll be able to pay individually. Being a club no BYO.

I will have several copies of the menu for those that are interested to peruse or take it with them. Please come and register your attendance at Coffee break and select your choice.

However, you may let me know later, but no later than Tuesday 11th of March. If that is the case, the best way to communicate with me to indicate your attendance and your choice of main is via: Text: 0402 217 141 or E-mail: ssbedrossian@hotmail.com

Shavarsh Bedrossian

Search Dogs Sydney Inc

Chris D'Arcy from Search Digs is so enthusiastic about his mission that words tumble from him with such energy and urgency that one is impelled to listen and learn about the vital task of finding missing persons with the search dogs of SDS.

It must be a calling to be engaged in this occupation of search and rescue missing persons with special dogs. A search-and-rescue dog is a dog trained to respond to crime scenes, accidents, missing persons events, as well as natural disasters. These dogs are a non-invasive aid in the location of humans, alive or deceased.

The requirements are extremely demanding on the dog and handler. Along with obedience and agility, the dogs need to have an innate perseverance and a strong drive for reward at the end of a search to remain motivated what may be long stretches.

For the handler, he must be prepared to respond to missions with enough personally owned gear to be in the wilderness for at least 24 hours. The handler should be able to carry a 15 to 25 kg backpack in mountainous terrain and stay out overnight with minimal sleeping gear. A high level of fitness is a must to scour the areas which are often vast and challenging.

"You're not only mentally exhausted" says one handler, "you're physically exhausted because you're not just deploying for one day – you might be doing two, three, four days".



Chris, assistant and trusty dog

The bond between dog and handler is crucial, with handlers paired up with a specific dog for his working career — and to stay with that family upon their retirement. It is not just the dog who is trained, but it is also his owner/handler who must develop mutual trust and bonding. The bond is crucial for the team to be successful: the handler and his dog must have unshakeable trust in each other, a co-dependence.

Both the dogs and their handlers would train 18 – 24 months prior to undergoing a strict Operational Assessment by the Australian Search Dog Federation which sets national standards and has an accreditation scheme. If they pass the test, they proceed to be assessed annually for re-accreditation, with regular training to ensure their skills are being maintained and their detection abilities are improved.

The search dog is trained in 'trailing and air scent'- to follow the trail of scent particles carried by the wind from the missing person's location. The scent is a distinct odour of skin flakes and water and oil secretions unique to each person. With his nose he can cover the amount of ground it would take about 30 humans to search.

A variety of breeds are trained. The SDS (Search Dogs Sydney) has had success with working dogs, herding dogs, sporting dogs and mixed breeds. The breed is not important as their drive and personality – they must be eager to please, friendly with strangers, non-aggressive towards other dogs and of course have the stamina to withstand long hours of searching. The dogs that tend to perform best are Labrador Retrievers, Belgian Shepherds, Kelpies, Border Collie, staffies and crosses of these. SDS has dogs that came from rescue shelters. There is no set breed, or sex of dog, which are best suited for the job.

Dogs have their own specialties. Some are better on a lead in a smaller area, others may travel further. For example *Chilli*. a German Shepherd described as "smartest dog ever" has a forté to search tunnels in one of which she found a missing person (speaking of bonding she has a penchant for sitting on her owner's lap). *Koa* excels at finding human remains; *Rufus* is good at disaster areas and the bush. Others are adept at searching in the water, sometimes 9 metres deep – but they can smell bubbles.

Dogs are indeed "man's best friend". Throughout history there are many shining examples of dogs being the hero in a flood, or fire or collapsed buildings. They find people under water, snow, as well as remains buried underground.

As early as the 17th century, dogs were used by monks at a St. Bernard hospice in the Swiss Alps, to search for injured or lost travelers, or find their remains.

In 1808 it was recorded that an untrained dog alerted to the shed of a murder suspect, where remains of two missing women were found. However, official search and rescue dogs were not documented until WW1, when military trained dogs were used to find injured soldiers. It was not until 1974 that the dogs began to be trained exclusively for cadaver searches in forensic casework by the New York State Police, when they investigated a homicide of multiple victims buried in a large forested area. Cadaver dogs locate human decomposition scent, buried or concealed as well skeletal remains. In Croatia such dogs have been used to find burial sites almost 3000 years old.

Search Dogs Sydney was formed in 2016 as a voluntary organisation and do not receive government funding, however there is support from the local Council for training facilities. The organisation depends on fund-raising which has helped with obtaining the latest technological equipment, such as drone thermal imaging with laser range, GPS collars for dogs (to keep track of where the dogs have been), and a personal locator beacons to keep the rescuer safe.

With over 816 long term missing persons in NSW, and a shortage of over 1500 NSW Police, in conjunction with a scourge of knife crime and domestic violence, the SDS says that ways should be changed in which families of missing persons are assisted.

"In 2024, there have been over 11,000 missing persons reported in NSW. As we look back at what the team has undertaken these past 12 months, we are astounded that our volunteers have dedicated over 3443 hours in the search for missing loved ones across the state.

With just a small but dedicated group of volunteers, they have attended 161 events in the past year alone, unfortunately this is a massive 48% increase to our responses in 2023".

In May 2024 The SDS appealed to the public to sign a petition into a Parliamentary Inquiry into Missing Persons in NSW.

Margaret Bowman

"Stuff" That Comes Across My Desk

Rules for Teachers - 1872

- 1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
- 2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
- 3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils
- 4. Men teachers may take one evening each for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
- 5. After ten hours in school the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the bible or other good books
- 6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed
- 7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his reclining years so that he will not become a burden on society
- 8. Any teacher who smokes, use liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
- 9. The teacher who performs his labour faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of two shillings and five pence per week in his pay, providing the board of education approves.

These rules are on show on the door of the old one room school which still stands in Warrnambool in Victoria

Music Group



Things are getting back to normal now. I'm recommending four concerts for your interest and noting the websites of others which are presenting programs in March. And information about a musical which sounds fun.

Sunday, March 9, 3 pm. THE KU-RING-GAI PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA presents:

Harry Sdraulig: Torrent Dvorak: Cello Concerto in B minor Tchaikovsky: Symphony No 5 At the Concourse, full, \$55, concession, \$45.

Tuesday, March 11, 7:30 pm.

LANE COVE MUSIC presents:

Gershwin and more

With Simon Tedeschi and George Washingmachine.

With a long-harboured love of jazz, and three celebrated albums of

Gershwin's music to his name, Tedeschi teams up with jazz vocalist and

violinist, George Washingmachine, for something a little different, Gershwin favourites and classic jazz standards by Cole Porter, Oscar Peterson, Fats Waller and more.

At the Lane Cove Mowbray Anglican Church,

19 Rosenthal Ave, Lane Cove, opposite the Canopy. \$30.

Sunday, March 16, time TBA, but probably in the afternoon.

THE NORTH SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA presents:

Music in the park

Program includes: **Glinka:** Ruslan and Ludmila Overture **Strauss:** Tritsch-Tratsch Polka **Tchaikovsky:** Polonaise from Eugen Onegin **Smetana:** Three Dances from The Bartered Bride **Faure:** Overture and Gavotte from Masques et Bergamasques **Gounod:** Funeral March of a Marionette **Dvořák:** Slavonic Dance Op.46 No.1 **Khachaturian:** Waltz from Masquerade **Strauss:** Radetzky March **Elgar:** Pomp & Circumstance March No.1 **Mancini:** Moon River arr. **Kadlec:** Bella Ciao Performed from the music shell, St. Leonards Park, North Sydney. FREE.

Saturday, March 29, 7:30 pm, Sunday, March 30, 3:30 pm.

THE MOSMAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA presents: Youth Agathe Backer-Grøndahl – Scherzo Mendelssohn – Violin Concerto in E minor Op 64. Shostakovich – Symphony No.1

At the Mosman Art Gallery, full \$35, concession, \$25.

For other concerts in March, check these websites:

www.wyvernmc.weebly.com, www.killaramusicclub.com.au, www.mosmanconcertseries.org.

And for something completely different: Friday, March 14, 7:30 pm, Saturday, March 15, 2.00 pm, Saturday, March 15, 7:30 pm. THE MOSMAN MUSICAL SOCIETY presents: *A New Brain.* An energetic, sardonic, often comical musical about a composer during a medical emergency.

At the Mosman Art Gallery, full \$42, concession \$30.

Graham Holland

Wine Appreciation Group - 5th February



What a journey of discovery— from the origins (thousands of years ago) of Grenache AKA Garnacha in Spain and its iterations with the noble grape Shiraz (or Syrah if you are a Francophile) plus Mourvèdre (Mataro etc.)

From northern Spain to the southern clime of the Rhone river in France, with an interlude in Barossa, we savoured this wonderful blend, even tasting one of the icons—"Vieux Telegraphe" of Chateauneuf du Pape.

It became abundantly clear that the cheap French GSM (with screw cap!) was good value and the Aussies did not disappoint!

Throughout the journey we had a lot of fun and the commentaries came thick and fast!

So we retired to our abodes and now look forward to April.

Now a real treat—Our journey will encompass the white wine varietals of Italy (there are about 300 of them)—which do we like and are there Australian equivalents?

There are at least 300 different white wine varietals grown in Italy, some of which we copy (not always in the same vein) I have chosen six for our next WAG meeting on April 1st:-

- * Monte Fondo Soave Classico
- * Fontana Fredda Gavi Serra Lunga D'Alba
- Versato Pinot Grigio Alto Adige Sudtirol
- Pecorino Contro Guerra DOC Illuminati
- * Fiano Di Avellino Feudi Di San Gregorio
- * Vernaccia Di San Gimignano

Our knowledgeable WAG will apprise us of their verdict.

In Vino Veritas

Richard

Rotary Club of Hunters Hill - Invitation to Brain Cancer Fundraiser Cocktail Party

This event is hosted by The Rotary Club of Hunters Hill in support of The Brain Cancer Group. Brain cancer is a devastating disease that often receives less attention and funding compared to other types of cancer, despite its significant impact on patients and their families.

By raising awareness and funds for research, organisations like The Brain Cancer Group can help advance treatment options, improve patient care, and ultimately work towards finding a cure. It's important to honour the memory of many individuals who have faced this battle, by contributing to efforts that can make a difference for others in the future.

This fundraiser will be a fun filled formal or black tie evening with Drinks, Canapes and a Dessert. There will be live entertainment, speeches, raffles and an Art auction. Tickets are \$88 per person. All contributions directed to the treatment and research of Brain Cancer.

Please see booking details in the invite below for this cocktail event, or click here:<u>www.trybooking.com/cynij</u>



Barbara Enright Probus Member Rotary President

Marilyn Johnson

Margaret Stuart

Dean Letcher

Carole Clancy-O'Hehir

Editors Musings - Ageing

You know you're getting old when you get that one candle on the cake. It's like, "See if you

She said she was approaching forty, and I couldn't help wonder-

When I was a boy the Dead Sea

 In my many years, I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm and three or more is a gov-

 If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what

* The shinbone is a device for

finding furniture in a dark room.

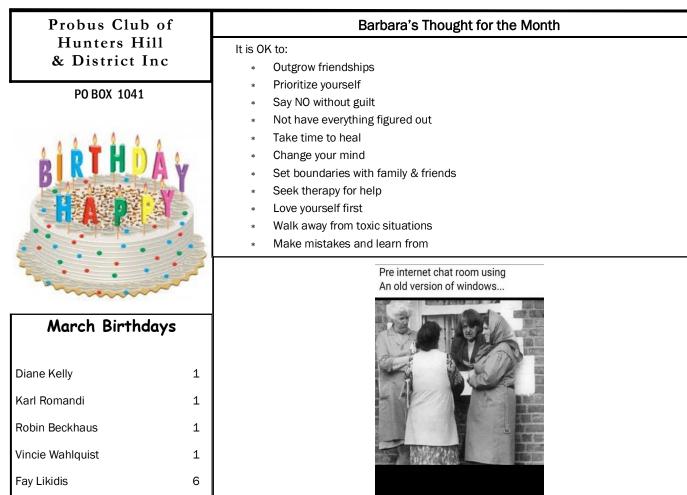
it costs when it's free!

can blow this out."

was only sick

ernment.

ing from what direction.



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

Committee

8

28

28

31

	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)
U	seful 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

James Macready (member)

BSB: 062 182

BANK: Acct No: 00902310

Honorary Auditor

WEBSITE: www.huntershillprobus.org

Activities

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 General Meeting AGM 10:00	5	6 Coffee - Sunroom	7	8
9	10 Golf Jim Macready TBA	11	12	13 Coffee - Sunroom	14 Scenic Lunch Drummoyne S/C Shavarsh	15
16	17	18 Movies Sandy Mower	19	20 Coffee - Sunroom	21 Book Club Juliet Bishop	22
23	24 Golf Jim Macready	25	26	27 Coffee - Sunroom	28 No Art Group Peter Kelly Away	29
30	31					

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Meeting 10:00	2 Wine Appreciation The Heritage 15:00	3 Coffee - Sunroom	4	5
6	7 Golf Jim Macready TBA	8 Club Birthday Lunch	9	10 Coffee - Sunroom	11 Exotic Lunch TBA Shavarsh	12
13	14	15 Movies Sandy Mower TBA	16	17 Coffee - Sunroom	18 Good Friday Book Club Juliet Bishop	19
20	21 Easter Monday Golf Jim Macready TBA	22	23	24 Coffee - Sunroom	25 Anzac Day Art Group Peter Kelly TBA	26
27	28	29	30 Western Sydney A/P Experience			