



NEWSLETTER

GLENMORE PARK PROBUS CLUB Inc.

No. 158 WEDNESDAY 20th. JUNE 2018



probusglenmorepark.com.au

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If it's difficult, I'll do it now. If it's impossible, I'll do it presently. Sir Donald Bradman.

EDITORS COMMENT

Well, a very eventful time for me, I lost a fortnight to the dreaded Flu, I know I wasn't the only one! It means I was unable to do the biography I was planning as I didn't want to pass it on so, if I get time, I will inflict you all with my biography. Let's hope my version doesn't differ too much from Barbara's earlier version!!! I need more volunteers, as at the moment, it is only fellow Committee members that are willing to reveal all, no surprise there!

I hope you agree with me, that it was a great May meeting. It was almost a full house, the only absentees were members that were, as you Aussie's say, 'crook', or as us Cockney's put it 'Tom & Dick' (sick). In the absence of a speaker, Rayella, our President, came up with a great quiz which kept us well entertained. You had a close call where the lack of available technology prevented me from sending you to sleep with a talk and 1000 photo slideshow of our Great Ocean Road Trip, phew! Barbara Orth has suggested that we find novel ways of getting to know our fellow members better. We do tend to sit with the same group every meeting. Our Secretary, Pat Ryan, has a few ideas up her sleeve, don't repeat this, but I believe one of them involves Musical Chairs! Dont worry Iris, you can sit this one out :-).

The Movie Group saw 'The Party' at Glenbrook Cinema, almost all of us loved it, I know Jean Howard was an exception. It had a great twist at the end that none of us saw coming and if you want absolute proof it was a good movie, Ernie Campbell stayed awake all the way through! I heard you all had a great time on the Nepean Belle, there some photos on page four.

We are going to introduce new ways for members to pay for any trips etc.in the near future, so that you can transfer funds straight into our Probud bank account as well as still paying by cash, our treasurer, Rose, will give you the details once it is set up.

Glen Davis. (Editor)

Probud Members Benefit Scheme

The Probud South Pacific Members Benefit Scheme offers exclusive discounts from a variety of businesses. All you need is a membership card, Many of you already have these, but if you don't, and you want one please see me. I have already emailed a list of the participating companies to those of you who have email. If anyone would like a hard copy, also see me.

[Barbara Davis [Membership]



Well here goes, this will have to be a very shortened version of my biography, as most of you know, I always have a lot to say! Maybe I will do a Pat King in the future and serialise it. I was born 29th. September 1945 at The British Home for Mothers & Babies in the South East London Borough of Woolwich. For the first Eighteen months of my life we lived at Glenlyon Road, Eltham, which is part of Woolwich. Hence my name Glen Lionel Davis! My father was Clifford William Davis, my Birth certificate gives his occupation as 'Billiard Hall Manager', I barely have any recollection of the Billiard Hall. Until I was into my late twenties, he was a milkman, to be precise, a milk Inspector. From the age of eight to fourteen, I was his milk boy, he was in charge of seven rounds. He also worked behind the bar of our local pub, as did my mother, at weekends. He replaced the bar work later, to become the entertainment manager of the local Working Mens

Club also acting as M.C. and stand up Comedian. My Mother was Joyce Dorothy (nee) Treadway, third eldest of nine children, she was a nurse. They met during World War II, where they both worked at Woolwich Arsenal, my Dad played drums in a band there and my Mum became their vocalist.

When I was eighteen months old, we left Eltham, as we were living with my dad's best friend and his mother. We moved into a brand new Council (social housing) two bedroom Prefab, it had a separate toilet and bathroom, indoors! Two drawbacks, it was made entirely of Asbestos and we also took in my Mum's younger sister, husband and newborn baby. This lasted until my middle brother, Leslie, was born. The best part was, that baby, was my Cousin Michael Mew,

who was to become my best friend, through thick and thin, and still is to this day, really another brother. The Mew's eventually had to move out of 21, Kidbrooke Park Close, Blackheath, another S.E. London Borough, into their own house, as it was extremely cramped by now. I loved living there, had lots of good friends my age, we were close to Greenwich Park and the Common of Blackheath. My Primary School was Blackheath & Kidbrooke, it was originally a fire station and our playing fields were unique. They had a two sided Grandstand in the middle, on one side was the pitch of Blackheath Rugby Union Club and the other side was the home ground of Kent County Cricket Club, until it moved to Canterbury. It was quite a small school, Church of England, I was quite happy there, had one really good teacher and I also played for the school football team (Soccer). I passed my Eleven Plus Exam, although most of my friends didn't, so instead of choosing a Grammar School for my Secondary education, I elected to go to Eltham Green Comprehensive School where most of my friends were going. It was a huge school with 2500 students, each year having 15 classes, 5 A's, 5 B's & 5 C's. My form class was A5, the lowest of the Grammar stream, but A2 for maths, which is what got me through the 11 plus, and A1 for Art. My best friend at school, Alan Tozer, was in The C stream, secondary modern, for all subjects but Art, he was in A1 with me, that is what is so great about the Comprehensive system, none of that elitist Grammar crap! I carried on playing football for my school, but mainly in the second team, I was a bit too small for the first team. As my love of Maths dwindled so my passion for Art increased, to the point where I was able to take and pass my O level GCE a year early. All my friends left school that year, in fact, some the year before, the criteria for working class kids was to get a job and bring money into the household. Our family were no different, when I was eleven my baby brother Stephen was born, but somehow my parents scraped enough together to keep me on another year to take and pass my A level GSE in Art and it's History, along with O levels in English & Maths. I shall be eternally thankful to them and I hope that I managed to repay them in some small fashion.

Also, at this time, I started playing drums, self teaching, no money for lessons! It was only when I went to buy a second hand set with money I had saved from my job on the milk round, plus a morning and evening paper round, that I discovered my dad used to play them. His advice was invaluable. My best friend from school, who also lived in the prefabs, Alan Tozer, played Guitar. We linked up with two other lads, who were twins, who sang in their school choir and played Guitar as well and became 'The Road Runners'. We did ok until we all left school and went to work, too young to play in Pubs, so it was weddings, church halls etc.

When I left school I wanted to be a Commercial Artist, so while the careers officer lined up interviews he got me to practice writing off for jobs, he said I wouldn't get them as they were in the Printing Industry and you had to have a relative in there to sponsor you as The Print was a 'closed shop'. But Waterlow & Sons did write back and said they were sponsoring 10 applicants and the successful applicant would be offered a 5 year apprenticeship as a Photolithographic Retoucher, whatever the hell that was! Well, I was successful, I was at least a year older than any other lad there and one of the tests was to match 10 coloured squares with the 3 printing colours, Yellow, Magenta & Cyan. I got 10/10, nobody else could match the Pink & Brown, Magenta waters down to Pink, you don't need white! I soon found out that Waterlows were one of the most successful and famous printers in the UK, specialising in Poster work and also printed most of the world's currencies including British Sterling! About a year into my apprenticeship, we moved out of the 'Temporary' Prefabs into a 3 bedroomed, 2 story house right on the Heath next to Royal Greenwich Park, a plum position, especially for a council house. So for the first time in my 18 years, I had a bedroom to myself and slept upstairs, welcome to 27 Combe Avenue, Blackheath. Our nextdoor neighbours, the Cookes, from the Prefabs, now lived across the road, Mick, the eldest of three brothers, like me, said he and some friends from The Army Cadets were forming a band, did I still have my drums? So 'The Five Road Runners' were formed, including Alan Tozer from my first Band. We did really well, lots of gigs plus a residency at the local nightclub the 'El Partido'. It was at this point I met Barbara Board, she lived opposite the singer in the band, I gave her brother drum lessons for a short while. We would travel home together when I finished work as her college was only 5 minutes from Waterlows. I was 20, Barb was 17. It was at this point Waterlows closed their London offices and moved everything to their Dunstable branch. As far as I was concerned, that was just short of the end of the known world! I finished my apprenticeship at a small trade shop called Litho Plates. Career wise this was great, the Artists at Waterlows had made me a very accomplished Retoucher. You had all the time in the world to produce the finished result. Litho Plates was all about speed, they were a Trade Shop who produced the printing plate for other printers, deadlines were the order of the day. When I 'came out of my time', that's completing your apprenticeship and becoming a Journeyman, I left to go to Hildesleys for more money, where I met up with an old friend, Alan Tumbridge, from my time at The London College of Printing. I need a chapter on it's own to tell you about him! We met, as I said, at the Printing College. At the age of 17 he was already married with a child, he walked into class, late, no apology, with an arrogant look on his face, wearing a leather jacket, and looking like Adam Faith. Needless to say, we became the best of friends, I was the only one at College with longer hair than him! He didn't give a damn about College, this might have been because he was apprenticed to 'Print Process', the largest Silk Screen Printers in Europe, which his father happened to own!! Barbara and I became great friends with Alan, and his wife Marilyn and they would feature strongly in our future.

Hildesley's was based in East London, a very old fashioned Printers specialising in Greeting Cards and Seed Packets. No urgency to the retouching work as it was for their own Printing machines. The staff was a combination of old guys near to retirement and us 'young guns' with new ideas and technology. By this time I had become quite involved with our Union SLADE, The Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers and Engravers. At Hildesleys I was elected F.O.C., father of the Chapel, another 'young gun', Peter Kurton, who was a planner was my Deputy and Alan as Secretary made up 'The Unholy Trinity', as The Management called us!

At this stage I must apologise that my profundity for rattling on has caused me to run out of room, so I have two solutions. Either reread Barbara's bio or I complete my version in next month's issue. I will measure your reactions at the next Probus meeting. Be gentle, I do tend to wear my heart on my sleeve. ;-) Glen.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE. Wednesday 27th. : Kemps Creek Bowling Club, Elizabeth Drive, Kemps Creek. Meet 12 noon for 'Lunch with Ernie'

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

AUGUST. Wednesday 22nd. : "Welcome Inn" Chinese Restaurant, 1 Weir Road, Warragamba. Meet 12 noon for 'Lunch with Ernie'.

OCT. Wednesday 3rd. : 'EVITA' at Sydney Opera House at 1:00pm. Cost p.p. **\$83.90. Balance \$73.90 due at June meeting.**

NOV. 29th - 30th. : 2 day Hunter Valley Christmas Lights Tour. **\$300** p.p. based on 30 people. Single supplement **\$50. Balance \$200 to be paid at SEPTEMBER meeting.**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 25th. or 27th. : Little Hartley Maple Springs Nursery & Gory'u Japanese gardens. \$30 for coach and entry. Purchase lunch there or bring your own.

OCTOBER 22nd. The Good Old Days \$45 **Pay August meeting.**

NOV./DEC. ' Jersey Boys ' TBA

DECEMBER 6th. Christmas Lunch at The Lakeside Restaurant, Sydney Regatta Centre. Details to follow.
2019 APRIL : Tasmania Trip T.B.A. Jenny coming to June meeting to discuss details

UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS

June: John Cann, NSW Archives.

July: Changes & entitlements - Centrelink Services.

AUGUST: Bank Fraud.

WELFARE

Carole: phone calls to Jean Howard and Pat King. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

MOVIE GROUP

23rd. June 11.55am: 'THE BOOK SHOP'. Set in a small town in 1959 England, the story of a woman who, against local opposition, decides to open a book shop. A decision which becomes a political minefield. Stars Emily Mortimer, Bill Nighy & Patricia Clarkson.

Be at Glenbrook Cinema 11:30 am please. Lunch after at Mountain Blue.

14th. July **'TEA WITH THE DAMES'** TBA

ACTIVITY GROUPS

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

WALKING GROUP: Every Saturday 7:30am. Meet at The Coffee Club Tench 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.**

THIS JUNE MEETING

The guest speaker for June is John Cann from NSW Archives. Pay balance \$73 for "Evita". Roving Mike subject : 'Object or passion that you have always desired'. Updated Constitution, see Ernie Campbell for a copy. See Barbara Davis (Membership Secretary) for your Probus South Pacific Benefit Card.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3rd: Ernie Campbell. 6th: Stephen Hackett. 13th: Violet Mulcahy. 15th: Margaret Favaretti.

21st: Clarence Go. 22nd: Kaila Kailasapathy. 23rd: Barbara Davis.

(special birthdays for both Margaret & Barbara, both ending in a zero!)



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.

Lunch on The Nepean Belle: Group photo, courtesy of Rosina Ward. The rest, courtesy of Dianne Sankey-Morris.

It looks like you all had a great time, we missed out, otherwise engaged.



**The Walking Group
Pat Ryan, Barbara Steer
(our latest member), Glen
Davis (me), Robert Hillsmith
and Barbara Davis, who took
the photo.**



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