



# Narra Notes

The Newsletter of the Narrabundah Probus Club  
<https://www.narrapc.com/>

Volume 1 Issue 1

September 2022

**General Meeting: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 11.00 am**

**Harmonie German Club, Narrabundah**

**Guest Speaker: Matt Watson : Riding for the Disabled**

## Presidents Ponderings

I'm delighted that Roger Quarterman has offered to take on a regular Newsletter for Probus Narrabundah – and here's my first offering.

To date, I've had a really good run finding good guest speakers for our monthly Members' Meeting. I had someone lined up for our September meeting but due to personal circumstances, he had to pull out. After that I ran into difficulties – eg Diabetes Australia in Canberra doesn't seem to answer the phone – and similarly with several others. At last I was delighted to find someone with a really interesting topic !!

On 13th September, we'll welcome Matt Watson from "Pegasus", an organisation that provides horse-riding for disabled people. I've come across them before in the Melbourne area and they provide an unusual but very worthwhile service, well worth the support of the general public. I'm sure this will be an interesting talk.

We've had very good support from the two weekly Canberra magazines "*City News*" and "*Canberra Weekly*", and it's always good to see our advance notices appearing.

When I took on the Presidency again I realised that my regular visits to Melbourne might mean some absences. Mostly there was little clash when we met on the third Tuesday of the month but having moved to the second Tuesday cuts across what I've planned. I like to visit my two sisters and their partners both of whom are ailing and see some friends; to manage this I've been booking myself into subscriptions concerts given there by the wonderful Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, 3 or 4 for the year, but I'll cut back somewhat next year. So I'll miss our September Members' Meeting and also the November one as I have a 60-year reunion at Orbost where I once taught.

Our members have been discussing possible trips away. One thing we've not yet done is to have a trip outside the ACT. A trip away presents an exciting possibility. Discussions have included going as far as the opal fields of Lightning Ridge. I'm about to meet up with a travel person connected with Probus HQ: her suggestions have included Kangaroo Island in S.A. I've been contacted by someone

from St Andrew's Church: they can provide an interesting morning including listening to their organ and choir and even ringing the church bells ! We've also been in contact with a Queanbeyan artist to come to her exhibition and see her demonstrate what she does. Our two garden visits proved most interesting and we should run these again as our numbers grow steadily.

I'd like to hear feedback on any or all of these ideas. Our Committee meets on the first Wednesday each month at 2pm – before our 2-30pm Coffee Catchup at Gryphons Café in Griffith. These have proved excellent gatherings where we can chat on all manner of topics over a coffee or tea. We're keen to encourage these social activities.

Don't hesitate to raise any suggestions regarding activities.

Best wishes,  
**John Worcester,**  
President.

## Treasurers Report for the month of August 2022

<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>928.31</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
9 Aug 2022	Morning Tea	\$50.00
9 Aug 2022	Robert Cussel joining & 2022 Membership (Pro Rata)	\$67.50
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>\$117.50</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
2 Aug 2022	PSPL Capitation 2 X \$11.25	\$22.50
8 Aug 2022	Gift - Guest Speaker	\$20.00
9 Aug 2022	Morning Tea	\$50.00
22 Aug 2022	Blue Moose Productions Name Badges (2)	\$28.47
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>\$120.97</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>\$924.84</b>

## Club Check In

Please ensure that you sign in in the attendance book.

Please wear your membership badge (this helps members to get to know one another).

Mask wearing is optional, please feel free to wear a mask if you prefer to do so.

## Proposed Change of Venue

Members who have been attending the monthly meeting for dinner at Maddies have agreed that there are problems with this venue – noise level and parking problems. So it is proposed to switch back to the Ramada where we used to meet previously. Starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

## Meet the team: President John Worcester

John was born in Hawthorn, Melbourne, in December 1940 and describes himself as a “war baby” but never a “baby boomer “ ! He enjoyed a very settled lifestyle with two very caring parents, Les and Addie (Leslie and Adelaide) and two younger sisters. His school was Glenferrie Primary in Manningtree Road, Glenferrie, where his father and his father’s two sisters had attended in the first decade of the 20th century (sat in the same class room as his Dad had) and later was delighted to enrol his own son and daughter there.



Many family members had worked in Glenferrie Road and later that was where his daughter, Adelaide, got her first job. Both Adelaide and her brother, Bevis, eventually gained government jobs in Canberra which later became a big incentive for John to move house (traumatic down-sizing) and shift to Canberra in 2018 (four grandchildren – aged now from 8 to 13).

John went to Camberwell High School through the 1950s (by tram - which helps explain his enthusiasm for a tram to Woden!) He later taught at his old school and at a time when his son, Bevis, was also a student there. John served on the School Council and was a mover behind the school’s Golden Jubilee. John helped set up an ex-student association (called “CHESS”) and occasionally takes part in annual dinner plus on-line Zoom meetings.

The move away from Ferntree Gully was traumatic after more than 30 years in a lovely 5-bedroom 2-storey house with views over playing fields to Mt Dandenong. He had four sheds. So much “stuff” had to be given away, the rest filling a 12-cubic-metre skip). John misses his garden and, in Canberra, has a balcony with lots of plants in pots, many of which he brought up to Canberra. John lives in Narrabundah next door to the Macedonian Church, in a complex called “Milson”, a 62-unit complex set in beautiful gardens, park-like with a swimming pool much loved by his grandchildren. He enjoys wonderful views from his balcony (paddocks, bushland and Mt Mugga Mugga). His unit provides a 10-metre-long wall for his bookshelves (thousands of books), plus his extensive collections of LPs and CDs.

His study doubles as a recording studio for preparing radio programs for three Melbourne stations as well as his weekly Friday afternoon program on ArtSound-FM in Canberra (92.7 and also the third Sunday each month, also 2pm till 4pm). In the early 1950s, John took part regularly in a radio quiz program for school students, probably helping spark his life-long fascination for radio.

John’s other local interests are attending weekly U3A music classes at Wesley Music Centre – and, of course, Probus Narrabundah Club (founder member and President for the last two years). John has been active in the Lake View Book Club at the National Library for about 12 years (including his regular visits to see family in Canberra). He continues to be active politically (as he has since the age of ten). In the 1970s, John was active in the development of Australia’s small but influential Australia Party, retiring as National Convener in 1976. He says aspects were “heady”, for example in Canberra delivering press releases to the Press Gallery and giving a well-attended press conference seen all over Australia on television.

In the 1960s while teaching at Braybrook High School, John initiated and presented schoolground broadcasts of programs of classical music each lunchtime. When a community radio station for classical music lovers was mooted, John became involved. This was 3MBS, first of all of Australia’s community radio stations, and now a highly valued organisation in Melbourne’s music community. John is the longest-serving volunteer there (since 1975) and still presents an “Organ & Choral” program every 3 months.

John spent several terms as 3MBS President and as a Board Member, retiring in Nov 2014 after a critical time turning around the station's finances. He headed up the Policy Committee as well as the station's Quality & Standards Group. In the 1980s, John had initiated working groups to develop the station and his work resulted in turning around a 9-year decline in subscription finances.

John spent many years running the Community Broadcasting Association of Victoria, the peak body for all Victorian community radio stations, including promotional events and training seminars. When John finally retired from the Committee in November 2014, he was delighted and honoured to be presented with a framed certificate for Life Membership of the organisation.

In 1994, just before transmissions commenced for community television in Melbourne, John became involved with one of the constituent groups in the Melbourne Community Television Consortium and as its president conducted training sessions and produced a weekly eastern suburbs news program that was aired on "Channel 31" (directed and presented by John, assisted by his two children). John spent 4 years as President of MCTC (2000-4) including when the station got its first permanent broadcasting licence. In 2005, John founded a new TV group, as part of the Consortium, called "Metro-TV".

Following retirement from teaching, John joined the staff of Melbourne ethnic broadcasting station 3ZZZ as its manager and ran three successive very successful fund-raising radiothons (1995-1997) which, he notes, have been on a plateau ever since! He "grew" them by 7%, 7% and then 10% by developing a subtle competitive approach. When he retired from that job, John became involved with the station's Irish Group, and continues to broadcast a news-based program for the Irish community in Melbourne every three months. John was elected to the 3ZZZ governing Council and spent 6 very active years with the Programming Committee (2000 to 2006).

John also organised periodic forums for ethnic broadcasters not just from 3ZZZ but also from Melbourne's stations with ethnic programming. At 3ZZZ, John often took an ethnic broadcasters' Training Program.

In 1998, John was invited to present a program on newly-licensed suburban radio station, 3WBC, covering the suburbs of Whitehorse and Boroondara. John still prepares and presents a program, twice each month and organises a team of 3 people presenting "Roundabout". John was a member of the Committee at 3WBC for several years, including time as President. When the station was unable to put together its 5-year licence renewal application, John successfully took it on including giving undertakings for improved performance. In 2015, John completed a third successful licence renewal. John was delighted and honoured to be made a Life Member of 3WBC in August, 2014, receiving a framed certificate and a medallion.

Following his first "retirement job", John worked for the Australian Education Industry Centre as a trainer, compliance officer and site manager. For 3WBC's radiothon, John was able to use his shopfront in Mount Waverley as a call centre. Later, when running a "Work For the Dole" program in Box Hill, his participants undertook all the analysis required for the 3WBC licence renewal.

Thinking of early family history in Melbourne, it's interesting that the Worcester family arrived from London in 1839 when Melbourne was just 4 years old and was part of the "Port Phillip District" of New South Wales. John's Great-Grandfather conducted the choir at the official opening of St James, Melbourne's first Anglican church in 1842, now known as the "Old Cathedral" from when it supported an archbishop. John's Grandfather went to St James School and later sang in the choir of St Peter's Eastern Hill. John's daughter has had much experience in singing in and conducting choirs at school, and here in Canberra John's "Organ & Choral" program seems to be part of that tradition!

## Birthday Greetings

As a contribution to a friendly atmosphere in the club we would like to offer birthday greetings each month to members whose birthdays fall within that month. To do that we need to know the month of your birthday (no dates or years!!). To enable this, and also to provide a check on the accuracy of our mailing list please send an email to the Editor with that information. If for any reason you would prefer not to receive birthday greetings in this way please still send an email to the Editor requesting that you not be included in this scheme.

## Book Table

Please bring along books that you have read and are happy to donate for others to enjoy. Feel free to take home any book that interests you. A one-for-one exchange IS NOT required.

## Events

Your committee is looking for ideas on outings or other events that you might be interested in. We are exploring the idea of a trip to Lightning Ridge. This is a fairly ambitious proposal. If you have any other ideas please let us know. Transport may be provided by car pooling or bus hire. Ideas that could be considered include : a lake cruise, a visit to Tulip Tops, visits to other historic/National Trust properties, carols by candlelight. Your ideas and suggestions please.

## Your Management Committee

President	John Worcester <a href="mailto:johnworc@gmail.com">johnworc@gmail.com</a> 0432 435 053
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Guest Speaker Officer	Vacant
Outings/Activities Officer	Vacant
Trips/Tours Officer	Vacant
Welfare Officer	Vacant

## Diary dates

Day	Event
Tuesday 13 September	11.00am General Meeting, Harmonie German Club, Narrabundah
Wednesday, 14 September	2:30 pm Informal coffee and chat at Gryphons, Griffith shops. No booking required.
Wednesday, 21 September	2:30 pm Informal coffee and chat at Gryphons, Griffith shops. No booking required.
Thursday 22 September	6:30 for 7:00 pm Informal dinner at the Ramada Diplomat Hotel at 2 Hely Street Griffith. If possible please let Peter Adams (0478 606 130) know if you are coming. This helps with our bookings, but we would be glad to see you even if you have not booked in.
Wednesday, 28 September	2:30 pm Informal coffee and chat at Gryphons, Griffith shops. No booking required.
Saturday, 1 October	PROBUS DAY
Wednesday, 5 October	2:00pm Management Committee, Gryphons, Griffith shops
Wednesday, 5 October	2:30 pm Informal coffee and chat at Gryphons, Griffith shops. No booking required.
Tuesday 11 October	11.00am General Meeting, Harmonie German Club, Narrabundah

## Quote of the month

**“I look forward to growing old and wise and audacious.” – Glenda Jackson**

## Probus points

Are you receiving the Probus South Pacific monthly newsletter ‘Staying Connected with Probus’? If not it might mean that your membership has not been registered with PSP. Please speak with a committee member if this is the case.

