



FROM THE PRESIDENT

FEBRUARY MEETING



COMMITTEE

President

Gerald Christmas

Vice President

Tony Travers

Imm. Past Pres.

Ross Bruwel

Secretary

Bob Pearce

Treasurer

Hugh Seccombe

Committee

Alan Ambler

Allan Blake

Tony Bowra

Peter Davenport

Kevin Fitzpatrick

Richard Hannaford

James Ritchie

Barry Stone

Peter Turner

Rufus Wolfson

OTHER ROLES

2Fifty Club

John Minnett

Bowls

Peter Cornish

Cashier

Peter Davenport

Cycling

Allan Blake

Stewart Horwood

Golf

Tony Travers

John Pike

Hon Auditor

David Lloyd

Hospitality

Richard Hannaford

Jim's Jaunts

Jim Holloway

Meetings

Martin Grover

Membership

Peter Turner

Stewart Horwood

Minute Secretary

John Mattes

Movies

David Bruce-Steer

Music, Art

John Brooks

Gerald Christmas

Newsletter

Peter Dee

Postman

Bob Pearce

Sailing

Ross Bruwel

Speakers

Allan Blake

Tennis

David Harris

Tours, Outings

Barry Stone

Tony Bowra

Website

James Ritchie

Welfare

Peter Cornish



Hello fellow members, including honoraries and partners.

Well here we are again, 12 weeks after our November meeting. We have enjoyed that brilliant Christmas Lunch at Manly Golf Club, now a pleasant past memory, then New Year, then our High Tea Bush Barbecue at Balls Head. This year we missed Rufus Wolfson and Alan Ambler and their well known skills. In their place, Stan Higgs took over, assisted by another whose modesty prevents me from naming.

The high tea, barbecue - whatever we call it - never fails each year. Its popularity shows to us once again that our members always like to get together and talk.

We will continue to succeed as a club if we give priority to "meeting and greeting" particularly those who are newcomers in our midst. Some of our members have personal health issues or have partners or family who are in poor health or have serious disabilities. We care for each other. We are a club which is noted for its friendliness. We enjoy companionship.

At our last committee meeting, our attention was drawn to our membership list and the age range of our members. About 75% of our members are in their late seventies or older. Yes this is not perhaps surprising, but it does mean that it can be more difficult to find younger members in their sixties and early seventies who have the energy and capacity to do the organising and management of the club's activities. We have a marvellous committee at the moment. This will continue with the upcoming new committee but we must vigilantly plan for more of the younger seniors to lend a hand as they are able.

Next month is our Annual General Meeting, our annual celebration of the past Probuss year. It is traditionally avoided by some. Such is the way with Annual General Meetings universally, is it not! The business and financials are not overly exciting, except to some accountants and lawyers.

To add cream to the AGM cake we have invited as speaker, Paul Delprat, famous artist, teacher, art judge and long time principal of the Julian Ashton Art School. We look forward to his coming to talk with us on "Why Art is Good for You". Alternatively, the title may be something like "the Art of Life". Whatever the title, don't miss it.

What holds us together as a club? It is every time and always, friendship, fellowship and fun. Long may it continue.

Cheers, **Gerald Christmas, President**

GUEST SPEAKER

Prof Graham GILL - The Russian Political System

Since coming to power in 2000, Vladimir Putin has sought to restore Russia's status as a great power on the international stage while domestically he has strengthened the state and significantly closed the opportunities for independent political activity. As the presidential election in March approaches, both of these themes have been in evidence. A more assertive foreign policy has been reflected in developments in Ukraine, intervention in Syria and the claimed interference in Western elections. Domestically, opponents stay sidelined and he has struggled to deal with the effects of the recent economic downturn, but there is little doubt Putin will be re-elected.

Graeme Gill is Professor Emeritus at Sydney University. He is a long-time scholar of the Soviet Union and Russia and the author of around 20 books on this subject. Recently he has written a book covering the Putin period entitled *Building an Authoritarian Polity. Russia in Post-Soviet Times* (2016). A frequent visitor to Russia, he last visited there in May 2017.

This month's meeting will be held on **Tuesday 13th February** in the Auditorium at North Sydney Leagues Club, Abbot St Cammeray.

- 10:00 - 10:20 general business
- 10:20 - 10:30 personal corner
- 10:30 - 11:00 morning tea
- 11:00 - 11:55 guest speaker
- 11:55 - 12:00 wrap-up
- 12:00 - optional lunch and snooker

NOTICE of 39th AGM

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 13th March 2018

The 39th Annual General Meeting of members will be held at North Sydney Leagues Club, Cammeray on Tuesday 13th March 2018 at approximately 10:20am after the conclusion of the 10am meeting.

AGENDA

- To confirm the Minutes of the 38th AGM held on Tuesday 14th March 2017
- To receive the President's Report
- To receive the Income & Expenditure Statement for the Year ending 31 December 2017, the Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2017 and the Auditor's Report thereon
- To maintain the annual membership subscription at \$45 and the member joining fee at \$15
- To present the List of Club Activities
- To elect the Officers and Committee: we have received the following unopposed nominations: Peter Davenport (President), Kevin Fitzpatrick (Vice President), John Metcalf (Secretary), Hugh Seccombe (Treasurer), Gerald Christmas (Immediate past President), Alan Ambler, Tony Bowra, Ross Bruwel, Richard Hannaford, Bob Pearce, James Ritchie, Barry Stone, Peter Turner & Rufus Wolfson (Committee)
- To re-appoint the Honorary Auditor, David Lloyd

NEW MEMBER

Peter STEPAN

Career: Medicine, Psychiatry
Last position: Principal in Private Practice
Interests: Walking, Travel, Sailing and Gardening
Peter and June live in Cremorne Point

Feb PERSONAL CORNER

Barry STONE

Career: Chemical Industry sales & service
Last position: Sales Manager Australia, NZ, South Pacific
Interests: Golf, Sailing, Meals on Wheels, Relaxing on the Central Coast, Travel
Barry and Jenny live in Cremorne

OUTINGS

JIM'S JAUNT 22nd February 2018
Circular Quay, the Rocks & Barangaroo
 This will be a walk through the first two years of settlement from 1788 - the 'why, how & where' choices. The characters Arthur Phillip (super hero), Napoleon, Sydney, Dawes and Tench to whom we owe so much: Tank Stream, Rocks, Dawes Fort, the Observatory, Barangaroo. *This is a free country - there will be no slaves here.* Wow, we were close to speaking French or Spanish. We meet at wharf 4 Circular Quay at 9.30am; lunch at the Canteen; walk some 4km over 3 1/2 hours with ups & downs, boring side stories about what happened where & when - your comments welcome!

Jim Holloway 9955 1368
0421 559 618

NORTH FORT TOUR 1st March 2018
North Head, Manly

North Fort played a major role in the defence of Sydney. On this guided tour we first visit Australia's Memorial Walk which honours those who served and supported the defence of Australia. We then visit WW2 fortifications before descending into the underground tunnel complex. We'll walk in the footsteps of soldiers both above and below ground, hear how they protected our shores, see magnificent memorials and enjoy stunning Harbour views. The tour, lasting some 70 minutes, is a moving and rewarding experience. We meet at North Head Sanctuary Visitor Centre at 10:20am. Tour cost is \$5 pp; lunch at own expense at the Skiff Club on E Esplanade. Maximum 25 participants. Contact Barry or Tony.



High Tea BBQ Balls Head



Christmas Lunch at Manly

OUTINGS

RIVERBOAT POSTMAN CRUISE
on the Hawkesbury from Brooklyn
Tuesday 20th March 2018

The first Riverboat Postman was in 1910 and the tradition continues. We cruise up the Hawkesbury River from Brooklyn delivering mail and other essential supplies (perhaps the odd bottle of whisky or rum) to the river-accessible only settlements upriver. The skippers are locals who have lived in the area all their lives. They will entertain us with stories of the river (mostly true) as we enjoy the sights of this spectacular waterway. We will have morning tea on board and a delicious Ploughman's Lunch as we return down river. We depart Brooklyn wharf at 10.00am and return there approx. 1:15pm. Cost is \$45pp for the cruise, morning tea and lunch. See the flyer for more detail.

COACH TOUR North East Victoria
14-19 October 2018

Join us on an excursion to the land of 'Legends, wine and spectacular high country' in NE Victoria. We'll stay five nights in Wangaratta with tours daily to the beautiful surrounding districts of Milawa, Yarrowonga, Glenrowan, Bright and Beechworth. The excursion is timed to take in the spring blossoms. More details are in the flyer.

Barry Stone 9953 6748

mobile 0400 388808

Tony Bowra 9969 1128

March GUEST SPEAKER

Paul DELPRAT

Why Art is Good for You

SPECIAL INTERESTS

ART & MUSIC John Brooks 9908 2820

The **Opera House** has Bizet's *Carmen* with gypsy girls and bullfighting boys. It is on show between 10th Feb and 23rd Mar - lust, loathing, Spanish tunes and colourful parading girls.



The **S H Ervin Gallery** has an enjoyable exhibition of paintings by 30 intrepid Australian women artists who lived in Paris during the early 20th Century - landscapes, people, city scenes.

CYCLING

Stewart 9439 9609 Allan 9960 8830

On Mondays, routes & times vary. Saturdays, we ride around the wharves & Barangaroo starting Glebe or Milsons Point at 7.45am, finishing around 10am; distance about 25km. If interested, contact Stewart or Allan. More details on our group e-mail.

GOLF Tony Travers 9439 4996

Each Monday from 8.15am for 18 holes or 9.45am for 9 holes at the Lane Cove Country Club.

MOVIE ENJOYMENT

David Bruce-Steer
9419 7017

Meet at the Cremorne Orpheum on 4th Monday each month. Look out for our flyer in the week before.



ROLL-UP LAWN BOWLS

Peter Cornish 9909 8994

Roll-up Lawn Bowls is usually held at North Sydney Bowling Club at St Leonards Park every Wednesday morning.

SAILING Ross Bruwel
0421 817 106

Ross invites you to join him on board the beautiful *Renada* on Tuesday 20th February; embarkation is normally at Middle Harbour Yacht Club. See Ross for further details.



TENNIS. David Harris 9488 5259

Tennis will be held at *Love n Deuce* at Talus St, Naremburn on Monday 19th February between 2 and 4pm. Sign the sheet at Tuesday's meeting or contact David.

VALE

Tom POWER OAM



Payments: Kindly pay for outings in advance of any deadline and online if possible. When paying online, please ensure that you quote your name & the relevant activity, perhaps abbreviated, in the description to eliminate confusion. Note the following bank account details:

BSB 082 057 a/c no: 28869 5672
a/c name: Probus Club of Neutral Bay.

This is sponsored by **KWIKKOPY 6/129-133 Military Rd Neutral Bay ph 9953 3077**
 Your Committee uses us for all their photocopying and printing needs