The Collective Spirit

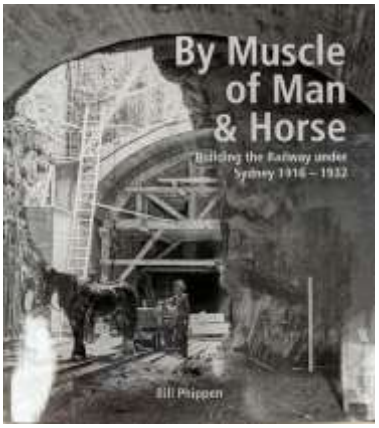
Brought to you by the Members of George's Hall Probus Club.
Issue 76 - September 2025



President's Report



On becoming our new President in March, I found this sash with badges of past presidents on it. We haven't updated it for quite a while and I don't think I'll be wearing it to our meetings. But it is a bit of bling!



Once again we had an interesting speaker. Thanks Denise for organising Bill Phippen who talked about the building of the Sydney underground. I must admit, it opened up my eyes. How many times have I travelled on the underground and never once thought about how it was built. And of course it was built in an era long before all the technological advances we now know. It was definitely built by muscle of man and horse, the title of his book. The book contains lots of the amazing photographs that were found by chance. Bill had the books for sale and did a roaring trade.

Till next time, Sue



August Birthdays
Jenny Bargh, Gai Cavanough, Cathy Dice, Ron English, Dawn Newman, Elizabeth Rea, Maureen Thorne



September Birthdays
Andrea Best, Ray Cook, Owen Doust, Muriel Richards

Best wishes every one Barbara Doust

From the Money Man



Our finances at 26 August 2025 were:

Balance carried forward 1 March 2025	**$ 28,190.69**
Receipts	
Attendance fees	$ 2,624.00
Membership fees	$ 908.00
Raffle	$ 657.00
Outings	$ 16,244.00
Trading Table	$ 379.00
Lightning Ridge Tour	$ 62,575.00
Theatre Shows	$ 250.00
Reserve account	$ 1,155.00
Total Receipts	**$ 84,792.00**
Payments	
Attendance fees	$ 2,616.00
Capitation fees	$ 1,660.00
Guest speaker	$ 155.00
General expenses	$ 648.16
Raffle prizes	$ 310.00
Outings	$ 11,789.00
Ballina Tour	$ 18,375.00
Theatre payment	$ 125.00
Lightning Ridge Tour	$ 63,175.00
Reserve account	$ 515.00
Total Payments	**$ 99,368.16**
Total funds held	**$ 13,614.53**
Less Deposits for Outings	$ 7,170.00
Less Reserve Account	$ 640.00
Club Funds available	**$ 5,804.53**

Ray Cook

Lightning Ridge Trip



Our Lightning Ridge Trip is now only a few weeks away. This is just a reminder for those people going on the trip. Our departure time will be 8.30 am on Sunday 14 September at Club Condell Park. Please be there 20 minutes before departure.

We have 35 people going and the other passengers will be picked up first. It will be a full coach. No spare seats. And remember, it is the tour company policy to have daily seat rotation. It is required and essential for all passengers to participate.

Arrival back in Sydney will be on Saturday 20th September. Our coach driver will tell us the expected arrival time closer to the end of our trip.

Brown's Buzz, the Tour Co-ordinator's Report

3 September	Morning tea and lunch if you like, 10.30am at Panania RSL
10 September	Lunch 11.30 am at the Picnic Point Bowling Club (124 Lambeth Street, Panania) at your own expense. Just for fun, wear or bring a hat. A pretty hat, a weird hat, any old or new hat. If you are not a "hat person" just come as you are.
14-20 September	Lightning Ridge Tour
1 October	Morning tea and lunch if you like, 10.30am at Panania RSL
15 October	Fairground Follies. The change of date for this tour has now been confirmed by the bus company. Please sign on again. If you have already paid and now cannot attend, please see Ray. The bus leaves Club Condell Park at 8.15 am. Please arrive by 8.00 am.
29 October	Fifth Wednesday. To be advised
5 November	Morning tea and lunch if you like, 10.30am at Panania RSL
19-20 November	Hunter Valley Lights Tour. This tour is currently fully booked, however you may place your name on a waiting list. Final payment due at our September meeting. We ask that you pay the maximum amount of $510 (shared room) or the additional single supplement. We currently have enough people booked to reduce the cost of this tour. However we will not know the final cost until closer to the date of the tour. We will then give a refund when the bus company provides the final cost.
3 December	Morning tea and lunch if you like, 10.30am at Panania RSL
8 December	THIS IS A MONDAY. Georges Hall Probus Club Christmas Party at Club Condell Park. Final cost to be advised ASAP.



Keep Safe, Jan

Dash and Willy's Lazy Wandering Walkers

We thought we'd try something new and different. If you are interested in doing a lazy 3ks walk with a little fun and one or two surprises on the way or like a coffee and a cake, then be at the entrance to Wharf 4 Circular Quay on Thursday 4th September at 10am.



You can call Dash on 0417 490 740 or just turn up. We will wait till 10.10am before heading off.

This is an easy level relaxing walk.
NO SPEED WALKERS ALLOWED.

See you then, Dash and Willy.

2026. A possible trip to Tasmania

Thanks to Jan Brown and Sandra Cohen for coming up with this suggestion.

At the moment, this is just a suggestion and we are looking to see if people are interested. We need to have a certain number before actual planning can begin. If you haven't already done so, please put your name down at the tour desk at the September meeting.

THERE IS NO COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME.
We are just taking expressions of interest and room requirements.

Date. 11 to 17 September 2026.
Cost. Approximately $2,000 (twin share)



The price includes flights, accommodation, transport, breakfasts, dinners and entry fees for all planned activities. Lunch, snacks and any shopping and other activities are at your own expense.

The proposed itinerary is:

Day 1	Salamanca Markets, Cascades Female Factory, Mount Wellington
Day 2	Port Arthur, Tasman Arch, Devil's Kitchen, Eagle Hawk Neck (if time permits)
Day 3	The Wall, Russell Falls
Day 4	Botanical Gardens, Richmond
Day 5	Bonorong Wildlife Park and half day free time

Something to do

Visit the Shire's Farmers Market



Held every Saturday at the Flora Street car park in Sutherland from 8:00am until 1:00pm.

A stroll through the Shire Farmer's Market is the perfect place to kick start your weekend. The stalls are dedicated to foodies.

Tick off your weekly shopping with the best local produce, pick up a freshly baked croissant for breakfast and grab a coffee to cap it all off.

Check it out at:
https://www.shirefarmersmarket.com.au/

131 Flora Street, Sutherland

Traveller's Tales

An Adventure in Tasmania in the 1980's

Thanks Heather Wicks

This is a brief overview of an under 35s trip to Tasmania in the 1980s. Amongst this diverse collection of people were two public servants just enjoying the trip, a timber worker (from the NSW north coast) who was a loner, a nursing sister fresh from a violent marriage and divorce/annulment and a firm believer in alternate medicine, a federal policewoman definitely overconfident, two Telstra technicians looking for love and who were massively over confident, a couple from Sweden, and a young kindly fellow who had just left school.



We travelled in a Coaster Bus to many wilderness locations, including Launceston with its vast and beautiful gorge and whiskey making. We visited Nut Stanley which we thought was, at that time aptly named. From the 80 year old in the see-through blouse disco dancing in the convenience store to the street where everyone seemed to stop and stare at the strangers in town. I knew the look, because I came from a country town that was just like that in very much earlier days. From there we travelled down the wild west coast to Zeehan which had a fabulous rock museum dedicated just to rocks in this mining area.

Next stop was Strahan which was a real eye opener. At that time, there were not so many tourists and it was a true professional fishing location, but not only for locals. The hotel was full of fishermen from many Asian countries, all illegally fishing. That was the place where after most of us went back to the campsite, the federal policewoman stayed later and was attacked. Some of the group searched and located her at the local clinic, and she rejoined us and carried on with the trip.

The most memorable thing about Strahan was the magnificent trip around Macquarie Harbour including visiting Sarah Island where convicts were held under the most horrendous conditions, and was seemingly almost impossible to escape. Sarah Island was a location were a lot of the Huon Pine was cut for boat building as it is a wood that does not rot in water. This was followed by the truly magnificent Gordon River where the reflections of mountains and bush all the way along the river were breathtaking.

Following through the wild part of Tasmania, to Lake Pedder we encountered rough and cold weather, which is standard for that part of Tassie. Instead of pitching tents we bunked down in a huge covered picnic shelter for the night on a cold, hard floor.



Next stop was Sandy Bay in Hobart. The camping area had a huge open fireplace where everyone met, played guitars and sung songs, great nights. Dinner was at a pub nearby with live music, more good times. Next stop was Maria Island, a national park at that time with lots of inquisitive emus. If you didn't zip your tent up properly, they were in there stomping around trying to get out. The water around the island was crystal clear and blue. Further up the coast was Coles Bay, and Freycinet National Park, where on a seven hour hike we came across Wineglass Bay lookout and the Bay itself. It was stunning. That was the notable end of a wonderful trip.



Wally and Nelly Waramuk's
Must see movie,
Merlark Creek

All the the way from The Smack Castle in Mash Mellow Mulga it's a Genghis production and a Fow Par Movie called Melark Creek. Starring Willy Tell and Dash Dot. Get your tickets from Jan the Ice Cream Girl at the tour desk.

In the Shire with Luppo

Whale spotting at Cape Solander



It's not just the expansive coastal views that bring people to Cape Solander. Given the season is right, it's also one of the best spots in Sydney to whale watch - and even has a dedicated platform from which to do so. June and July are named as the best months to spot humpback whales during their northern migration, and they've been known to hang out within just 200 metres from the coast.

Cape Solander Drive, Kurnell







Winslow Wig's Who said that?

One small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day.



Answer at the end of the newsletter

Not in the Shire with Susie

Milperra

We've all been watching the development of the old university campus at Milperra with interest. Following the closure of the campus and its relocation to the Bankstown CBD in 2022, the university teamed up with developer Mirvac to turn the old campus into a low-rise residential district with at least 430 dwellings on the 19.6-hectare site. The proposal includes a range of low-rise housing types, and 35 per cent of the site for education and community use. There will be open spaces, playgrounds, cycleways and public transport links.

Not surprisingly, this generated lots of controversy. However, the site was rezoned in 2024 to permit residential, commercial, recreational, and conservation uses and development applications were submitted. The site is now fenced off and it looks like building work will soon be commencing.

I thought that you might like to know more about the history of the site. Milperra was originally part of the Soldiers' Settlement which was established after World War I, with farms and gardens established by returning soldiers. Milperra Public School, a one room school was established on part of this land in 1918 alongside market gardens. It remained Milperra's school until the 1970's when a new school was opened in Poziers Avenue.



In 1973, the Bull Swanson Report commissioned by Gough Whitlam's government had recommended the extension of higher education offerings into the Southwest and in 1975, the Milperra Teachers College was opened to teach the initial intake of 270 students. The brick primary school building on Bullecourt Ave was converted into administration and staff offices. Until a general purpose building was opened in 1976 to cater for expanded student numbers, much of the teaching was done in the demountables, old school rooms and even out under the trees.

In 1978, it became Milperra College of Advanced Education. Unfortunately, the lecture hall originally designed was still not complete at the opening of the College, and first lectures were held in a 'circus tent'.



In 1989 it became part of the University of Western Sydney (now called Western Sydney University), becoming the Bankstown campus, a leafy environment that included a modern library, lecture theatres and student accommodation. The government transferred the former Milperra Public School and teachers' college to WSU in the mid-1990s for a nominal sum.

More next time, Sue

Out and About

Lunch at The Little Snail

Thanks to Denise for the photographs



It was a cold and drizzly day on 30 June when we met for our Fifth Wednesday function, lunch at the Little Snail Restaurant in Pyrmont. But that didn't stop all the hungry souls who braved the weather to catch the train and light rail to this wonderful restaurant. A good time was had by all and the food was, as usual, excellent. Though I'm sorry to say nobody actually ordered the escargots.

















Out and About
The Western Sydney Airport Experience

It was another cold, wet, drizzly day when we set off for our latest coach adventure. But we don't have any control over the weather and 41 hearty souls braved it to have another interesting day. Thanks to Jan, Bill and Marg Golder for organising another packed day.

We started off with morning tea at Plough and Harrow Park. The rain held off while we were there, but the ground was very wet and muddy underfoot. Once again, thanks to all those members who provided our very yummy morning tea. Next stop was Warragamba Dam where Jan made us use our brains, to answer questions about the dam. There were prizes for the many people who got them almost all correct.





Next stop was the Luddenham Café for lunch. And what an experience this was. A tiny little café in the middle of nowhere with the friendliest staff and the widest array of yummy cakes I've ever seen. The queue might have been long but everybody was very happy with their desserts.















Our last stop was only a 5 minute drive from the café. It was still drizzling but we managed. We had a very interesting talk and slide show about the new airport. The plan is for it to open at the end of 2026 with one runway and operating 24 hours a day. A number of airlines have already signed up to use the airport but initially, the load will be much smaller than Sydney Airport. There are plans for a second runway but I don't think any of us will see it. Its planned to open sometime in the 2060's!



There is still lots of infrastructure work being undertaken, with road and rail links. However the rail won't be open until 2027. The passenger terminal and the cargo facility have both been completed and we could see them off in the distance.





Members' Corner

Thanks to all our contributors

Denise's One Liners. *Thanks Denise*
Winston Churchill's mother was born in Brooklyn USA. True or false?
The answer next month.

Rob's joke of the week. *Thanks Rob*
Did you hear that Julie Andrews refuses to wear cheap lipstick because it breaks easily and makes her breath smell.
She explained," the super colour fragile lipstick gives me halitosis "



(Well I hope you got it cause I am an old fella so ???)

Only the Irish
Thanks Frances and Robert.
She was sick and her husband, who was making her a cup of tea, called out that he couldn't find the tea.
"I don't know what could be easier to find", she answered. "It's right in front on the pantry shelf in a cocoa tin marked Matches".



Urgent Teletext

So the next morning at 09.30 Clod was in the Casbah lounge. When everyone arrived he took them out the front where an eight seater police van (a Black Maria) was waiting. Big Chuck went straight for the front seat. Mongo said to Kit Kat in a whisper "there is more room in the back." Willy said "don't tell Chuck that".

As our driver started off, inspector Clod said we will go via the Hutchiburg area that I don't want you to go near. There is McNutich Street, that takes you to it. So from that street it's a no go area. In 6 minutes we will be at the famous Grand Flea and Hatburg Markets so stay close. I will show you the easy way to find your way around the complex, it's the size of Time Square times two, so stay close. Our driver will drop us at the main gate (Gate Z). Z is the start of our alphabet a little different to yours. Now Pitty told me to tell Big Chuck to ask before you eat anything. Chuck said "what if it smells good"? "Ask first" said Mongo. "Do they sell things by the half" Willy asked. The inspector just laughed.



Now before we go in, no haggling with the store owners. If you can't pay you will be meeting one of my officers and I'll have to get you out of jail. So listen up. When inside if you get lost or separated look up above and you will see a sign, it will not be in English but it will have an arrow with a letter after it pointing to the main gates. You need to look for Z gate and my officer will be picking us up at 1pm outside that gate. Then you will be getting your new camel riding clothes at 3pm, so let's go.

Well Kit Kat and Mongo could not believe the number of people that were in the markets, it was wall to wall people. Willy could not believe the noise coming from the stalls, people yelling what they were selling and the price. "Look, you can get everything from carpets, to watches, to tea pots, to jewellery, to clothing, to spices" Dash said to Willy. Big Chuck said to Rob Hob "look at that food stall, I think I'll take a look". And would you believe it big Chuck got separated. Willy asked the inspector if we could make an announcement for him to meet us somewhere. "No" said the inspector "we can't, he will just have to find his way to gate Z like I told you all".



The rest of the group had a good look around the markets and at 12.50 came to gate Z and would you believe it, sitting on a stool under a sign that said "Food Market" eating a chicken kebab was big Chuck. Mongo said "what happened to you Chucky"? He said that after he realised the group had moved on, he was talking to the kebab man and found out his aunty Mabel lives two streets from Chuck in Hogs County. So the kebab man got his son to walk Chuck to gate Z and gave him two kebabs in case he got hungry. "I don't believe it" said Kit Kat "only Chuck could do that."

The inspectors van turned up on time and back to the casbah it was. On arrival everyone thanked the inspector for the morning and he headed off. Clive was waiting for them, took them into the Buckles Chance bar where he had lunch ready and Clive gave them a rundown on the afternoon. Grammy will be here at 3pm with your camel riding clothes and you will meet the camel herder, Efrelim Zimbalist and try your clobber on.



Then tonight we will all be going to the bar next door called The Red Door in Mahakala. It's an old hang out of Pitt, Sav and Grammy's in the 60s and their old friends are playing in the band there tonight. The Low Bows with Sodden Snodgrass , Queenie Sugpot , George Gatsby and Molly Corncraker, along with Sammy on piano. "I have been told we might be able to get Dash and Willy to join in for a song" said Clive. Pitt said "Remember Casablanca" or even "Downtown in the Subway " would be two good ones.

So what will the camel clothes look like and will the boys join in for a song ?
C ya next month to find out.

Poet's Corner
Apology

In Issue #75 we published a poem from Bev Spithill. However, we inadvertently left out the first page of the poem. So apologies to Bev and any of our readers who were a little bit confused. Here's the full version of Bev's Poem.

Coincidence *Thanks Bev Spithill*

I do not believe in miracles
Or intervention divine
But if you listen carefully
I will tell you of a strange coincidence
of mine.

It was the year of sixty three
One November morn
In a small Tasmanian town
Where this strange tale was born.

The Virgin Mary,
Her silent vigil did keep
As she smiled down upon
Two young girls at sleep.

No sound did break the silence,
For all around was quiet.
But something awoke one lass
As morning turned from night.

Her eyes caught those of Mary's,
So serene
Could she be imagining it, a
A strange glowing beam.

She rubbed her eyes in disbelief
Was she dreaming this
Was it some strange quirk of light
Or was something more amiss?

She woke her friend to reassure her
That she was not going mad
Or was it not just some bad dream
She had had.

Both girls stood transfixed
As the statue began to move.
It lasted but a moment
But miracles are hard to prove.

Was she sending them a message
About one mightier than us
One in whom a nation
Had put its faith and trust.

For on this day in sixty three
The world a president would mourn
And two young girls
Would not forget this November dawn.

Note from Bev.
We awoke the next morning to the news that President John F Kennedy had been shot.



Zigzag Zac's Book of the Month.

New Website
By Mal Google



Andrea's Welfare Report

It was nice to see Muriel Richards back at our meeting this week. Unfortunately, Elizabeth Crocker is still having problems with her leg and is back in hospital. Heather McGuckin is not doing so well, her hip is giving her problems. We wish them both the best and hope things improve for them soon.

In a group like ours, almost everybody has some medical issues that they are dealing with on an on-going basis. If you are struggling and we don't mention you here, please know that our thoughts are with you anyway.

If you know of anybody who is not well please contact Andrea on 0415 659 961 and let her know.

Highsenburg's Quiz

So as you have been fantastic at working out my jumbled letters I have got a curly one for you this month. A small prize will a wait the first person that can tell me at our September meeting the answer to this jumble. It is:

lowaorbrmna

C u next month H

Answers

Who said that:



The Dalai Lama

We are always looking for contributions to our newsletters.



Remember, the newsletter is for all of us, by all of us.

If you would like to contribute to our newsletter, email or phone Dave on d.tourgossip@gmail.com or 0417 490 740

Compiled and designed by Sue Brown, Elizabeth Rea and Dave Lupton

Thanks to Club Condell Park for printing copies of our newsletter for members.