



NEWSLETTER

GLENMORE PARK PROBUS CLUB Inc.

No. 156 WEDNESDAY 18th. APRIL 2018



probusglenmorepark.com.au

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Everything has its beauty, but not everyone sees it - Confucius

EDITORS COMMENT

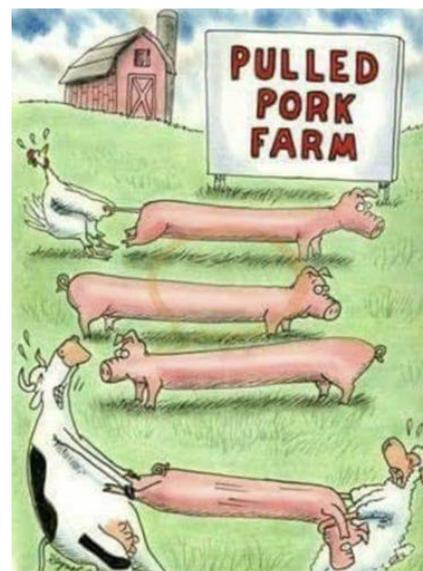
A belated Happy Easter to you All. I would imagine, like us, it was a busy time for you all. We entertained our sons with their wives & our 5 grand children for Easter Sunday Lunch, with a trip up to Katoomba (Scenic World) on the Monday. Thank goodness we are retired and could recuperate on the Tuesday, we were exhausted. But no complaints, they are the reason we emigrated to this lovely country. No Probud lunches last month and we have had to cancel a couple of our Walking Group Saturday walks as people have had other commitments. Kay has said they are up to 9 for Canasta, so just another 3 needed to make an extra table. The Movie Group saw "Molly's Game" 17th March, an excellent movie based on a true story. " Film Stars don't die in Liverpool" on 7th April, with lunch after at Mountain Blue Cafe. The film was very sad and a few tears were shed.

It was also sad to lose Christine (Tours & Social) & Brian (Public Officer) from the Committee, but they remain as popular members of the Club. We have an excellent replacement as Public Officer in the guise of Steven Hackett but we STILL require a Tours & Social Secretary, at present various parts of it are covered by no less than 4 of our committee members!! This months 'Bio' is Ann & Ernie Johnson, founder members of the Club. We (mainly Barbara!) had very little to do as Ann & Ernie had done most of the facts, we just had to add a little bit of colour as, like all the subjects of our 'Bios', they are always very modest.

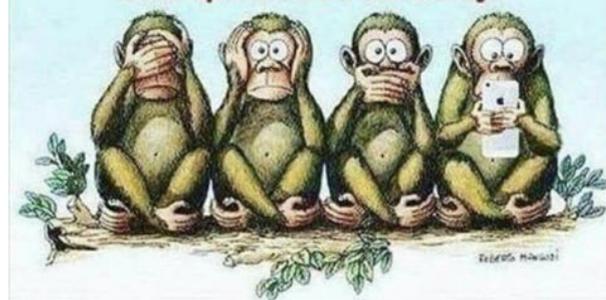
Only just over 2 weeks to our Great Ocean Road trip, really looking forward to it and Jenny will be at the meeting to hand out our documents. Sadly, at the moment, The Tasmania trip looks off, unless we get at least another 6 to make it financially viable. Jenny will also discuss next years planned trip to Japan.

And lastly, but not least, if you haven't already done so, you need to pay this years Probud Club membership fees, a very reasonable \$25.

Glen Davis. (Editor)



Finally the fourth ape! He is the sum of the first three: He sees nobody, hears nobody and speaks to nobody.



I went to the liquor store Friday afternoon on my bicycle, bought a bottle of Scotch and put it in the bicycle basket. As I was about to leave, I thought to myself that if I fell off the bicycle, the bottle would break. So I drank all the Scotch before I cycled home. It turned out to be a very good decision, because I fell off my bicycle seven times on the way home

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL. Monday 30th. :The Good Old Days Concert at Sydney Town Hall. The Magnificent Voice of Tahu Rhodes - in concert. 2:00 pm show. Have lunch first. Please arrive 1:30pm to be seated.

APRIL Thursday 26th. :Lunch Lapstone Hotel, 15 Great Western Highway, Blaxland. Meet at 12 noon.

MAY. 1st.-8th. :Melbourne to Adelaide, Great Ocean Road.

MAY. Thursday 24th. :Nepean Lunch Cruise at 11:30am. Cost p.p. **\$53:00**. Pay at the April meeting.

JUNE. Wednesday 24th. :Kemps Creek Bowling Club, Elizabeth Drive, Kemps Creek. Meet 12 noon.

JULY. Tuesday 24. :Christmas in July Lunch at Blue Mountains Hotel, Lawson. Cost p.p. **\$21:00**. Buy own drinks. Pay at the May meeting.

AUGUST. Wednesday 22nd. : "Welcome Inn" Chinese Restaurant, Warragamba. Meet 12 noon

OCT. Wednesday 3rd. : 'EVITA' at Sydney Opera House at 1:00pm. Cost p.p. **\$83.90**. Pay **\$10** deposit at March meeting, balance at June meeting.

NOV. 29th-30th. : 2 day Hunter Valley Christmas Lights Tour. **\$300** p.p. based on 30 people. Single supplement **\$50**. **\$100 deposit to be payed at April meeting.**

***** Tasmanian trip. Unless we get at least 6 additional members commit to this trip, it will be cancelled and possibly offered again in the future. *****

*****PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLUB CANNOT ISSUE REFUNDS OTHER THAN IN THE CASE THAT THE EVENT IS COMPLETELY CANCELLED*****

UPCOMING EVENTS

2018: Visit Planetarium, Woolongong.

2019 26th MARCH for two weeks. Japan trip in the middle of "Cherry Blossom" time.

Cost approx. (including airfares) \$10,000 p.p. Must have commitment by the end of this May.

UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS

April: Graham Wilcox - Federation.

May: Martyn Killon - NSW Archives Kingswood.

June: Changes & entitlements - Centrelink Services.

* Follow up speaker re Aged Care speaker*

WELFARE

Carole has called & sent a card to Evelyn Porter & made follow up calls to Roy King & Karen Figg.

MOVIE GROUP

28th. April, 3:20pm. : **'The Guernsey Literary & Potato Pie Society'**. A writer forms an unexpected bond with the residents of Guernsey Island in the aftermath of World War 2 when she decides to write a book about their experiences during the war. Starring Lily James, Michiel Huisman, Jessica Brown Findlay.

Lunch first at Mountain Blue Cafe

12th. May, time TBA : **'CROOKED HOUSE'**. An Agatha Christie twisted tale. Starring : Glen Close & Jamie Bell.

ACTIVITY GROUPS

CANASTA @ KAYS HOUSE: 11:00am 2nd, Wednesday every month. Speak to Kay for more details.

WALKING GROUP: Every Saturday 7:30am. While the weather is hot! Meet at The Coffee Club Trench Ave.

Jamisontown or Glenmore Park. Any members interested, please speak to **Pat Ryan**, Club Secretary, at our meetings or by phone as listed under **Secretary** on the Newsletter heading. **The walking venue varies and suits most abilities.**

CHESS & PHOTOGRAPHY: Any members interested in either of these activities should speak to **Brian Corlis** at our meetings.

THIS APRIL MEETING

The guest speaker for April is Graham Wilcox - Federation. \$25 Probus Annual Fee for those that have not payed yet. Pay for Nepean cruise \$53. Pay \$100 deposit for Hunter Valley trip. Jenny to hand out Documents for those on The Great Ocean Road Trip. Roving microphone: Subject : unusual Funeral arrangements!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4th: Joan (Bobbie) Kirsten. **8th:** Dorothy (Dot) Thomas. **12th:** Heather Brown. **24th:** Evelyn Porter. **26th:** Patricia Leitch. **26th:** Bruce Williams (special birthday).

DISCLAIMER

This Newsletter is prepared in editorial format for the information of members. It is written with care and in good faith but does not necessarily reflect Probus policy nor does the Editor accept responsibility for any action taken by any reader because of information contained within.



Ernest William Johnson was born on 26th January 1931 at St. Pancras, London, to parents May Ivy, a chambermaid, and William Ainsworth Johnson, a jewellery maker. He was one of five children, with two brothers and two sisters. When Ernie was four and a half years old the family moved to Southall, Middlesex, West London. His father bought a house there, but then recession came, and his father lost his job. He could not find any work for a long time and could not keep the mortgage payments going, so the family moved into a Public Housing property in Carlyle Avenue, Southall, which was where Ernie grew up living there all through the 2nd World War. The property had an air-raid shelter in the back garden, which was used when London was getting bombed, sleeping

in there when needed. There were air-raid shelters in the streets and in the schools too. A lot of teachers were called up to fight which meant that due to the staff shortages the pupils had a lot of half days at school, either just morning, or just afternoon lessons. Everyone carried their gas masks wherever they went, parks, school, shops etc. When the London bombing was at it's worst, from V1 & V2 rockets, 13 year old Ernie was evacuated to Barnsley, Yorkshire, in the north of England, spending nine months with a family who had two sons about Ernie's age. He was the only one of the family to be evacuated. 'My brothers pushed me forward', he said - 'Or, I was the only one worth saving!!'.

When Ernie came back from Barnsley the war was coming to an end, and he returned to his local Dormers Wells High School. He left school aged fourteen and a half to train as a toolmaker at AEC, where his father was working at the time. AEC was a large company that made buses and coaches, but during the war made army vehicles. Aged eighteen Ernie was called up to do National Service in the Army, joining the R.E.M.E [Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers], training as a motor mechanic, a trade that he would follow when he was de-mobbed. It was here that he learned to drive. Originally he should have served for eighteen months, but this was extended to two years due to the start of the Korean War. It was compulsory after de-mob to continue in the Territorial Army Reserves, as a part-time soldier for a number of years, attending training sessions on a regular basis as required by law. Ernie enjoyed his time in the T.A. He had some good times. He was never out of work in the motor trade, in England or Australia, working up to his retirement, in 1996.

Eleanor Ann Currier, christened as such, but always **known as Ann** was born at Aldershot Army Base Hospital, Hampshire, on 30th October 1934. Her parents were Arthur Francis Currier a regular soldier based in the camp and Elizabeth Roberts. Her eldest brother was also born in the same hospital, and they lived on the camp until Ann was two years old, when they moved into a two-bedroomed flat in Southall, Middlesex. Here another four children were born, making six altogether. Ann being the eldest girl was called upon to help with the younger children. Living in Southall she had plenty of children to play with in the street. They would play tag, skipping with a rope, hopscotch, marbles, spinning tops and endlessly throw a tennis ball at a brick wall. Their indoor activities were playing board games or cards, as there were no TV or phones in those days. The family never saw much of their father, as he was sent to the Middle East to fight in WW2 for six years. Their mother brought them all up, throughout the war, on her own. There were no washing machines, dryers or fridges and no electrical gadgets available. Everything had to be done by hand. There were no supermarkets, just a local corner shop. The family had no car, they had to walk, or catch a bus wherever they had to go. During the war they had ration books to buy food, fruit, clothing and shoes etc. It was hard in those days.

When her father was de-mobbed, after the war, the family moved into a bigger house on the other side of Southall. He was now working for the Post Office, and would eventually become the Post Master General of Southall. Her Mum and Dad had another four children, making a total of ten, six girls and four boys - 'She didn't know what caused it' said Ernie!. Aged twelve Ann went to a new high school, Dormers Well [the same school that young Ernie Johnson had attended!]. Aged fifteen she left school and trained to be a book-keeper in the accounts section of a company, as a junior clerk. She used a manual adding machine with yards of paper strip, and if the figures didn't balance she had to go back and check it all. Aged seventeen she changed jobs and went to work for International Aeradio, a company that updated flight data and flight paths, for BOAC pilots, all around the World. She worked there for six years and it was here that she met her good friend Helen, who would emigrate to Australia, six months before Ann would. Helen is still a good friend and lives in Glenmore Park.

Ann, aged 21 met Ernie aged 24 in 1955 and they were married on 10th March 1956. They had lived almost next door to each other for many years, and gone to the same school, but due to the age difference had never met, until one day Ernie noticed this lovely young lady in the neighbouring back garden, and decided he would get to know her. Coming home on his motor-bike one afternoon, he saw the young Ann in the front garden of her house, playing with her baby brother, and got chatting to her. He asked her to go out with him, she said 'yes' and their first date was to a wrestling match !! They had a big wedding, with six bridesmaids, and their honeymoon was spent touring Italy, breaking the bed during their stay at one hotel! A year later they bought a house in Northolt, Middlesex. Ann worked up to the time that she had the girls, then stayed at home to look after them. Their first daughter Susan was born August 1958, and their second daughter Karen, March 1960. A few years later they saw advertisements about migration to Sydney, Australia. Ann thought this was good idea, so put it to Ernie one day. 'I'll have to think about that' said Ernie as it came as a bit of a surprise. They decided to go, to give them a better lifestyle. After several visits to Australia House, in London, where medical and financial records, sponsorship and work prospects were checked the family were accepted to emigrate. They sold the house, car, contents etc and moved in with Ann's sister Margaret for 2 months before they sailed from Southampton on the liner 'Fairstar' on a freezing cold winter's day, 6th December 1964, as 'Ten Pound Poms'. They were on the ship for four and a half weeks and arrived in Sydney Harbour at 6.00am on 5th January 1965 to a beautiful summer's day to start their new lives in Australia. They arrived to a warm welcome with bunting, streamers, balloons, flags and a band playing 'Waltzing Matilda'. They embarked, went through immigration and met up with their friends, Helen and her husband Bob.

The adventure began by staying with Helen and Bob at their house in Coogee for a couple of weeks, meaning they did not have to go into a hostel. They soon found a unit to rent for six months in Dolphin Street, Coogee, with the two girls going to Coogee Bay Public School. They purchased their first Aussie home in Matraville, and the girls had to change school and make new friends again.

In 1967 their little Aussie baby, Michael was born, at St. Margaret's Hospital, Sydney. In 1971 they moved to a house in Greystanes, and then Ann returned to work in 1975, working for Social Security now known as Centrelink, where she remained for 15 years until she retired, aged 55. They lived at Greystanes for 25 years until they retired in 1996, when they moved to Glenmore Park, where they have lived for twenty two years, and made many friends. They belong to many clubs in the area and are Foundation Members of Glenmore Park Probus Club, formed in 2005. They have enjoyed the company, outings, dinners and shows over the years. They have had weddings, births, and now have five grandchildren and so far, four great grandchildren, hopefully with more to come!

Ernie and Ann recently celebrated 54 years of living in Australia and 62 years of married bliss.

We spent an enjoyable time with them over a cup of tea and date scones [Ann remembered dates were Glen's favourite], reminiscing about London, especially as we had also lived in Southall for a short time. Thank you Ann & Ernie.



The Movie Group, outside Glenbrook Cinema



Our new President, Rayella Haines (Programs), handing out the badges to this years committee. Barbara Davis (membership), Carole Gregory (Welfare & Movie Group), Glen Davis(Editor & Vice President), Kay Cane (Hospitality), Pat Ryan (Secretary & Tours), Rosina Ward (Treasurer & Social). Unfortunately, no photos of Ernie Campbell (Web Master & Lunches) and our new Public Officer, Steven Hackett. Sincere apologies, I just can't get the staff these days!



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