It is so sad to see Covid all around the world causing so much illness, death, unemployment, economic hardship, separation from loved ones and such disruption to everyone’s lives.

Our little Probus club is such a small speck in all of this, but to most of us it is a social gathering place. So let us remember a kind word for even the smallest kind deed goes along way, instead of harsh criticism and constant complaints about everything & everybody. I was so optimistic when I wrote in the last newsletter that we were turning the Covid corner. What a difference 5 weeks make, it doesn’t look that we will be able to meet in the foreseeable future and most of the events that our wonderful activities officers have spent so long organising have had to be cancelled. A few clubs are still running, the varied walks, mahjong, limited luncheons, sadly the Grafton Jacaranda Festival has been cancelled.

You should by now have all received your invitation to our Christmas party at Allegro Reception Centre on #rd December. It is a fun venue & covid safe, so save the date & put your name down.

At the committee meeting it was decided that the Events team is now redundant to the needs of the club & it to be disbanded. All events coordinators will work independently and be answerable to an activities officer who will synchronise all future activities & dates. Robyn Newland has kindly agreed to fill this position. Due to Probus protocol, we have had to remove a new activity Time Travellers that was mentioned in the last newsletter, & it will hopefully return at a later date. I am sorry for the delay in the newsletter coming out, but we had a crisis to sort out within the committee. It has been sorted out now & all good.

Be Kind. Take Care. That’s our Probus.
It has been there forever but over the past 20 years a revitalisation has been quietly occurring. Nearly all of us will have noticed some isolated portions but few will appreciate the extent of the big picture.

It involves many Local, State, and Commonwealth Government Departments, volunteer, and community groups. We are talking about Sydney Harbour.

The Harbour is one of Sydney’s greatest assets. Much as we bemoan environmental and pollution problems, the Harbour has been evolving into a better place.

The loss of heavy manufacturing around the Sydney Basin has seen a huge improvement to our waterways. Gone are many of the factories, from Rosehill to the ‘Heads. Even the cargo ships have disappeared from our Harbour, allowing public access to many of the historic wharves.

During a Walkie Talkies hike on Cockatoo Island, we discussed the independent review of The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

The Harbour Trust is responsible for the management of Cockatoo Island, North Head Sanctuary in Manly, Headland Park in Mosman, Sub Base Platypus in Neutral Bay, Woolwich Dock and Parklands, the former Marine Biological Station at Watsons Bay, and Macquarie Light Station in Vaucluse.

The review’s findings are extensive (do click on the link independent review). High level recommendations have been made but let us enjoy the view at ground level.

Start with water quality. No, I am not about to go swimming in the Parramatta River just yet, but much of the heavy industries along the shoreline have now gone - a tremendous boost to air and water quality.

Barriers for plastics and other pollutants are helping. Anywhere you go around the Harbour, you will find improved public access to the shoreline.

This is not the work of a single entity but rather the work of many different bodies and people. In our own backyard (and a shout out to Lord Mayor Bob Dwyer and Council), we now find paths and cycleways giving access from the centre of Parramatta to Rydalmere and on to Meadowbank and Kissing Point.

All around the Harbour you will find similar portions of foreshore that have been linked for public access such as the Newington Armory site at Homebush where the foreshore of the river is now joined from Silverwater to Rhodes.
How about an example of an industrial site being returned to community use?

It has happened. Birchgrove! The old Caltex depot and fuel tanks is now returned to public use as Ballast Point Park (Walama). Stark architectural features acknowledge and incorporate, rather than deny, the previous use of the site.

The former defence sites, and even those still in use, have allowed improved public access. Take the ferry to Garden Island. Head to the Naval Museum and, while you are there, check out the former Port Authority’s control room. Take in a view over Sydney. Until recently, it was denied to the public.

I sit on a log at Middle Head where I am joined by a very large Eastern Water Dragon, totally unperturbed by my presence. I am thankful that the former defence sites have provided us with well preserved remnant flora and fauna.

Check out these Harbour Trust sites on our beautiful Harbour. Go on - take your pick for a dose of history or just a picnic. Here are a few ideas:

1. Finger Wharf at Woolloomooloo
2. Timber Wharves at Hickson Road
3. Shark Island
4. Sub Base Platypus Enjoy re-development of the former submarine base at Neutral Bay
5. Barangaroo Go ahead...walk it. Admire it.
6. Fort Denison

Don’t forget to say hello to a volunteer. Not hundreds, but thousands of dedicated people are helping to run and maintain many of the facilities around OUR Harbour.
NOTE: WE continue to adhere to the social and physical distancing as requested by our State and Federal Governments.

We will continue to update our website daily as decisions are made.

Click on WEBSITE for full details.

EVENT

At The Riverside Theatre
#210  We Will Rock You! February 13 2021  2pm    $44
#213  The Wharf Revue  October 10  CANCELLED

At The Lyric Theatre
#212  Secret Garden  September 22  CANCELLED

Excursion / Tours
Wendy’s Secret Garden  CANCELLED
In the meantime try the Virtual Tour
#502  Mudgee Wine & Food Tour  September 10-11  POSTPONED
#403  Grafton Jacaranda Festival  November  5-10  CANCELLED
#208  Archibald Prize  October 20  12.30pm  $20Pens $25 Others
See website for full details

Picnics
Bobbin Head Turramurra September 17  12noon

Celebrations
#401  Christmas Lunch  December 2  12noon  $66
Allegro in Kenthurst
Payment due November 11

Want to attend an Event…. READ HERE

Please ensure you phone or email the Convenor of an Event (click on website) if you are interested. Your name and contact details will then be recorded and, if any changes, the Convenor will contact you.

If you want more information about the Event, feel free to call any one on the Events Team.

They will answer your questions (eg where to meet; issues with payment, if any; how to get to event, and if you need help getting there).

Contact details on last page of Newsletter.
Elaine’s greatest loves were music, art and family. Her aspirations - her ideals - were dashed when the family business failed under the weight of 18% interest in the Keating years. Along with her husband Adrian, Elaine put aside her pride as she turned her incredible shopping prowess towards ensuring she got the best bargains in the various op shops. Her powerful personality overcame every government obstacle; she was able to leverage every advantage on offer. The family gradually recovered from bankruptcy to enjoy a comfortable middle class life. The love of art and music lives on in her three talented and successful daughters. They play piano, bassoon, bass and cello.

Dawn drew away the covers,
A faraway flute met a subdued symphony.

Her image appeared in a sleep-filled mind
Silky notes wavering though a mist of colour.

As the image sharpened,
The symphony waned.

Pianissimo.

And dawn - its aurora - glimmered through her.
Dancing, brightening.

A blush of colour
Around her hair, her clothes, her walls -
Her canvas.

***

Dark clouds gathered above the sad house
Kicking her pride aside.

She searched and found
Her symphony - its colours bold and complex
Moving to its crescendo - its stirring finale.
Trumpets -
Skyquakes in the oncoming sunset.

Saxophones -
Mellow rich, deep; hugging around her.

She is there - always.

A wildfire of plainsong.

Where the tears
Of her loved ones
Hide.
Paraprosdokians

...figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence is surprising and often humorous.

If I agreed with you, we would both be wrong!

The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits.

Einstein

If I used to be indecisive. Now I’m not sure.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Where there’s a will, I want to be in it.

Some cause happiness wherever they go.

Others whenever they go.

Free the Writer

I long to free the writer in me
I yearn for the words to flow
From my mind to the pen
Poised over the blank sheet below.

But the words are jumbled inside my head,
Chaotic and totally disordered.

A masterpiece I’ll create one day.
If only I can find a way.

To free the writer in me!

~ 'Meader Carole Harwood

Paraprosdokians

Where there's a will,
I want to be in it.

Light travels
faster than sound.
This is why some people appear
bright until you hear them speak.

I used to be indecisive.
Now I'm not sure.

The difference between
stupidity and genius is that
genius has its limits.

Einstein

If I agreed with you,
we would both be wrong!

Some cause happiness
wherever they go.

Others whenever they go.
Ahhhh six ‘Meaders enjoying an afternoon in Gold Class watching *The Personal History of David Copperfield*.

Physical distancing was easy. We had the whole cinema to ourselves.

Shout Out to our own Parramatta Theatre **RIVERSIDE**. Tickets for Virtual Performances can be purchased and viewed **LIVE** at home!

Here is Kim Jong-un (Phil Scott) and Trump (Jonathan Biggins) in a fantastic piece from *No CABARET for OLD MEN*.

And more to come... what a great way to enjoy theatre with a few of your ‘Meader mates and support your Riverside.

The beauty of our winter afternoon WeWalks.
Eleven adventurous Walkie Talkies met on a crisp morning at 9.30am on July 11 at the Ted Horwood Reserve for a walk through the Bidjigal Reserve, reportedly, to the only waterfall in the Hills.

It was a brisk walk but the sun was shining - ideal conditions for we Walkie Talkies. Descending the many steps and walking across the well placed bricks acting as bridges across the many rivulets, we followed the Darling Mills Creek and one of its tributaries to arrive at the waterfall (no comparison to Niagara, mind you).

How delightful to experience some unique topography.
We made many discoveries along the way - some factual and others questionable, but always with a few good stories and laughs along the way.

We saw perceived faces and animal shapes on some of the blue gums along with:

- a ‘different’ totem pole;
- an abandoned WW1 fox hole;
- aboriginal artefacts;
- a panther footprint;
- a concrete mushroom!

Can you spot some of them too. Look carefully.

We even saw a cockatoo nest complete with a baby bobbing out of a tree hole.

The exquisiteness of gum tree roots overlaying bush tracks.

The walk took approximately 2 ½ hours through bushland and we returned via the fire tail to avoid the steep steps. Didn’t lose anyone! And then lunch at Baulkham Hills Sports Club.

Could it get any better?
Most of you would recall the movie *Castaway* starring Tom Hanks and his friend on the island, Wilson. Wilson was a lovely friend … who unfortunately was lost at sea.

Well, I was fortunate during COVID-19 Lockdown to come across Wilson’s brother, Mitre, who became a very good friend as well as wonderful company. How did this happen?

During my preparations to install a new deck at the rear of my home, I came across a soccer ball with the brand Mitre. And I thought - wow - this is just what I need. A friend like Hank’s buddy, Wilson.

I fitted him up with eyes, arms, a nose and mouth then set him up around my construction site to be my companion and adviser.

He was also able to assist in making cookies, especially Anzac biscuits.

He helped me unwrap my birthday gifts, blow out my candles, and even sampled a glass of my birthday wine.

I even gave him some driving lessons (he wasn’t very good - couldn’t see over the dashboard).

We spent a lovely night together watching *Castaway* and Mitre nearly wet himself when he saw his long lost brother Wilson.

As we come out of the lockdown, Mitre might move on; he’s not sure yet. I’ll have a chat to him and see if I can get him to come along for a visit when Probus meetings recommence before he heads off to parts unknown.

[Click here](#) to read all about *Heartbreaking: Wilson from Castaway diagnosed with Coronavirus* (Lopis, D. and Smith, C. 2020 The Chaser QUARTERLY).
‘Meaders Clubs

Probus Northmead & District is only as DYNAMIC as YOU!

**ALERT** - Always check our website for current updates. Click [here](#) or call the Convenor of the Club you are interested in for details of next MeetUp.

**WeWalk Club**
Robyn 0419463783  Liz 0431771884
MeetUps
September 8  3.30pm @ Els
September 22 3.30pm @ Els

**Walkie Talkies**
Patrick Vallely 0403161515
Wednesday September 9
9.30am Knightsbridge Shopping Centre

**Mahjong Club**
Jan Field 0428080848
Every Monday 1-3
Call Jan for venue details

**Mookies**
Debra Sheath 0421998434
MeetUp TBA

**Luncheon Club @ High Noon**
Sue Osborne 0405777994
September 30 Sugar Salt @ Galston

**Studio 57 Club** (Craft)
Sherel Jakes 0413853393
MeetUp at 10am
Tuesday September 8
Call Sherel for venue details

**Fleurs Club***
Sandra Joy 0410511678
MeetUp TBA
*Grafton Jacaranda Tour cancelled

**Following Clubs waiting for approval by membership at next General Meeting**

**Moomie’s**
Liz 0431771884
MeetUp TBA

**Clubs** meet on a **regular** basis (weekly, fortnightly, monthly). They have a [core group of members](#) but each Club is always open to any ‘Meader who wishes to attend on a particular day. If you are interested in joining a Club, **phone** the particular convenor. She/he will be happy to chat to you about what the Club does, and about the next MeetUp.

**IMPORTANT**   Club Convenors will contact the group members concerning any changes of time or venue.

Clubs are all about you. Feel free to share ideas for new Clubs.

---

**REMEMBER: Contact** THE **CONVENOR** of the Club to ensure you know: **Time and date** * MeetUp point * Purchasing tickets * Cost

---
Private and Confidential for Probus use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.