



# NORTHMEAD & DISTRICT PROBUD CLUB INC.

Incorporated in NSW. Incorporation No: INC1900862

Accreditation No: 2630 Club No: 29004284 District No: 9685

## NEWSLETTER

[districtprobudnorthmeadnews@gmail.com](mailto:districtprobudnorthmeadnews@gmail.com)

**April/May 2012 issue**

### President's Message:

Hi all

It's great to see so many coming back to our meetings but there is still room for more, we have about 50 at the April meeting just half our membership.

The hall capacity is 130 with no restrictions on chair spacing, and no masks required. We are still using the Service NSW QR code to check in but we have a manual system in place as well which covers Covid rules and our own check in requirements.

So come along to the next meeting and see the great number of events/functions we have coming up as far out as December. Our activities officers are doing a great job planning new and exciting outings and the best place to get the information is at our meetings. It's also an opportunity to hear our guest speaker. If you missed our April speaker you missed a treat.

Tea/ coffee is now available Cost \$2

The play at the Pavilion theatre "Always a Bridesmaid" was exceptional and bookings unfortunately are closed for the June production "The Cripple of Innishman."

My apologies for the May meeting as I will be returning from a wedding on the Gold Coast and will not be back in time.

Needed:- Mah-jong players or those who would like to learn a new game. I am the only male in the group and I need support.

Ken Sinclair President

### Executive Committee

**Ken Sinclair**

**President**

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E: [sinclairken2410@gmail.com](mailto:sinclairken2410@gmail.com)

**Patrick Vallely**

**Vice President**

**Tours Coordinator**

**Asset Manager**

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**Treasurer**

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E: [biddy21@icloud.com](mailto:biddy21@icloud.com)

**Janet Swinnerton**

**Secretary**

M: 0439 843 934

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**Kent Pidgeon**

**Membership Officer**

M: 0401 198 383

E: [kentpidgeon@gmail.com](mailto:kentpidgeon@gmail.com)

### Events Co-ordinators:

**Barbara Towart:**

M: 0413 572 713

E: [allanbarb@ozemail.com.au](mailto:allanbarb@ozemail.com.au)

**Robyn Newland**

M: 0419 463 783

E: [grnewlan@bigpond.net.au](mailto:grnewlan@bigpond.net.au)



*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We shall remember them"*

### Next meeting :

**Monday 17th May 10:00am**

**Don Moore Community Centre**

North Rocks Rd Carlingford cnr Farnell Ave.



### Welfare Officer:

Jan Field

M: 0428 080 848

E: [keith\\_jan@bigpond.com](mailto:keith_jan@bigpond.com)



### **Christmas Lunch:**

Event No: #221 Wednesday 1st December:

Cropley House 84 Watkins Road, Baulkham Hills, NSW 2153.

Canapes on arrival, 2 Course meal, Wine, Beer, Tea, Coffee, Soft drinks.

\$60.00 a head.

Numbers and \$30.00 deposit (per person) **required on or before** the next meeting. To secure the booking.

Contact Robyn Newland M: 0419 463 783 E:grnewlan@bigpond.net.au

Club Account :

Northmead and District Probus Club

BSB: 112 879 Account No. 470889027.

Quote Event Number and surname.



Northmead and District Probus Web Site:

<https://www.northmeadanddistrictprobus.com>

Please visit website for UpToDate information on club events.



### **Positions Vacant:**

We have the following positions vacant and require volunteers to contribute to the running of our club.



**Website Assistant:** To assist the webmaster in updating our website on the Wix platform in the event of their absence

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## **Photography club**

Any members who are interested in forming a photography group where we could visit various sites to take photos, meet to show our latest masterpieces or just gather to discuss various aspects of photography, please contact me via email at [sinclairken2410@gmail.com](mailto:sinclairken2410@gmail.com)

## **Electronic Devices Group**

The idea has been put forward to me to form a group to help those who have computers, smart phones or tablets/I pads, smart TV's, new home phones, car GPS etc and need to learn a little more on what they are able to do and how to do it. Also wanted— members who are tech savvy to assist others and those who are not tech savvy who want to understand their devices. Please contact me via email at [sinclairken2410@gmail.com](mailto:sinclairken2410@gmail.com).

Already help has been given to assist setting up a home phone on a NBN system and setting up “Tap N Pay” on a smart phone.

Ken Sinclair

Diplomacy is the art of telling people to go to hell in such a way that they ask for directions.

**Winston Churchill**

# GROUPS

## WE WALK CLUB

There is nothing like a walk with a friend, except a walk with a group of friends. We catch-up, connect, de-stress and get the exercise we need. Our walking group has explored the history of the area, certainly checked out the horticulture and botany of our suburbs, made friends with most of the canines and chatted on all the subjects life has to offer.

We walk for about 1 hour currently at 3:00pm.

Upcoming walks: Contact Liz 0431 771 884 . Robyn 0419 463 783



## Mah-jong

**1-3pm Mondays**

Call Jan Field for details 0428 080 848.

Beginners welcome, come along and learn a new game or sharpen your skills.

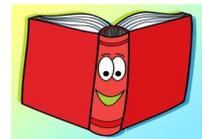


## BOOKCLUB

Book Club is running & Debra is distributing books. For more information contact

Debra Sheath 0421 998 434. Next Meeting 19th May

Regular meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. 10am at NBC Sports Club.



## Studio 57 Craft Club

4 members attended the Studio 57 Craft Club at our last meeting and it is great to be back meeting again to be chatting and crafting.

Barbara has suggested an idea of knitting squares that can be sewn up into a blanket and we are happy to support it and maybe set it as homework if it isn't done at our meeting.

Next meeting 18th May Contact Sherel Jakes 0413 853 393



## Writer's Block

The creative writing group, Writer's Block.

Members discuss their writing interests and some read their work for interest and discussion. The works discussed range from a play, short stories and finally poetry. We will workshop a play and a short story at the next meeting and discuss the events we attended at the Sydney Writers Festival.

Next meeting: Tuesday 4th May .

New members are always welcome. Please see Rod Garrett at the next Northmead and District Probus meeting if you are interested.

Regards,

Rod



## **BACKYARD BLITZ**

Date :

BYO secateurs, BYO Gloves, BYO hat, BYO water bottle. 10:00 12:00

Social day out with members, helping tidy members gardens, get cuttings

Once a month at a different garden (weather permitting)

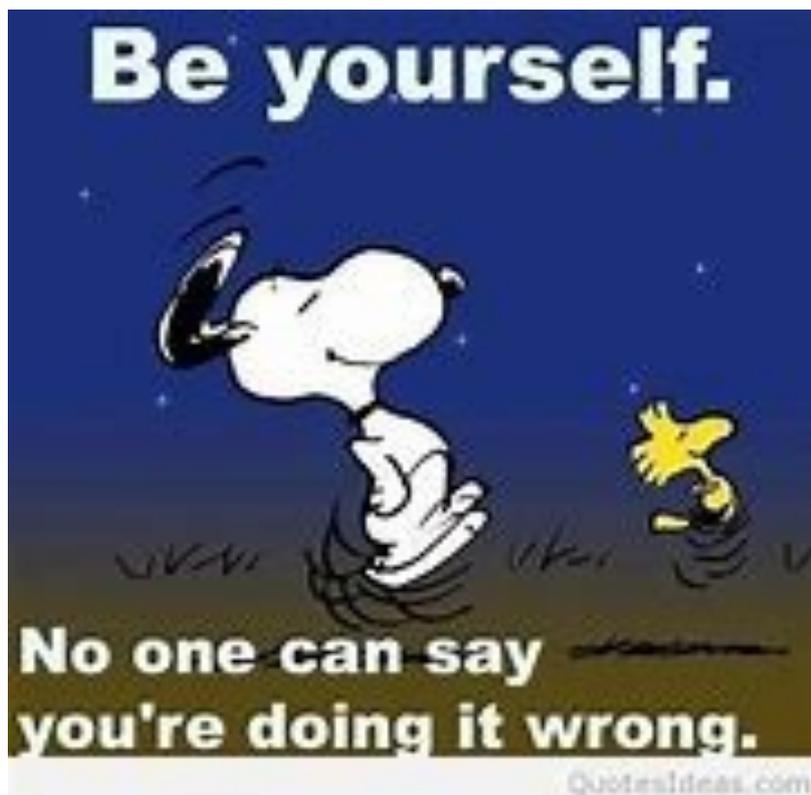
Morning tea provided, by member whose garden is blitzed

**Contact:** Barbara 0413572713

## **Theatre**

Event No 223 - The Cripple of Inishmaan. **BOOKINGS CLOSED**

~~6 June 2021. Sunday 4.30pm. Cost \$25. Contact Janet Swinnerton (0439 843 834) for details.~~



### **Confusion Say:**

Man who run in front of car get tired. Man who run behind car get exhausted.

He who stick head in oven get baked bean .

Man who eat many prunes get good run for money.

When called an idiot sometimes is better to be quiet, than open mouth and remove all doubt.

# Coming Events

## Luncheons



Wednesday 28th April 11:30am Sydney Rowing Club Abbotsford

Monday 24th **May**: 12:00: Geranium Cottage 828 Old Northern Road, Dural (pay at the door).

Tuesday 22nd **June**: 12:00: Allegro Xmas Lunch 1 Porters Rd Kenthurst, Event #218.

Wednesday 22nd **September**: Scottish Arms & Tulip display Bowral.

Travel by bus @ \$30 p.p. (Minimum 40 people) Tulips \$8. Lunch at own expense.

**Bookings required.** Contact: Sue Osborne 0405 777 994 for bookings and further information.

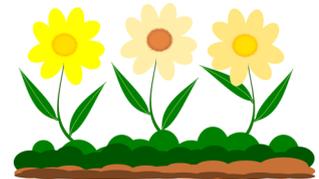
**Contact** Sue Osborne 0405 777 994 for bookings

## Gardens & Arts:

Archibald Tour 25 June @9.30am Event #222

Concession \$25 Adults \$30

Contact : Sandra Joy 0410 511 678 for details



## Outings:

**Monday 10th May**: Bradman Museum Bowral. Event 226.

Travel by coach. COST: TBA.

Guided tour of museum. Lunch in Bradman Café @ own expense'

**Friday 28th May**: Bella Vista Farm. Event 224.

Guided Tour \$10 pp. Afterwards a BYO BBQ in the park.

**Friday 4th June**: Lunch @ NSW Parliament House. Event 220.

12pm to 1:30pm. Cost \$62 (2 Courses), \$72 (3 Courses).

**Tuesday 13th July**: Hyde Park Barracks Event 228

\$20 pp. Meet outside Barracks. Lunch & venue TBA.

CONTACT: Barbara Towart 0413 572 713.



## **Picnic**

The next picnic is planned for **12 noon, Wednesday May 5th** at Wentworth Common, Marjorie Jackson Parkway, Olympic Park. There are undercover tables and chairs, toilets close and free BBQs. There are easy short walks in the area. Walk up the Bay Market Look Out, Explore the Wetlands or walk the Brick Pit Ring (nature audio points exist around the 350m ring).

Regards,

Rod and Lyndall



## April Guest speaker report:

### **ROBYN DALTON - APRIL GUEST SPEAKER**

Well what a dynamic & interesting speaker Robyn Dalton was She has a BA, DipEd, Grad Dip Health Admin and is a JP. She has 4 children, 11 grandchildren and at 81 years of age is still acting in Radio Active revivals.

Robyn has lived in the Hills Shire since 1974 and has been an active actor and President of the castle Hills Players at the Pavilion Theatre. she is currently helping set up their archives



for a book.

Her colourful career started as an 18year old and theatre has been a significant component for the past 70 years. She spoke of auditioning for NIDA by forging her fathers signature (who was against a career in the theatre) on the application, only to be found out when she was accepted and both she and her fatherreceived a letter from NIDA, needless to say father stood firm - she did go on to complete University.

She first studied acting with Hayes Gordon at the Ensemble Theatre & then joined the drama society SUDS at university, with the likes of John Bell, Clive James, Leo Schofield, Bruce Beresford, to name a few. she went on to become a member of the Riverside Theatre advisory board and is passionate about supporting the theatre there.

Robyn was approached by Sydney University to collaborate on a book about early theatre. the book is called " The Ripples before the Waves which is now used a theatre text book.

She is currently involved in a revival of Radio Plays at the Hills Lodge Estate Room where. they perform 4 plays a year & our members were so enthused by Robyn's description of them, that 26 have booked for the next Radio Active on 15th August.

Our thanks to Robyn for a very enjoyable talk and a wonderful insight into her life in Australian theatre.

## Next months Guest Speaker:



The guest speaker for May is ULI HOLMES from the Parramatta Heritage & Visitor Information Centre

She is giving a talk on the guided tours available encompassing the new and old Parramatta together with Power point presentation.

**Host and Guide**

Oct 2014 - Present 6 years 7 months

As we get older we sometimes begin to doubt our ability to "make a difference" in the world. It is at these times that our hopes are boosted by the remarkable achievements of other seniors who have found the courage to take on challenges that would make many of us wither.

George is such a person. He told us, 'I've often been asked, 'What do you do now that you're retired?'

'Well...I'm fortunate to have a chemical engineering background and one of the things I enjoy most is converting beer, wine and whisky into urine. It's rewarding, uplifting, satisfying and fulfilling. I do it every day and I really enjoy it.'

There was a bit of confusion in the bottle shop this morning.

When I was ready to pay for my whisky, the check-out assistant said to me, 'Strip down facing me.'

Making a mental note to complain to my local Member of Parliament about excessive security running amok, I did just as she had instructed.

When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out that she was referring to my debit card.

I have been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.

## Walkie Talkies

Parramatta Walk 31/3/2021: We finally undertook our walk (previously cancelled due to the rain the week before) on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March with a 9am start. Eleven Walkie Talkies met up at Silverwater Bridge. We had several apologies for the walk due to people having injuries, operations and veterinary emergencies. I hope everything has improved for them. The weather was good for us with a gentle breeze and occasional clouds for some welcome shade. It was a mostly level paved walk allowing plenty of walkie talkie with an optional hill climb and various lovely picturesque viewpoints of the river, suburbs, hilltop and wetlands with occasional bird spotting. The half way point at the Olympic Park Wharf was a welcome coffee pitstop with enjoyable beverages and accompaniments. We then started our return journey to the point of commencement where the Police Divers and plain clothes Police were actively involved in a search, but not for any of our Walkie Talkies. Once again, all those that started finished. Watch out for notices of our next walk, local and new!! Pat Valley

Also, anyone interested in the next Walkie Talkies outing please contact me.



## The Gardens Club Government House Tour April 2021

A group of us Northmead & District Probarians met early at Rydalmere Wharf for our river cruise into Sydney. Others chose to come by bus so we all gathered at a café at Circular Quay for coffee and in some cases Banana Bread. Once we were all together, we moved to Government House and its Gardens for our tour. The tour was very informative. It is built in a gothic revival style characterised by castellated towers and other medieval features. After years of delay and budget overruns the House was completed in 1845 when Sir George Gipps, 9<sup>th</sup> Governor of NSW and his wife finally took up residence. Today the House has a significant collection of portraits, furniture, decorative arts and gubernatorial memorabilia as a result of Vice Regal patronage. It is now the residence of the 39<sup>th</sup> Governor of NSW and her partner.

We also were able to ramble through the wonderful Gardens overlooking Sydney Harbour. The herbaceous flower borders at the House are a staple of English inspired gardens, but has been done with predominately Australian wildflowers. There are Kangaroo Paws, Scarlet Everlastings, native Pelargoniums amongst others.

After our tour, thanks to our organiser, Sandra Joy, we all retired to the Royal Automobile Club of Australia for a scrumptious lunch and drinks in the Harbour Dining Room in its heritage listed building founded in 1903 to see out the afternoon prior to river or bus trip home.

Regards

The Unknown



## OFF TO THE HYDRO MAJESTIC- MEDLOW BATH

13 intrepid members met at Parramatta station at 8:30 and being good Probus members were all early. Off to platform 2 for the train to the mountains. with almost a carriage to ourselves, the trip took no time as everyone was chatting laughing, admiring the changing scenery.

Getting off at Medlow Bath, we old folk tried to cross the frantic traffic on the Pacific Highway, when a friendly Police car arrived & stopped all the traffic so we could have a safe crossing, much appreciated.

We met the concierge in the Hydro Majestic at 11:00 & were joined by 3 other members who had driven to the venue, bringing us to 16 in total.

We were entertained with a talk of the history of the Hydro, built by Mark Foy, then one of the richest men in Australia, as a health resort for his family and celebrity rich friends. He travelled the world collecting paintings, statues & artifacts for the Hydro, which was a perfect example of Art Deco architecture, however it seems he & his friends used it mostly for meeting their lady friends.

Sadly, a lot were lost in a fire. Mark Foy restored the Hydro & it was used by the army in WW1

It sadly became derelict over years & most of the heritage looted

Luckily for the old girl she was bought by the richest family in Malaysia, who gave it to their daughter as a 21st Birthday present, so she could restore it to its former glory & turn it into one of the boutique hotels in their world chain.

We toured the grand ballroom, the great hall, bars, restaurants & finally ended at a stage where Dame Nellie Melba had performed.

They have turned the coffee shop into a shop into and mini museum & here we left our guide.

They have converted the old Boiler Room from Hydro into " a la Carte" restaurant, where 9 of us had a superb meal.

All back on the train, exhausted, but what a day, GREATTTT.

Barbara Towart



## Members Stories



### **In the recovery room:**

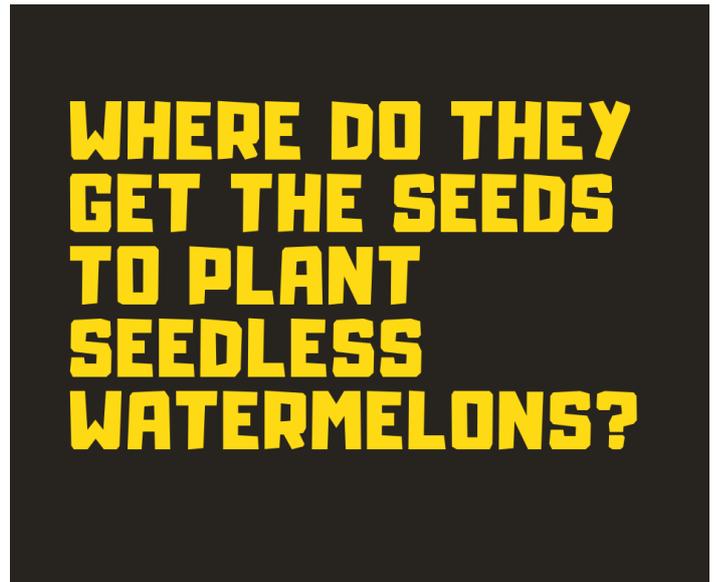
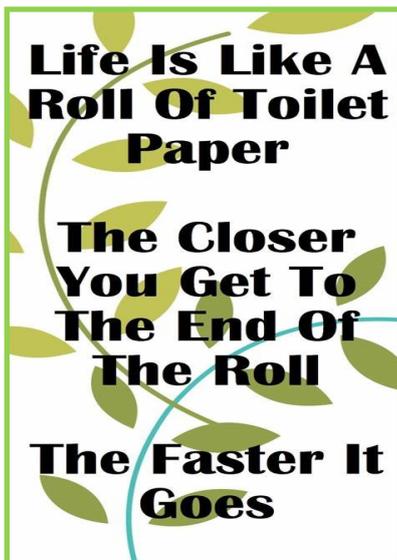
Recovering after recent operations, Lindsay Peters and Liz Ryan would like to thank everyone for the get well cards and wishes.

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Do you have a short story, joke or message that you would like to share?  
If so send it to: [districtprobusnorthmeadnews@gmail.com](mailto:districtprobusnorthmeadnews@gmail.com)

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# 2021

# May

NBC - Northmead Bowling Club  
DMC - Don Moore Community Centre Carlingford

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday 1	Sunday 2
3 <b>1-3pm Mahjong</b> Call Jan for details 0428 080 848	4 <b>Writers Block</b> <b>10am Contact</b> Rod 0433 484 977	5 <b>Picnic in Park 12noon</b> Wentworth Common Olympic Park. Contact Lyndal for details. 0433 484 977	6	7	8	9
10 <b>1-3pm Mahjong</b> Call Jan for details 0428 080 848	11	11	13 <b>WeWalk</b> <b>MeetUp TBA</b> Call Liz for details 0431 771 884	14	15	16
17 <b>Club Meeting</b> <b>Don Moore Centre</b> <b>Carlingford 10am</b> <b>1-3pm Mahjong</b> Call Jan for details 0428 080 848	18 <b>Studio 57 Crafts</b> Call Sherel for details 0413 853 393	19 <b>Mookies 10am NBC</b> Call Debra for details 0421 998 434	20	21	22	23
24 <b>Geranium Cottage</b> Luncheon 12 noon. Contact Sue for details. 0405777994. <b>1-3pm Mahjong</b> Call Jan for details 0428 080 848	25	26	27 <b>WeWalk</b> <b>MeetUp TBA</b> Call Liz for details 0431 771 884	28	29	30