



THE 'MEAD

Probus Northmead & District Newsletter

Our Next Meeting

TBA

9.30am for 9:45am

NBC Sports Club

166 Windsor Road Northmead NSW

Volume 2 Issue 2

August/ September 2020

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Are you OK? We are all about caring for each other. If you know a member of our Club who needs a hug, let our wonderful **Welfare Officer Jan** know on 0428 080 848.

Be Kind. Take Care. That's **our** Probos.

Our WEBSITE

Check our website regularly for updates. Either click [here](#) or Google Northmead & District Probos

Paying for an Event

Probus Northmead & District
Bank Account Cite Event Number.
BSB 112 879
A/C 470889027
St George Winston Hills

A Word from Barbara



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 Probos 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 Probos 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.

Keep well
Barbara
President



August/
September
Virtual
Speaker

Hidden in Plain Site - A Good News Story

'Meader Harry Saville

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.

August/
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Hidden in Plain Site - A Good News Story

'Meader Harry Saville

From Rose Bay to Watsons Bay, a fragmented scramble through remnant bush and side streets, is now a pleasant walk.



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.

ZOOM ZOOM

Senior
Moment

What happened? We arranged a Zoom call with our parents and two aunts all 'over 90' years old (on separate screens).

It was a zany session. We signed in and waved at each other... however the '90 somethings had somehow muted themselves. So the comedy began. Holding up a paper sign '**You are Muted!**', I realised - wrong! The words were backwards... of course.

In true Monty Python fashion, each parent and aunt pressed their noses up close to their screens to see what we had written. We burst into laughter, our wine splashing over the side of our glasses. Four noses 'staring' at us.

Each of we Boomer Zoomers 'phone coached' each of the Senior Zoomers to help with the technology glitch.

Eventually we got there and began a rather convoluted and hilarious interaction with two or three conversations going at cross purposes. And then one of the 'over 90s' landline rang - at full volume, drowning out any possibility of hearing anything.

It got worse. Another landline rang... and the second 'over 90' disappeared. Maybe you had to be there, but we were all in hysterics with the attempt at technology and communication.

Will we do it again? You bet.

~ M. Evamy
Red Art Gallery

EVENTS

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.

Wildfire of Plainsong: Ode to Elaine

'Meader Rod Garrett

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.**

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

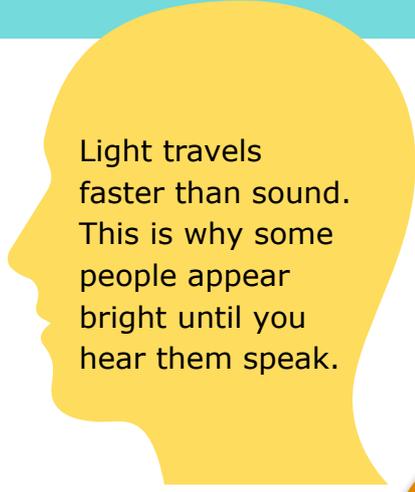
...figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence is surprising and often humorous.



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

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

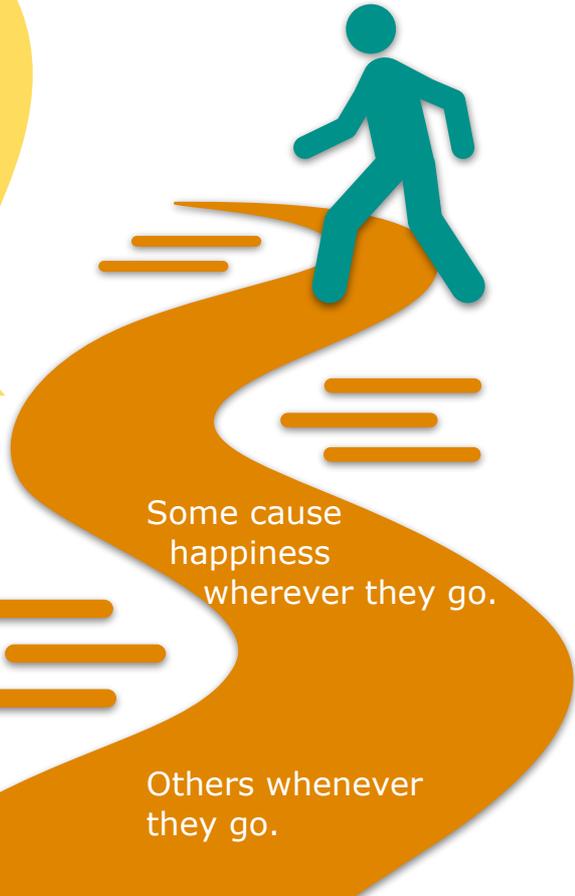
Einstein



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.

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



Some cause
happiness
wherever they go.

Others whenever
they go.

ISO Moments



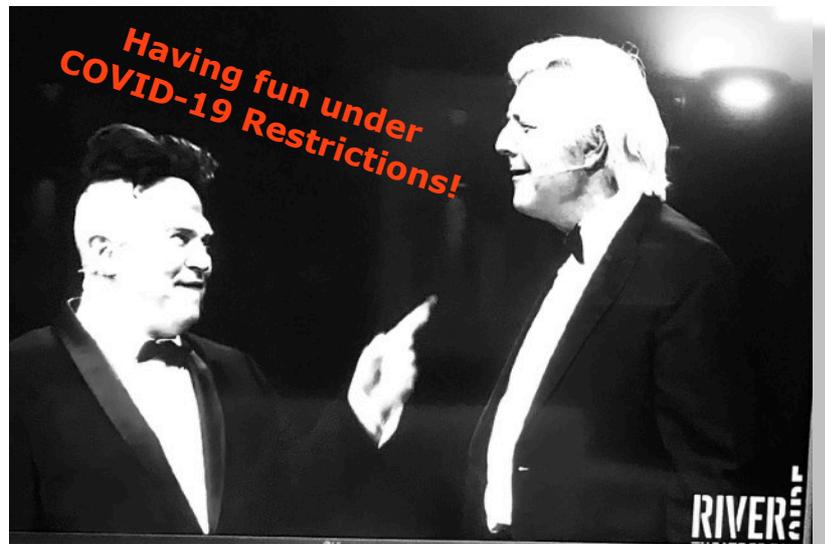
Ahhhh six 'Meaders enjoying an afternoon in Gold Class watching *The Personal History of David Copperfield*.

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

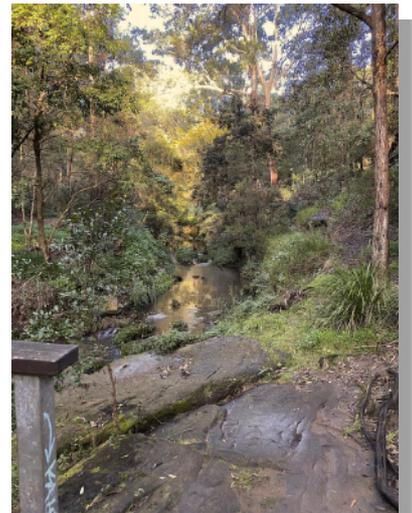
Shout Out to our own Parramatta Theatre **RIVERSIDE**. Tickets for Virtual Performances can be purchased and viewed **LIVE** at home!

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.

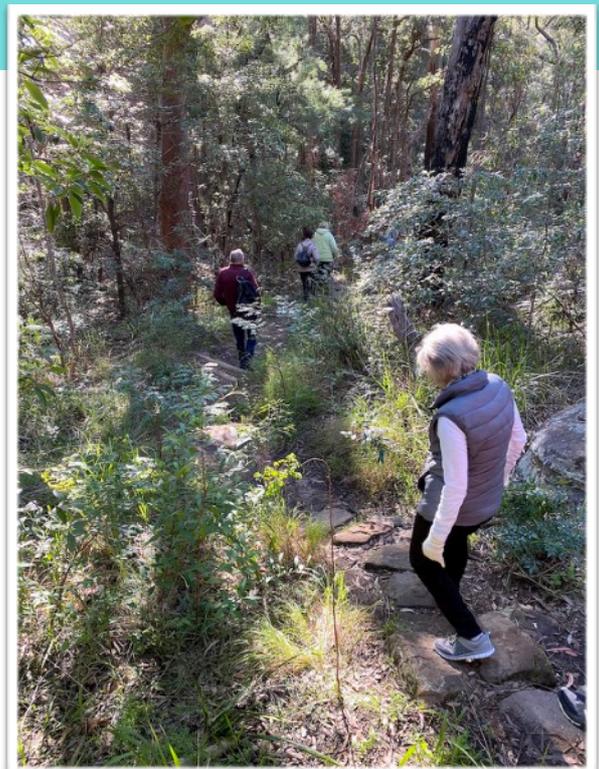


A Walk in the Hills

Patrick Vallely

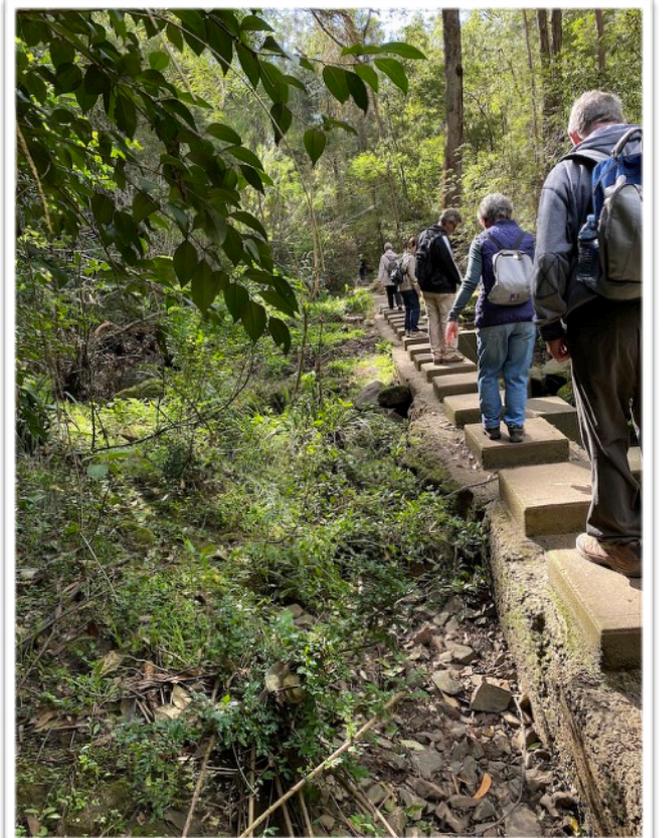
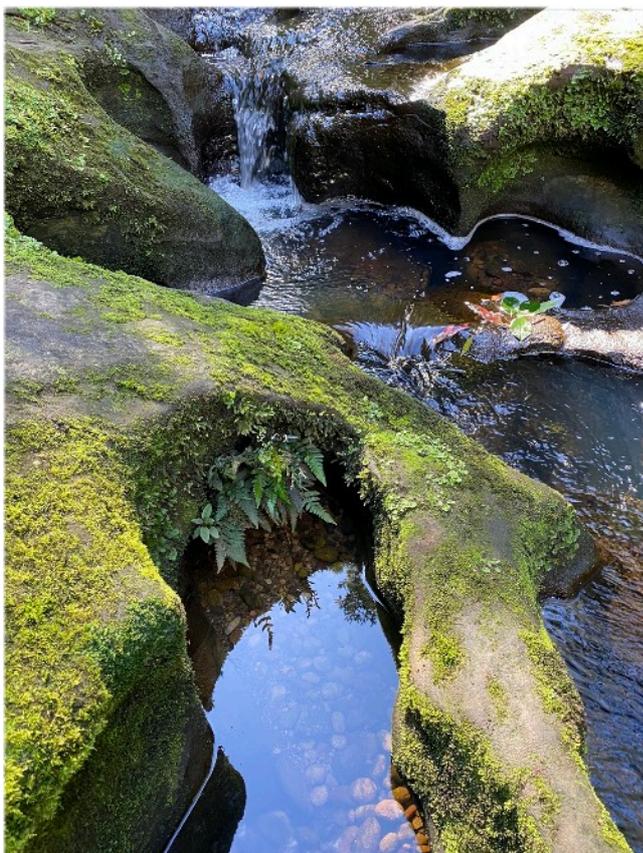


Eleven adventurous **Walkie Talkies** met on a crisp morning at 9.30am on July 11 at the Ted Horwood Reserve for a walk through the Bidjigal Reserve, *reportedly*, to the only **waterfall** in the Hills.



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.

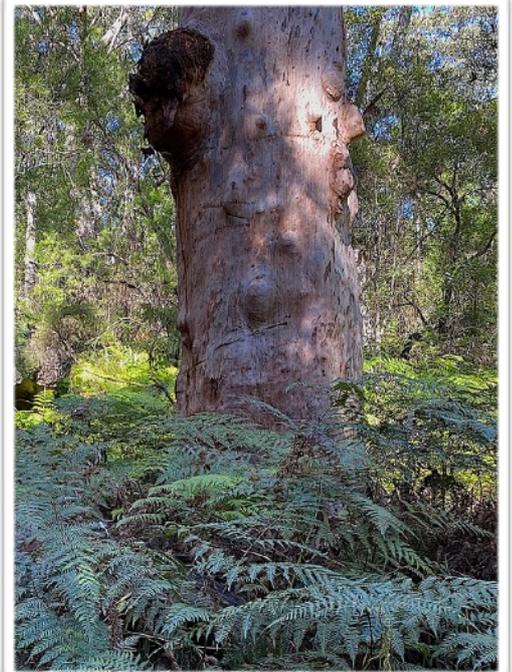
We saw perceived faces and animal shapes on some of the blue gums along with:

- 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?



My Project Corona

K. Sinclair

**A challenge for our 'Meaders!
Got a story or poem or artworks
bubbling away. Send your
contribution to Newsletter
Editor. It can be anonymous, if
requested.**

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 Valley](#) 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

Writers' Block

[Rod Garrett](#) 0433484977
MeetUp TBA

Time Travellers

[Lyndsay Peters](#) 0409003646
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



Probus Northmead & District Committee of Management



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