



PROBUS CLUB OF KILLARNEY HEIGHTS

22 Wallace St, Willoughby, NSW 2068

ABN 62 621 547 226

No 398 THE JUNE MEETING IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Commencing at 10:00 am Thursday 20th June 2024



It was extremely sad to announce the passing of Kelvin Bush at the start of last month's members' meeting, having received the news from his family just before our meeting commenced. A minute's silence, in Kelvin's memory, was observed at the meeting. Kelvin had been a well-respected member of our Club for just under 21 years, and a number of our members attended his Memorial Service at Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens in the last week of May. We send our thoughts and condolences to Kelvin's family for their loss.

Those who were unable to attend last month's meeting missed a most entertaining presentation by our Guest Speaker, Jim Haynes. Everyone I spoke to enjoyed Jim's subject matter, his presentation style, and his engagement with his audience. Grahame Reinthal's appreciation is included in this newsletter.

A number of our members, their wives and a few of their friends went on the day outing to the Cochlear Implant Centre at Gladesville last month. It was a most enjoyable and informative day, and my special thanks to Gerard de Jong for all of his hard work in organising the day and making it a success. Tony Morley's article regarding the outing appears in this newsletter. Our next day outing will be to the Children's Medical Research Institute in September.

It is good to see that Cliff Ventris' efforts in rekindling our members' interest in cruising have proved successful, with seven couples booked for November's Tasmania cruise. Many thanks, Cliff. I'm sure that all those who are going will thoroughly enjoy the trip.

Ken Fletcher (with great support, as always, from his wife, Lyn) is currently close to finalising arrangements for our Christmas in July luncheon at Cromer Golf Club on Thursday 11th July. To date Ken has received bookings for just over 50 attendees, but bookings must close on Wednesday 3rd July, so if you are wanting to come but haven't already booked, please do so asap.

Finally, if you haven't paid your membership fees for the year, and are wishing to remain a member, please do so as soon as possible, and remember to wear your name badges to all of our meetings and social gatherings (which includes our Christmas in July luncheon).

Keep well, and I look forward to seeing you at this month's meeting.

Rob Beaton - President 99757515 robbeaton@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

As of 12th June we have 72 active members and 6 non-active a total of 78 members

SPEAKERS FOR 2024

June 20th Members only Speaker Mark Ricard A history of light aircraft on the Northern beaches	July 18 th Members & Partners Speaker Rita Shaw Rhino Matters
August 15th Members only Speaker Barbara Pearce Expeditions : Top to Bottom (Arctic to Antarctic)	September 19 th Members & Partners Speaker Paul Dipuglia Neutrog - an idea to naturally repair & assist plant growth

FUNCTIONS

Christmas in July, Thursday, 11th July at Cromer Golf Club, Cromer

After a somewhat slow response, bookings have been steadily coming in. The day starts at 12 noon with a Pre- Dinner Drink followed by our Christmas Lunch which starts at 12.30 pm.

A two course Christmas Themed Lunch with all the Christmas trimmings, followed by coffee/tea and chocolates. Cost per head is \$66.00 plus drinks from the Bar at Club prices.

Come and join your Probus friends for a great Christmas in July get together. Bookings close Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024 @ 4 pm.

For further details contact Ken Fletcher M: 0473 229 002

DAY OUTINGS

Cochlear Implant Centre Gladesville.

On Thursday, 23rd of last month, a good number of our members visited the Cochlear Implant Centre at Gladesville, followed by a two-course lunch at the Massey Park Golf Club, then a visit to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walking Trail in Concord West. The tour was fully booked.

On arrival at the Implant Centre, and following a staff member's encouragement to do so, our coach driver skillfully guided his huge coach into the narrow driveway to much applause from his appreciative passengers. We walked through the site (short walk) to arrive at a lecture theatre where we enjoyed tea (or coffee) and bikkies, courtesy of our coach driver before receiving a very interesting talk by our host as she explained the history and workings of cochlear implants to restore hearing to those affected by deafness.

The system was invented by Australian physician, Graeme Clark with the first prototype implanted in a patient in 1978. It produced "hearing sensations". Later development led to the first successful clinical trial in 1982. The system consists of an outer part and an inner part. The outer part appears similar to a conventional hearing aid but converts sounds to digital signals which are magnetically transmitted to the inner part. The inner part is surgically implanted under the skin behind the ear and has a magnetic signal receiver, connected to an electrode array which stimulates the hearing nerve fibres in the inner ear (cochlea). Signals are sent, via the hearing nerve to the brain where they are recognised as sound.

After a detailed description of the history, design and operation of the system, our host answered many questions from our audience and received a thankful round of applause before she introduced Sue Walters, the first person in NSW to be fitted with a cochlea implant. Sue lost her hearing in her 20's after a bout of meningococcal meningitis. She explained what a weird sensation it was to be unable to hear even her own voice. Another interesting talk as Sue related her experiences in learning to hear again. The system produces digital sounds rather than analogue so, instead of hearing all the sound frequencies, she only gets a series of clipped sequences. Music that she used to enjoy now sounds strange and is not so enjoyable any more. That said, she can now hear speech very clearly after teaching herself to listen to the initial strange sounds. Again, after a most interesting and entertaining talk, Sue received an appreciative round of applause from our grateful audience.

On leaving the Implant Centre we were taken to the Massey Park Golf Club where lunches were served to order, very quickly considering our large number. We then went on to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walk near

Concord Hospital to view the 22 stations along the 800m walkway with pictures and stories relating the history of this WW2 battle to defeat the Japanese invasion of New Guinea. Then home to end a very enjoyable day.

The Children's Medical Research Institute Thursday 26th September

A visit to one of their Discovery days, tour the labs, meet the scientists and learn what they do. This will be followed by a heritage tour of Parramatta district.

Cost is \$75 per persons including morning tea, lunch and guided tour.

For bookings please contact Gerald de Jong Mob 0404-049-297

MID DAY LUNCH

A lunch is planned for Thursday 22nd August at the Forestville RSL commencing at 12:30 pm. More details later, Gerald de Jong

CYCLING



We are riding every Wednesday, generally starting at 9.00 am. at Dee Why and riding, on cycle paths, to Narrabeen where we join non riders for coffee at Tramshed Café on Pittwater Road Narrabeen (adjacent to Ambulance Station), to have a chat.

Bryan Power 9452-3916 powerbryan@hotmail.com or Tom Keating and Keith Penfold

Speaker Report – Jim Haynes – 16th May 2024

Our guest speaker for May was raconteur extraordinaire, Jim Haynes, who entertained us with many little-known facts about ‘Sydney’s Amazing History’ since the First Fleet arrived here.

We may have already known that the surf life-saving reel was invented here in Sydney, but it was extraordinary to hear that the first life saved using this device was none other than 9-year-old Charles Kingsford-Smith!

We heard that Sydney had the world’s first consumable currency – rum – for the best part of 2 decades until the Holey Dollar and Dump were introduced. These were struck from 40,000 silver Spanish 8 reale coins imported for the purpose – the 8 reale coins also known as Pieces of Eight – Aarrh, Jim-lad! But what were they really worth? Governor Macquarie set the value of the Holey Dollar at 5 British shillings, and the dump at 15 pence.

We heard about a prefabricated hospital that came to Sydney in the Second Fleet, but which was later replaced with a much-improved hospital funded by entrepreneurs who built it in exchange for the rum franchise for the colony – that became known as the Rum Hospital. Its three main buildings still stand today, as Sydney Hospital, The Mint and Parliament House in Macquarie Street and we heard of the pivotal work of unsung hero, Nurse Lucy Osburn and her four Nightingale nurses in that hospital.

We heard that Sydney-siders of the day, embarrassed that Prince Albert had been shot on their patch at Clontarf, then raised a lot of money, intending to build a monument to the Prince, but Albert himself asked for this money instead to be put to better use than a monument, and that this was the genesis of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA).

And then there were tales of old cemeteries becoming the sites of now famous Sydney places such as Town Hall and Central Station, the Zig Zag railway being a world first in tackling mountain crossings, how the National Park came into being after the insider land speculation of the polities of the time failed when the railway did not pass through that area, and so the polities sold the now “useless” land to the government, who made it a national park. And we heard about “The Spook”, the undertaker who was the only one with a return ticket on the Funeral Train from Sydney to Rookwood Cemetery, and how the church at Rookwood, which accommodated the funeral train, was sold, dismantled and rebuilt (albeit with the bell tower moved to the opposite side) in the ACT and is now the All Saints Anglican Church, Ainslie.

And there were many more fascinating anecdotes and details in Jim’s talk, but suffice to say that it was a very entertaining session for us all. Grahame Reinthal

