



Celebrating 50 Years of Probuss in Australia

Deepdene Combined Probuss Club

Volume 13 Issue 7

For Events please
deposit amount into
Probuss Account with
reference:
'yournameEvent'
(Space for 18 letters
available.)

Payments for events
may be made through

Probuss Secretary:
Janet
deepdeneprobuss@gmail.com
M:

Probuss Treasurer:
Robert
deepdeneprobuss.treasurer@gmail.com
M:

Welfare Officer:
Maureen

Anything you would
like to put into the
newsletter? Please
send to editor:
Marian

Guest Speaker:
Monday 17th August
2026: Sue Barnett

Topic: Out of the Ar-
chive

Dear Members

We are half-way through the year, and although winter is certainly still with us, the days are gradually becoming a little longer. I hope everyone is keeping warm and enjoying the season.

We had a very successful *Blue and Gold Lunch* to celebrate 50 Years of Probuss in Australia. Thankyou Lucy.

At our last meeting we had a very inspiring and informative speaker who gave us an opportunity to learn more about the *Mercy Ships*.

I would like to thank Viviane and Noela for the time and effort that they put into finding us interesting speakers. Their work is greatly appreciated and contributes greatly to the enjoyment and success of our meetings.

Cheers,

Jenny

"That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind".

On 20th July, 1969, at 12:56 p.m. AEST, the television feed received was from **Honeysuckle Creek**. This station successfully broadcasted the first historic 8 minutes and 50 seconds of Neil Armstrong climbing down the ladder and setting foot on the Moon.

About nine minutes into the moonwalk, the Moon rose high enough for the **Parkes** dish to clearly capture the signals. Because Parkes had a larger collecting area and superior picture quality, NASA switched to the Parkes feed and used it for the remaining two hours and 12 minutes of the moonwalk. The weak signals were beamed 384,000 kms from the Moon.



Please look up our Expanded Webpage!

The URL of the Deepdene Combined Probuss Club website is:

<https://www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/deepdenecomined>

Our website is run by the Web Master Michael. He has taken on the task of maintaining our website and ensuring it is kept current.

If you have a query or a suggestion to make, please let Michael know at mxxxxx@gmail.com **Feed back is very welcome**. It's your web site not the Committee's.

Michael





Deepdene Combined Probudus Club

GUEST SPEAKER'S REPORT



Today's talk was by **Samantha Clarke**, an ambassador for **Mercy Ships**, an organisation whose goal is *bringing hope and healing where it is needed most*. Samantha briefly outlined how her career developed and expanded, firstly from a hairdresser and volunteer for her councillor father, to a position in parliament and a national network leadership role, followed for a short period of time as membership manager for a football club, to her role within the Impact Club. On this journey a newfound realisation developed, that activism and change were game changers, this led to her present position as an Ambassador for Mercy Ships. Along the way she married, moved to Norway, became the mother of two children before resettling back in Australia.

Her career journey has always been about building meaningful relationships that bring about positive change. Her compassionate self believes that *"service to others is the most rewarding thing you can do,"* and it's this core philosophy that extraordinary things happen when people unite for a common cause and one that drew her to Mercy Ships.

The Mercy Ships are floating hospitals and training centres whose volunteer crews have performed over 110,000 life-changing surgical procedures. From correcting cleft lips and palates to removing tumours and restoring sight, all performed free of charge to the patient. They began in the United States several decades ago and have been responsible for mending bodies and healing hearts in developing countries especially in Africa. Along with life affirming surgeries, dental care is another important area where over 31,863 procedures have been performed. The Mercy Ship has also assisted in the training of numerous dental health practitioners and oral health professionals and have built numerous local dental clinics.

Samantha spoke of the importance of volunteers and the unique services they provide on board. At any one time there may be up to 475 people on board, this includes surgeons, dentists, nurses, healthcare trainers, physiotherapists, teachers, cooks, seamen, bio-technical engineers, and agriculturalists. Only 40% of the volunteers are medically trained and they could not function successfully without the auxiliary services provided. All volunteers pay their own costs, while some may be sponsored. They spend varying times on the projects some from a few weeks while others several years.

Much of the medical equipment is donated and there are presently two ships in operation with a third on the way. Unfortunately, not all the thousands of patients that arrive at the docks are successful in obtaining treatment. Patients are screened by doctors in the specially built Hope Centres before they can board the ship for treatment. It is important that no deaths occur on board the ship as this may deter patients or generate feelings that the ship is cursed. Many patients will walk for days or come by canoe, ferry, or train from thousands of kilometers away. They are willing to queue for several days in sometimes monsoonal rain or inclement weather to seek treatment. The Hope Centre building is usually given to the local government at the completion of the Mercy Ships stay in the area.

Several life stories were shown by Samantha through video and included the story of six-year-old Annica, who had severe burns from falling into a hot tub of water. It was remarkable to witness her transformation after life enhancing surgery from an insecure child unable to perform numerous tasks or attend school to after a succession of surgeries a confident young girl.

Another heart wrenching story was Harimalala's story who was ostracised by her community due to a large goiter that developed from the age of 12 years. Again, it was great to witness the improvement in her self-esteem, her amazing recovery, with little scarring, and final acceptance into her community.

The treatment obtained by many of the patients means that they develop a renewed sense of self-worth and can contribute productively to their community after a lengthening period of isolation and being seen as cursed.

The range of services provided through the Mercy Ships, *Africa Mercy*, and *Global Mercy*, not only to surgery but it also extends to setting up various community clinics such as maternity, HIV education, dental services or a village watering system and agricultural production. Fundraising and volunteerism is a very



Deepdene Combined Probud Club

important part of their operation, and it is significant that volunteers come from over 60 countries world-wide. Over 42,550 hours have been expended in training local communities. Statistically in the countries visited by the ship there usually only exists one doctor for every 10,000 patients.

Thank you, Samanatha for opening our eyes to those not as fortunate as us and the wonderful provision of services provided by Mercy Ships and their dedicated volunteers.

<https://www.mercyships.org.au>

Susan

MONTHLY MEETINGS, GROUPS, OUTINGS & WALKS

What we have done....

WALKS

WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE 10.30 AM

BALWYN LIBRARY TO BOULEVARD

Eight members met at the Balwyn Library to enjoy the weather and make the most of our walk for the first month of winter. We were in luck with fine weather and dry footpaths along the lanes and streets we traversed.

It was obvious the local gardens were denuded of most of their floral displays. However, we were interested to note the variety of garden layouts, and design elements, the home owners had used to showcase their properties.

The *Boulevard Café* was our destination. They kindly provided our crowd with a large table in the restaurant area so that we could all be seated together. We had a lovely lunch enhanced by spirited discussions on a variety of topics.

A great Probud Walking Group outing!

Julie



FRIDAY 17TH JULY

ANNIVERSARY TRAIL TO KUCHE CAFE

Neva, Marcia and Marian (minus our intrepid leader, Julie) set out for a lovely walk. We walked from 19 Whitehorse Road, up the Anniversary Trail to High Street, Kew, past the shops and into *Kuche Café*. We sat in the courtyard, where we were joined by Di, for morning tea/lunch. We then headed up to *Gallery Nursery*, for a stroll around their lovely plants and sculptures.

Off again, up some side streets where we returned to the Anniversary Trail and retraced our steps back to our starting point.

What a gloriously sunny day. A perfect day for a walk with friends.



Marian



Deepdene Combined Probud Club

OUTINGS

SPARKLING SPLENDOUR AT THE NGV

On the 18th June, Probud members experienced a very detailed and informative tour of over 300 *Maison Cartier* exhibits at the NGV.

Included were interactive experiences where you imagine yourself wearing a tiara or an ornate necklace.

Also, many glamorous images of screen stars, royalty and wealthy, chic women who often commissioned these extravagant jewels. (Elisabeth Taylor, Princess Grace of Monaco, the Duchess of Windsor, and Barbara Hutton).

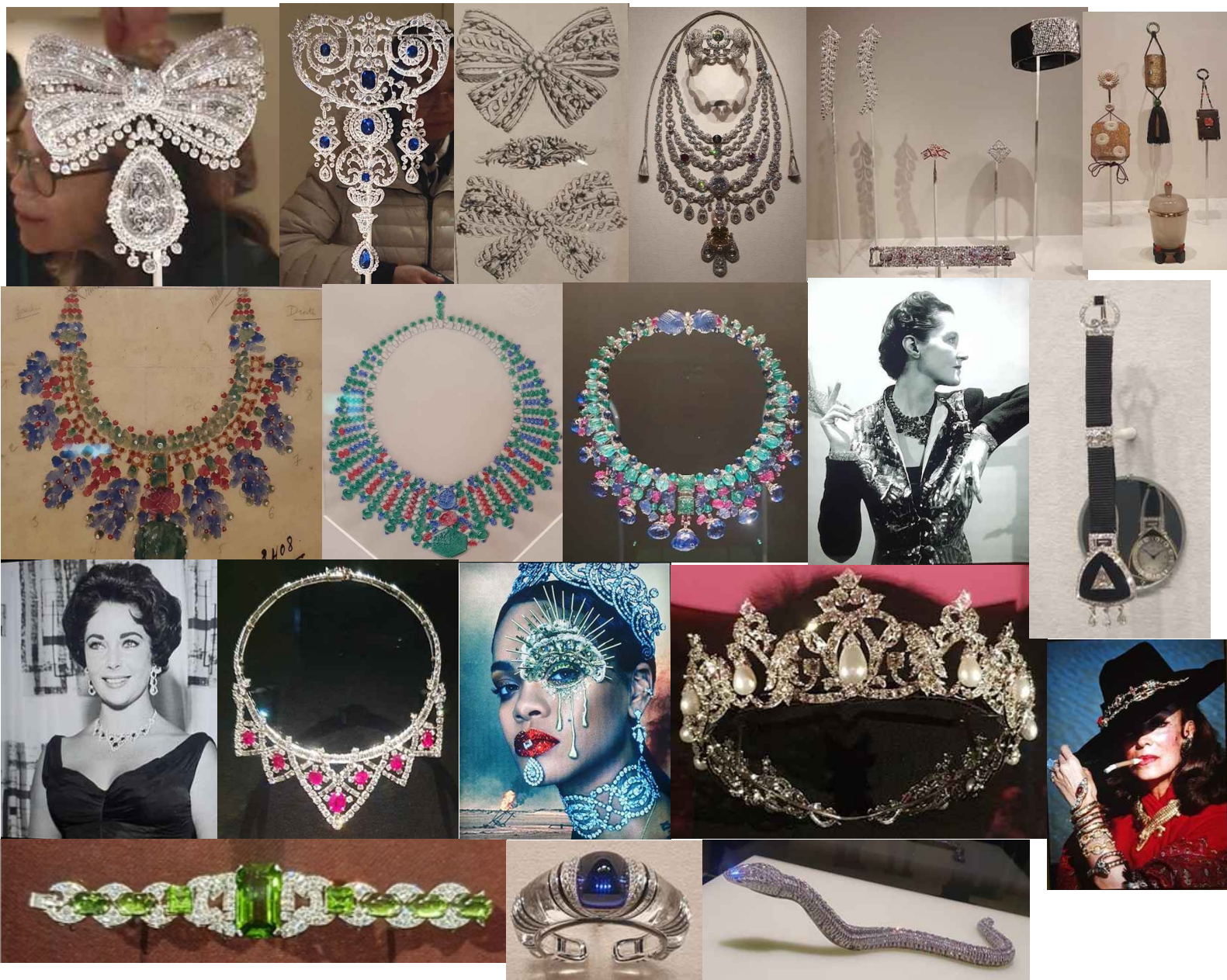


Interesting film clips from Rudolf Valentino sporting Cartier's first masculine wrist watch in films (*The Son of the Sheik*) and others featuring screen stars wearing Cartier designs (Gloria Swanson, Maria Felix, Jean Harlow and Clark Gable). There were also other 'famous' people sporting Cartier designs (Alden Gay, Duke Wellington, Princess Diana and Andy Warhol)

Jewelled, intricate masterpieces from around the world are also featured -India, Iran, Egypt, Ceylon and Australia (Dame Nellie Melba).

The final room was dedicated to tiaras.

In all, we were treated to much sparkle and splendour!





Deepdene Combined Probus Club

Lunch afterwards was enjoyed at *Young and Jackson's*.



Vivienne

MID-WINTER 50TH BIRTHDAY BLUE AND GOLD LUNCHEON

We held our **Mid-Winter 50th Birthday Blue and Gold Luncheon**, on the 6th July, celebrating both the winter solstice and incorporated our acknowledgement of the foundation of Probus 50 years ago.

We all wore something blue and gold which are Probus's colours. Our venue was the *Palace Hotel* in Camberwell who looked after us very well. Meals were handled efficiently and more than adequate. Everyone had a great time, and we capped it off with a group photo of all 23 of us arranged on the grand staircase.

Thanks to all for making it a fun day out.



Lucy

BOOK CLUB

Lady Tan's Circle of Women

Our July 20th reading selection was *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See. We have read, and enjoyed a Lisa See's book before (*The Island of Sea Women*), and were not disappointed with this offering. As with Geraldine Brooks, the amount of historical research done by Lisa prior to writing this novel was amazing.

Set in 15th Century China, we follow the story of an historic female physician, in the Ming Dynasty, Tan Yunxian. A complex world of culture, concubines and customs; foot binding; and circles of women who are closeted in virtual prisons that are actually their homes. An elderly 'Spinster' Aunt who never left her family home and dies, with hardly anyone actually knowing her name (Yang Fengshi) was a particularly sad note. But the most brutal was the history behind becoming a *Eunuch* for the Imperial Palace.



The 'family' medical knowledge that Grandmother Ru taught Yunxian was fascinating. It is incredibly detailed. Also of great interest were the midwifery practises (Meiling and Yunxian) of that time which are mostly still used today.

The importance of female solidarity; the transformative power of female friendship; the struggle for female agency against appalling patriarchy; and the importance of education and knowledge were the overarching themes of this story.

The exploration of the unique relationship between Yunxian (Grand Lady and Doctor) and Meiling (midwife) was especially beautiful. Two girls/women of very different social standing and class should not associate with each other. Yet Grandma Ru places them as a 'couple' (as young girls) as she knows they will support and care for each other throughout their lives. They are Ying and Yang for each other. And Grandmother Ru's prediction was correct. In old age they do live and work together.

There is still a copy of the case notes and treatments written and published by Tan Yunxian in existence today. Miraculous.

A very much enjoyed and discussed book.

Score: 9.75

Marian



Deepdene Combined Probud Club



KOGO

We had another great turnout for our third KOGO meeting for June 22nd, 2026. Seven wonderful knitters arrived for an afternoon knit up and chat!

We have already amassed over 200 squares, many knitted by members at home who are unable to attend the official knitting venue. Other squares have been donated by friends of Probud members. A great network of support!

A variety of adult's and children's beanies, fingerless gloves and scarves have also been completed by members of our group. Two beautifully crocheted blankets have also been donated to our 2026 donation total.

It must be mentioned that Wendy has greatly assisted our effort by providing a huge supply of donated wool. This wool has been distributed to our knitters. The colour and textural variety of the wool has helped to maintain the endless enthusiasm of our group.

Well done team. Thank you all for your dedication to our worthwhile cause.

Please note that our next meeting will be at Julie's home on the 27th of July at 1.00 p.m.



Julie

MOVIE

The Musicians

On Wednesday 24th June, five members went to see *The Musicians* (comedy-drama). The story is based around Astrid Thompson, who is determined to honour her late industrialist father's final wish: to unite four priceless Stradivarius-stringed instruments (two violins, one viola and one cello) for the premiere recital of a new composition (albeit 25 years old, and never performed) by his favourite composer, Charlie Beaumont, which is to be live-streamed for music lovers globally.

The instruments are gathered at the family home Chateau, the four artists arrive and they have a week to rehearse. Three of them have rather large egos/issues in their own way. The fourth member is considered by them to not have earned her 'stripes' and not worthy to perform with them, nor on such a magnificent instrument. No, she has not trained at the Conservatorium, but she is brilliantly and naturally gifted.

With just six days to the recital, the quartet start rehearsing, but the dream quickly unravels. The musicians are at odds, blinded by their differences and prejudices, and seemingly incapable of working together. With the deadline fast approaching, Astrid tries to coax the reclusive composer of this original score, Charlie Beaumont, out from creative seclusion in the desperate hope of salvaging the event.

THE MUSICIANS



Charlie Beaumont seems to live a rather isolated, disconnected life and really does not want to speak with Astrid. But something tweaks his interest. He arrives at the chateau and has realised he has an enormous task ahead of him.

Both the quartet and Charlie try, experiment and reinterpret the original score. No, it is still not coming together. Then the cellist reinterprets the way she plays the note values is several bars or one movement. Yes! Written in 4/4 time she shortens the value on not 2 and 4 note in each bar and it totally lifts the whole piece of music up. Gorgeous. Charlie becomes excited and now sees a way forward with interpreting the score. *"Think of a flock of larks; together yet changing directing without discussion"*.

There is the awful incident when one of the violins is accidentally dropped and damaged. It is repaired with minimal change to the violin; it sounds different; brighter. That night the power goes out (very funny story behind that). The temperature controlled room for the instruments no longer functioning. The whole house is freezing, so all huddle into a small, cosy room with fireplace. The instruments stay warm, the artists start to relax with each other for the first time and chatter with each other. Then a lovely content silence happens. Violinist two starts to play as Appalachian styled song about 'My Girl' (an interpretation of a Nirvana song by Daniel Garlitsky). It is beautiful and so different to what they have rehearsing (tight and controlled). They all gradually join in, riffing off each other. They really connect and become 'the' quartet in that moment; they are as one.

The concert is to be performed in a nearby Catholic Church. The local Priest is happy to avail the church for this once-off concert. He only needs: the fee for church hire; 12% of fee from all subscription audience members; and 15% of all recording sales (It was reminiscent of the Irish Catholic Priests).

The concert starts. Glorious music in a glorious setting, visually and acoustically.

The Concert is sublime. The artists are all finally enjoying the music they are playing, as a quartet (not individuals), in a shared moment of musical harmony. And I think also appreciating the fact that they have found unison and perfection for this one moment in time. Soon the instruments will be sold off (as a set) to some rich Taiwanese Business man. This moment will never come again.

This concert has healed many hearts. The composer Charlie has found a new zest for life, connection with others and the joy of creativity. Astrid has fulfilled her obligation to her father's wishes and fulfilled her dream to hear this quartet, playing this debuting score on these instruments. The quartet members have become better people too. They will remember the joy of producing beautiful music together with other artist, as if of one mind; a deep connection.



The four actor musicians do in fact play all the music in the film.

Stunning!

Mathieu Spinosi as *George* (1st violin): He has an extensive classical background, and is the son of an esteemed Baroque orchestra conductor.

Daniel Garlitsky as *Peter* (2nd violin): He is an accomplished, professional violinist in real life.

Emma Ravier as *Apolline* (Viola): She is an actively performing musician.

Marie Vialle as *Lise* (Cello): She also brings her musical expertise to her role as the cellist of the group.

I cried at the beauty of the music. I want the sound track.

Post movie: Three went to lunch at *Petit Peace Coffee Shokudo*. Yum.

Score: 9.8

Marian



Deepdene Combined Probud Club

ELEVENSES



On 2nd July eleven Probud members enjoyed our 'Inaugural' *Eleveneses* meeting for coffee/tea and cake; and a warm, cosy chat at *Zimt Patisserie* on a cold, blustery Melbourne day. Join us for our next *Eleveneses* on Thursday, 13th August at *Zimt Patisserie*.

Viv

POST MEETING LUNCH

After our monthly meeting, ten members had an enjoyable lunch at *The Harp of Erin Hotel*, Kew. A great seniors menu to select lunch from plus a free drink. Very happy group. Lots of chat. As usual we solved the problems of the world!

Thanks Jenny for booking our reservation.



Marian

MONTHLY MEETINGS, GROUPS, OUTINGS & WALKS

What is coming up.....

MOVIES

Wednesday 22nd July @ 11.00 a.m. *The Odyssey*

The Odyssey is an epic adaptation of Homer's ancient Greek tale. It follows the legendary King of Ithaca, Odysseus, who spends years battling mythical creatures, gods, and enchantments to return home to his wife, Penelope, and son, Telemachus, after the Trojan War.





Deepdene Combined Probud Club

While primarily an action-packed quest and adventure, the film also explores deeper themes such as the psychological trauma of war, the passage of time, and whether a warrior can ever truly return to the life he left behind.

Language: French

Running time: 2 hrs 52 mins

Wednesday 29th July @ 11.00 a.m. BONUS MOVIE *Colours of Time*

Colours of Time (directed by Cédric Klapisch) interweaves past and present. In modern-day France, four cousins survey an abandoned Normandy estate. Their investigation uncovers the story of their ancestor Adèle, who moved to 1895 Paris, where her life and heart became entwined with the Impressionist art movement.

When a developer seeks to purchase land for a shopping centre expansion, they must first track down the descendants of the estate's original owner, a woman named Adèle. Thirty family members are identified, and they select four cousins—Seb, Abdel, Céline, and Guy—to survey the long-abandoned and dilapidated Normandy house. Expecting a straightforward inventory, the cousins instead discover family photographs, letters, and artwork. These artifacts force them to look investigate their shared ancestry and reconsider their own lives and the future of the estate.

Language: French

Running time: 2 hrs 06 mins



Co-Oodinator: Marian

BOOK CLUB

Book for July (Julie)

The Man Who Died Twice:

Thursday Murder Club

by Richard Osman

Date—27th July @ 11.00 a.m.

Book for August (Janet)

A Beautiful Family

by Jennifer Trevelyan

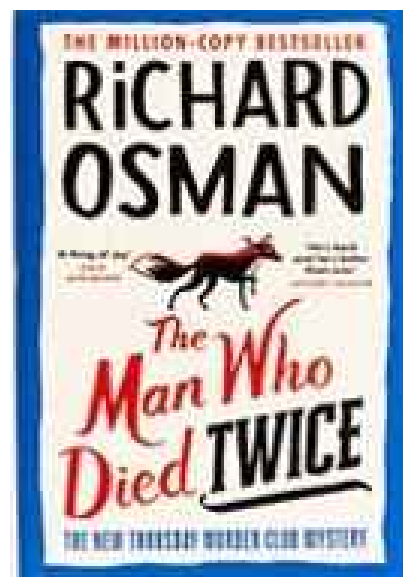
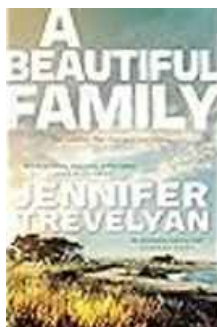
Date—24th August @ 11.00 a.m.

Book for September (Susan)

The Angry Women's Choir

by Meg Bignell

Date—29th September @ 11.00 a.m.



We meet each month at *The Baker and Me* at 11.00 a.m. in the *back room*

Co-ordinator: Neva



Deepline Combined Probud Club

KOGO

Our Deepline Probud knitters and crotchetier's will meet up, after Book Club, for our monthly KOGO session. Interested members are asked to meet on Monday 27th July, at 1.00 p.m., at Julie's house (Cups of tea and coffee as well as biscuits are included to cheer everyone along).

If you are unable to knit or crotchet but would like to help, contributions of 8 ply pure, acrylic or wool acrylic mix would be gratefully appreciated. The balls or hanks of wool do not have to be new. Any half used, left over balls or hanks, as well as any unraveled wool yarn can be re-worked by our knitters.



Co-ordinator: Julie

OUTING

JACKIE KENNEDY ONASSIS - HER LIFE & HER JEWELS

Date: Tuesday 28th July, 2026

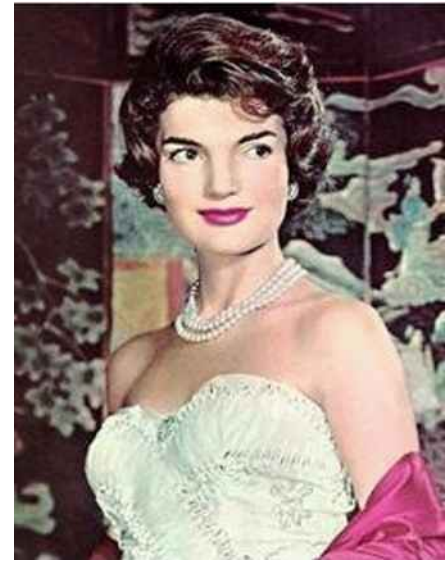
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Place: *Majorca Room*, City Library
253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne Vic 3000

Cost: \$30.00

Join Adrian Dickens, personal jeweller and Kenneth Park, curator and lecturer for two lectures exploring the extraordinary life of *Jacqueline Lee "Jackie" Kennedy Onassis* (née Bouvier; July 28th, 1929 – May 19, 1994). Adrian's talk will reveal a wonderful collection of eclectic jewels fit for a First Lady. Kenneth will take a look back at the life and times of Jackie the person! Door opens at 10:30 a.m. and the event will conclude by 12:30 pm. These lectures are being presented in the *Majorca Room* at the City Library on Flinders Lane in the CBD.

We will then be moving on to lunch at "*Journal*" restaurant. This is in the same building and has a mostly a light lunch menu of pastries/salads/toasted sandwiches etc. It is also licensed.



Book online:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/1578735/sessions/6414237/sections/3043240/tickets>

Please notify Di:

When you have booked the talk

If you want to go to lunch.

So that she can ensure we are all together for both venues.

Co-Ordinator: Di



Deepdene Combined Probudus Club

WALKS

MONDAY 3RD AUGUST (LONG WALK, gravel and asphalt)

Start: 10.30 a.m.

Meet: Victoria Park side of 70 Adeney Ave, Kew. VIC. 3101 (Adeney Milk Bar Café)

ROUTE

Walk around the park to High Street and cross at the traffic lights. Proceed along Belford Road to Belford Oaks Community Children's Centre and turn left to follow along the parkland lane. We will cross Hartington Street, Asquith Street and Sutherland Street proceeding to the Conner Street Reserve. We walk to Willsmere Road and then turn left to walk to the *Willsmere Shopping Centre* for our pit-stop.

Our return journey is along the Outer Circle Railway Trail, crossing Park Crescent, and proceeding to Belford Road. From there we follow Belford Road to High Street and back to Victoria Park.

Co-ordinator: Julie

ELEVENSES

When: Thursday 13th August

Time: 11.00 a.m.

Where: *ZIMT Patisserie*. 171 Union Rd, Surrey Hills VIC 3127

Parking: There is two hour, off street parking. It is also very close to Union Station.

Please put into your diaries now.



Co-ordinator: Viv

PLAYS

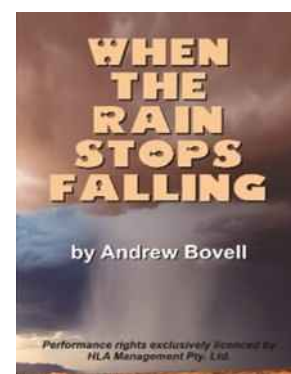


Our next scheduled play for the season is on Sunday 30th August to see a performance of **WHEN THE RAIN STOPS FALLING** by Andrew Bovell an Australian Playwright at 2.00 p.m.

"It's raining. Gabriel York is awaiting the arrival of his grown son whom he hasn't seen since he was seven. *"I know what he wants but don't know how to tell him"*. That's the beginning of this compelling family saga that takes us back and forth in time from one generation to another, from 1959 to 2039, from London to Australia. The play asks how can we face the future, without understanding the past? With four generations of fathers and sons, their mothers, lovers and wives, the play is epic in its scope, yet at the same time extraordinarily intimate".

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND, PLEASE LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY EMAILING ME AT mxxxxx@xxxxxx.com or text to 0424 271 724 NO LATER THAN MONDAY 24th AUGUST 2026.

TICKET PRICES REMAIN AT \$29.00 EACH. FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE VERY WELCOME.





Deepdene Combined Probudus Club

Our final play for this year is:

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS Sunday 1st November.

Co-ordinator: Michael

NEXT MEETING

Monday 17th August 2026. Meeting commences at 10.00 a.m.

Venue: *St Aidan's Church*, 17-21 Duggan Rd, Balwyn North.3104

Guest: Sue Barnett. Surrey Hills and Box Hill Historical Societies

Topic: *Out of the Archive—From the Paddocks to the Suburbs*

MORNING TEA ROSTER

DATE	NAME
20-07-2026	Neva
17-08-2026	Lucy
21-09-2026	Jennifer
19-10-2026	Di
16-11-2026	Viv

Co-ordinator: Neva