



Narra Notes

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

Volume 2 Issue 1

February 2023

General Meeting: Tuesday 14th February at 11.00 am
Harmonie German Club, Narrabundah

Guest Speaker: Jenny Sheldon (daughter of club member Gae Sheldon) will talk about life after a stroke and her book 'I will' dealing with the same topic.

Presidents Ponderings

Hello to all Narrabundah Probian's !!... and a Happy New Year to you. We all hope that 2023 will be a Year of Improvements.

A wonderful time was had by all who attended the Probus Narrabundah Christmas Lunch held at Gryphons! Despite being the holiday season, we've continued meeting on Wednesday afternoons at Gryphons. And seven of us assembled at the Ramada last Thursday for drinks and a dinner – which was a very pleasant occasion.

Our Committee meets on the first Wednesday each month at 2pm before our 2-30pm Coffee Catchup at Gryphons Café in Griffith – the "Catch-Up" is held every Wednesday afternoon and all are invited.

Our **monthly Members' Meetings** have been "in recess" over the holiday period, but we resume soon - on St Valentine's Day – ie **14th February, 2023**.

Our Guest Speaker will be Jenny Sheldon, who will speak about suffering a stroke. Jenny's mother is one of our longstanding members, Gae Sheldon.

Future talks will include someone from Diabetes Australia.

We have good news about our meeting room at the **Harmonie German Club**. The Club is giving us the **Auditorium** for all of our meetings across the year. This will be a big improvement on the previous situation as it will provide access without steps, plenty of room for the separate coffee and books tables, easier social distancing if COVID continues to be an issue, and plenty of space to accommodate more members and visitors at our meetings.

We encourage our members to show their appreciation of this arrangement by taking out membership of the Harmonie German Club (it's good value – ask at the counter). This makes it easier for club management to comply with club licensing laws. If you stay for lunch after our

monthly meeting you also get a discount at the bar which will recoup the outlay on membership in a surprisingly short time.

Now our newest challenge is to increase our membership so that we can fill more than a small corner of the Auditorium! Please resolve to introduce a new member in 2023. Word of mouth is always effective.

My “Presidency” is coming to a conclusion – at our AGM on 14th March. I’ve found it very worthwhile and enjoyable, especially seeing our group grow steadily (though slowly). We provide excellent social events and occasions which is a very good thing for those of us in the “older” category. Then I’ll have a year as “IPP” – Immediate Past President. The incoming President will inherit a really great group that functions remarkably well.

Best wishes to all,

**John Worcester,
President, Probus Narrabundah.**

Treasurers Report

There were no transactions for November, December and January.

Balance: \$696.60

Financial members: 19

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).

The recent surge in COVID infections may be causing concern for some members. As noted in President’s Ponderings we will be meeting in the auditorium, which makes for easier social distancing. However, please feel free to wear a mask if you prefer to do so.

Books 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.

Welfare

The role of Welfare officer has been taken on by Ann Quarterman. Please inform Ann if you are aware of any member who is ill or otherwise indisposed.

Quote of the month

None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm. – Henry David Thoreau

Meet The Team: Rod McCallum – Secretary.

Born on the 28th March 1943, in Melbourne, VIC., Rod spent his first two years of schooling at Armidale Infants School - established in 1901, and completed his education at Werribee Primary and Werribee Higher Elementary School when the family moved to Werribee as his father took up dairy farming – milking 120-130 cows twice a day, 365 days a year.

Instead of attending Dookie Agricultural College in February 1962, as his father wished, Rod embarked on a career in drilling, spanning more than 50 years involving groundwater development, mineral exploration and the oil & gas sectors. This work took him to many different places in Australia and around the world, frequently in remote locations.



In addition to hands-on drilling work he became involved in Human Resource Management, education and training (establishing the first Mineral Exploration Drillers Traineeship in Australia) and also participating in the work of the Australian Drilling Industry Association (ADIA) as Conference & Exhibition Manager for “Groundwater & Mineral Exploration 1985” (GAME 85 - subsequently becoming CEO of the ADIA.

Retiring from the drilling industry in 2017, Rod volunteered for Uniting Care at their Day/Aged Care facility in North Sydney, until it was closed due to COVID 19. Being immuno-compromised following open-heart surgery in November 2019, Rod moved to Canberra.

His hobbies include gardening, and lapidary - the latter Involves cutting and polishing rough, precious, and semi-precious stones, many of which he has “fossicked”.

Work that requires a lot of time away from home, such as in the drilling industry, is notoriously hard on marriages and in 1977 he suffered a divorce instigated by his first wife with whom he has two daughters.

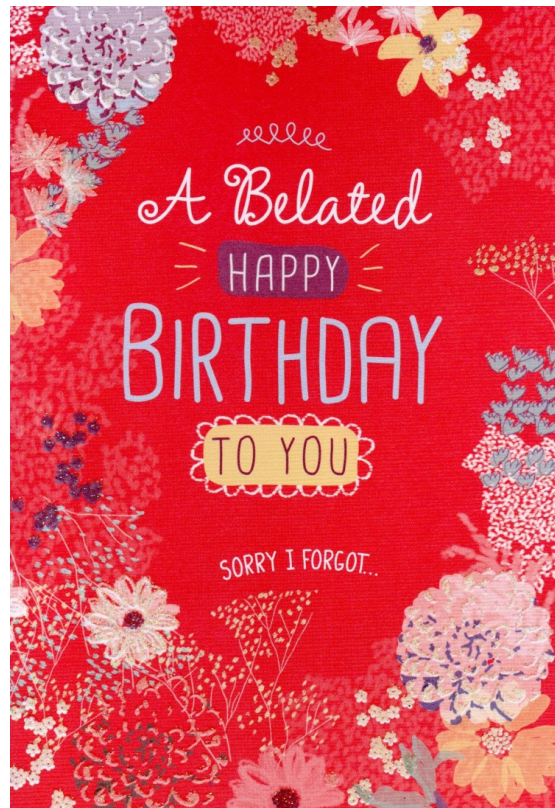
Married to Kim in 1979, a mineral exploration geologist, they have travelled and worked together on many occasions, while in the past two decades Kim has completed two M.Sc.s., plus her Ph.D., (Geology), at Macquarie University, NSW - and assiduously continues her research to this day.

In conclusion, Rod says the drilling industry has provided him with a wonderful career that remunerated him well, and gave him the opportunity to travel and make lasting friendships in many countries.

Birthday Greetings

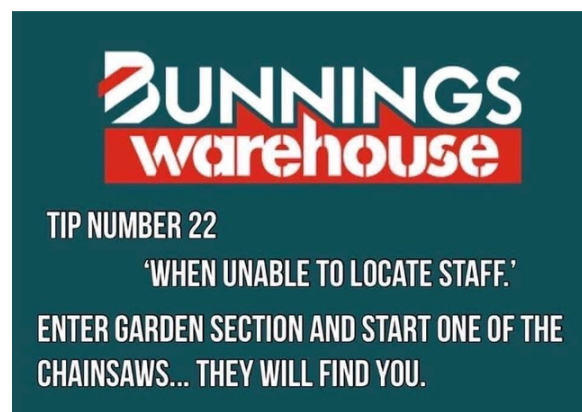
The gap in publication of Narra Notes over Christmas meant we missed a few birthdays. Apologies for that and belated greetings to Kathryn Duffy, Irmina Proctor and John Worcester.

Happy birthday wishes to Gail McAlpine for February.



Your Management Committee

President	John Worcester	johnworc@gmail.com	0432 435 053
Vice president	Peter Adams	petera41@bigpond.com	0478 606 130
Secretary	Rod McCallum	rodmccallum@ihug.com.au	0417 097 500
Treasurer	Peter Adams	petera41@bigpond.com	0478 606 130
Membership Officer	Gloria Bothe	beck99yrs@tpg.com.au	0419 291 354
Newsletter Officer	Roger Quarterman	quanro@inet.net.au	0414 725 710
Guest Speaker Officer	Vacant		
Outings/Activities Officer	Vacant		
Trips/Tours Officer	Vacant		
Welfare Officer	Ann Quarterman	quartermanann@gmail.com	0400 123 884



Events:

Recent events

Christmas lunch at Gryphons

On Tuesday 13th December our usual general meeting was replaced by a Christmas lunch at Gryphons. 14 members attended and enjoyed individually selected meals.



Monthly informal dinner

Held on 26 January at the Ramada Hotel, which offers a pleasantly quiet environment for a social gathering. There was a feeling, however, that the menu pricing left a bit to be desired. This has led to a proposal that we use a variety of venues – see below for future meetings.

Forthcoming events

Music at Midday at the Canberra Theatre – Tuesday 7 February at noon.

This is a regular event (6 times per year, usually on the first Tuesday of the month). This has potential to develop into a regular event for those who are interested. Entry is by gold coin donation (which goes to the charity Bosom Buddies), but you must book tickets in advance to get allocated seating. Booking tickets remains an individual responsibility on this occasion. Making a group booking is a possibility that will be explored for the next concert.

Free coffee and biscuits is provided in the foyer prior to the concert. The concert finishes about 1.00pm, and that makes an opportunity for members to adjourn to a suitable venue for lunch.

For the next concert on 7 February Roger Quarterman suggests the local Labour Club for lunch. Meet in the theatre foyer after the concert. Note: the Labour Club is a short walk (100m) from the theatre. Parking in Civic is scarce and costs. You may wish to explore the idea of using bus. If you intend to come by car, surface parking around the theatre is VERY scarce. The best option is probably the Canberra Centre multi story car park, where there is usually space available and only a short walk to the theatre. To access this car park after travelling along Parkes Way turn onto Coranderrk Street at the roundabout, and pass straight through traffic lights at Constitution Avenue. As the road curves left past Glebe Park it becomes Cooyong Street. Continue to pass through traffic lights at Akuna Street and Ainslie Avenue (keeping in the left lane) and then turn left at the next traffic lights at Petrie Street. The car park entry is on your left. After parking, walk through the

Canberra Centre on the upper level to exit by the fountain and you are looking straight up Ainslie Place to the theatre centre.

Book tickets on line at <https://canberratheatrecentre.com.au/show/music-midday/>

Monthly informal dinner

This is normally held on the fourth Thursday of the month, and this month that will be 23 February. We are going to try the Vanilla Pod restaurant at 35 Kennedy Street, Kingston.

<https://vanillapodkingston.com.au/about-vanilla-pod/>



Visit the National Arboretum Friday 24 February (provisional second group Friday 3 March)

This is a guided tour lead by Jan Morgan. We will travel in a small bus so you will not be walking around in the hot sun! Optional gather for lunch in the Arboretum cafe after the tour.

The bus can only take 10 passengers, so the second provisional date is available if more than 10 members wish to attend. This will be resolved at the general meeting on 14 February.

There is a small cost for the bus and this will be recovered by a levy of \$8 on each participant. Payment in advance at the general meeting on 14 February please.

A sign-up sheet for those wishing to attend will be available at the general meeting on 14 February.

Visit Blundell's Cottage Saturday 25 March

Blundell's Cottage is significant, being one of the few stone buildings of its type to have survived intact in the Australian Capital Territory. It is important for the way it reflects continuity and change in the local area, from functioning as a rural estate to becoming the capital of Australia. Displays in the Cottage now reflect occupancy by families of workers over more than 100 years.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/blundells-cottage/>

Optional lunch afterwards. There are several cafes nearby in Campbell, the nearest being Pedlars on Constitution Avenue – a short walk of about 200m.

Dates for your diary

Day	Event
Tuesday 7 February	Music at Midday, Canberra Theatre. Optional lunch afterwards. Book tickets individually on this occasion.
Wednesday, 8 February	2:30 pm Afternoon tea at Gryphons, Griffith shops. No booking required.
Tuesday 14 February	11.00 am General Meeting, Harmonie German Club, Narrabundah. Sign-up for the visit to the arboretum on 24 February.
Wednesday, 15 February	2:30 pm Afternoon tea at Gryphons, Griffith shops. No booking required.
Thursday, 23 February	6:30 for 7:00 pm Informal dinner at the Vanilla Pod restaurant at 35 Kennedy Street, Kingston. 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.
Friday 24 February	Visit the national Arboretum and afterwards (optional) lunch in the Arboretum Visitor Centre cafe.
Wednesday, 1 March	2:00 pm Management Committee, Gryphons, Griffith shops.
Wednesday, 1 March	2:30 pm Afternoon tea at Gryphons, Griffith shops. No booking required.
Wednesday, 8 March	2:30 pm Afternoon tea at Gryphons, Griffith shops. No booking required.
Tuesday 14 March	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGbe there!

Probus Points –

Probus club and group tour options are organised by Trade Travel who can be contacted by:

Phone 1800 034439
Email bookings@tradetravel.com
Web www.tradetravel.com.au

The website includes their public departure brochure for 2023 – well worth a look.

Mensa Invitational

Every year the Washington Post invites readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are the winners: for 2022

Cashtration(n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.

Intaxicatton: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

Bozone(n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high

Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)

Karmageddon: It's like when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.

Decafalon(n.): The gruelling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

Glibido: All talk and no action.

Dopeler Effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

Arachnoleptic Fit(n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

Beelzebug(n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

Caterpallor(n.): The colour you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

If you enjoyed these, the results for previous years can be found at this URL:

<https://www.washingtonpostsmensainvitational.com/prior-winners/>