

The Collective Spirit

Brought to you by the Members of George's Hall Probus Club.
Issue 77 - 27 September 2025

Don't forget - Daylight Savings begins 2am, 5 October 2025
Move your clocks forward one (1) hour to 3am



President's Report

Hi everybody,
It's wonderful to see that winter is over, spring has begun and the sun is shining. Everyone must be happy to be out and about, we had a record attendance at our meeting this month. Once again, another great speaker, Colin Burgess. He had us all spell bound with his story of the nurses during WWII.

Those of us who went to Lightning Ridge are now settling back into our usual routines. We shared the coach with ten members of Sylvania Probus Club and the two groups mixed and got on very well. A good time was had by all. I won't say much about the trip here, it will have its own special newsletter, look for it in another week or two.

Once again, we have to give thanks to Club Condell Park for their continued support of our club. The recent community grant has allowed us to subsidise some of our functions.

Thanks also to Val Newman for her short (and very different) five-minute talk at our meeting. These talks are always varied, but always interesting and are a great way to introduce our members to each other and to learn more about them. We would like to have a short talk each meeting, so please give some consideration to talking at a future meeting, about anything that takes your fancy!

Keep smiling, Sue

Something to do:

TREAT YOURSELF AT BEC BAKES



Do yourself a favour and come over to Caringbah and try *Cakes, slices, and cookies, oh my!* Open for walk-ins on Fridays and Saturdays, Caringbah's *Bec Bakes* makes a perfect mid-morning stopover. Refuel with one of their bright and seriously delicious looking treats - it's hard to go past a Tiny Teddie Smash Cupcake for a real nostalgic moment or their OTT Choc Chip Cookies. But heed our warning: it's very dangerous arriving on an empty stomach!
27 Cawarra Road, Caringbah

From the Money Man



Our finances at 23 September 2025:

Balance carried forward 1 March 2025		**$ 28,190.69**
Receipts		
Attendance fees	3,096.00	
Club CP Grant	1,700.00	
Membership fees	908.00	
Raffle	785.00	
Outings	26,537.00	
Trading Table	599.00	
Tour – Lightning Ridge	62,575.00	
Theatre Shows	250.00	
Reserve account	3,594.00	100,044.00
Total Receipts		
Payments		
Attendance fees	-3,096.00	
Capitation fees Probus SP	-1,750.00	
Guest speaker	-225.00	
General expenses	-770.51	
Raffle prizes	-310.00	
Outings	-13,319.00	
Tours - Ballina	-18,375.00	
Tour – Lightning Ridge	-63,175.00	
Theatre payments	-275.00	
Reserve account	-1,430.00	
Total Payments		**-102,725.51**
Total funds held		**25,509.18**
Less Deposits for Outings		-15,077.00
Less Club Grant		-1,700.00
Less Reserve Account		-2,164.00
Club Funds available		**6,568.18**

Ray Cook

Dash and Willy's Lazy Wandering Walkers



As we had some walkers cancel, it was voted that we just have a wander and a coffee by the Harbour. So, thanks to Bev Spithill for your company and for coming along.

We will be walking again on **Friday 17th October** - meet at **09:45** at the entrance to **Wharf 4** Circular Quay - hope to see you.
Willy and Dash.

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

1 October Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30.

15 October Fairground Follies. Bus leaves at 8.15am. This activity is now $85 per member, $90 per non member. This activity is now being subsidised from the Club Condell Park Club Grant.

17 October This is a **FRIDAY**. Dash and Willy's Lazy Wandering Walkers. Meet at 09:45 at the entrance to Wharf 4 Circular Quay.

29 October Fifth Wednesday – Lunch at 11.30am at Riverhigh Restaurant, Beauty Point Resort, 33 Bernard Road, Padstow Heights. This is a very nice little restaurant inside the Retirement Resort. There is limited parking within the resort, with parking available in the street. It may be a good idea to share transport if this suits you.

5 November Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30.

19/20 November

Hunter Valley Lights Tour. This tour is currently fully booked and you must have paid the full amount. We currently have enough people booked in to reduce the cost of this tour, however, we will not know the final cost until closer to the date of the tour when we have ascertained the final number attending. We will then give a refund when the bus company confirms the final cost.

22 November

This is a **SATURDAY**. "Tons of Money" 2.00 pm at the Guild Theatre Rockdale, Walz Street Rockdale, right next to Rockdale Station. Cost $25. Please book in with Margaret Cousins and pay in advance.

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3 December Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30.

8 December Georges Hall Probus Club Christmas Party. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A **MONDAY.** This is a subsidized event. $40 per member and $45 per non-member.

Keep Safe, Jan



September Birthdays

Andrea Best, Ray Cook, Owen Doust, Muriel Richards



October Birthdays

Sue Brown, Carol Walshaw, Kath Westwood, Heather Wicks,

Best wishes every one Barbara Doust

Fearless Folder

Thanks to Norma Jenkins for suggesting this article.
Adapted from an article by Scott Pape (the Barefoot Investor) in the Daily Telegraph 3 August 2025.



Do your family know what to do when you die or become very ill. This is a subject that we all find very hard to talk about, but it is really important. Do you want to leave your family trying to sort out a mess like that at a very difficult time in their lives? Scott suggests that you create a "Fearless Folder". It's a simple folder (digital or physical) that holds everything your family will need.

Everybody's folder will be different, but here are some of the things you need to include.

- Your will. If you don't have one, GET ONE!
- Power of Attorney
- Superannuation binding nominations (your will doesn't cover your super)
- A list of bank accounts and investments
- Bills and subscriptions
- Doctors and medical details
- Log in details, email, bills, banking, social media. So that your executor is not locked out.
- Funeral instructions. Write it down. Tell your family what you would like.
- A list of people in your life and their contact details. Do they know all your friends? Do they know who they should call and tell?
- What to do with your pets
- A final message. Tell your family how much you love them.

Store it digitally or physically. But make sure that your family knows where to find it and are able to access it.

Wally and Nelly Waramuk's

Must See movie,



From downtown Batlow, under the Trees Open Air Theatre with the monthly Sausage Sizzle.
$3 a snag, with screening time January 32nd.
An Apple Pie production, a Granny film, its -
McGillycudd's Oil Strike
Starring Willy Beef and Davy Dipper – see the treasurer for your free tickets today.

Out and About
Hats at Picnic Point Bowling Club

Once again, another fun day with lunch at Picnic Point Bowling Club. Thanks to Jan, Bill and Marg Golder for organising another good day. But Jan, can you please try and arrange better weather for our next outing. At least this was inside and we stayed dry.

There were lots of interesting hats, thanks to everybody for taking the trouble to dress up.










And our prize winners.







Aromatherapy

Addressing our sense of adventure; our young at heart; our sense of Smell (working on it!!); and any flights of whimsy that may take me, or you, on a 'journey'!

by Elizabeth Rea

I was scrolling through Facebook a few weeks ago (as I do occasionally) and found an interesting entry mentioning a passage from Daphne du Maurier's "Rebecca". It resonated so much with what I've learnt and experienced as an Aromatherapist that I had to share.

> *"If only there could be an invention that bottled up a memory, like scent. And it never faded, and it never got stale.*
> *And then, when one wanted it, the bottle could be uncorked, and it would be like living the moment all over again."*

As an aromatherapist/massage therapist, one of the things I've always been careful of, and taught to my students, is how powerful our sense of smell can be and the importance of knowing if there are many particular odours which clients do not like i.e. Frankincense, Lavender, etc.

Mum had a small blue fluted phial of her favourite perfume, *Je Reviens* (from Dad) which she wore only on very special occasions. Smells can conjure up images/emotions of events (not necessarily always good) but, I only have to smell *Je Reviens* and I have a very clear picture in my mind – Mum, in our hallway at home in Riverwood, very pregnant, being carried out by two ambulance officers (it's 1957). Mum is laughing, she's wearing a light beige dressing gown with large colourful butterflies. My sister, Julie (age 7) and myself (age 5) are holding Dad's hands and waving goodbye. I don't think Julie or I had any idea at the time what was actually happening or, that we were going to have a brother!!!!

It's a very clear image, a moment in time, brought about by a very specific aroma.

Does anyone else have pleasant memory brought on by a specific smell or aroma???, that they'd like to share.



See you next month, Liz.

Zigzag Zac's Book of the Month.



Jack Snodgrass Jnr in
Under the Sea
By Otis Creek



Traveller's Tales

My Travels in 2016 (Part1)

Thanks Charlie Hattie



Much to my pleasure, Dolores's cousin and best friend, together with her husband, invited me to join them on their trip to England, via The States, for their granddaughter's 10th birthday, an invitation that I gleefully accepted. We flew to San Francisco where we stayed for about a week, visiting, among other features, Alcatraz Prison. There I was able to purchase the book "Breaking The Rock, The Great Escape from Alcatraz" which was signed by the author, Jolene Babyak (the daughter of the Chief Warden who grew up on 'The Rock'). Of course, Alcatraz was and is still only a tourist attraction these days.

After our time in San Francisco, we flew to Las Vegas. No, I didn't do any gambling, but, of course, we took a trip to The Grand Canyon, very interesting and amazingly scenic. We did a trip down a section of the Colorado River on our way back to Vegas. We departed Vegas by bus to Anaheim and Los Angeles. At one stage we passed a significant field covered in solar panels - enlightening. While there, we did all the tourist things, yes including Disneyland – as you do.

Then we were off to London and given we departed late afternoon/early evening on the 4th July, I thought, beauty we will get to see the Independence Day Fireworks from above, given we will be flying west to east across the States – no such luck. At the time I did think it unusual, but when I got the chance to check, with the earth's curvature, a direct flight from LA to London goes north up over Hudson Lake in Canada crossing very little of the States – lesson learnt.

In England we stayed at Fleet, south west of London where we celebrated the little ones tenth birthday. But also while there we visited the University city of Oxford (I had to pick up my degree – ha! Ha!). An interesting place. I, somewhat naively, imagined we would be seeing one building (a la my understanding of Sydney University). But no, Oxford University is made up of around 38 Campuses spread around the city, amazing.

We left the UK and flew to New York where we saw heaps, including The World Trade Centre Memorial site (very interesting), a show on Broadway, and sightseeing, using, Hop-on Hop-off buses a few times. The High Line Gardens were interesting – a good use of a disused railway line.

We left New York with a train trip to Toronto, Canada. Interestingly, when we reached the border at Niagara we all got off the train, including the crew, went through Border Security and got back on the same train, I believe with a Canadian crew – I guess that's common practice for them, but unusual for me being here in Australia (and I don't ever recall catching a train interstate, eh!) While in Toronto we visited Niagara Falls where we got the chance to switch-on the lights and go on a boat ride down below, as you do.

Watch out for the next instalment of Charlie's trip in Canada.

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)
(see answer at end of newsletter)

Rob's jokes of the week
Thanks Rob

Why do bees have sticky fur?
Because they use honeycombs!

What did the two slices of bread say on their wedding day?
It was loaf at first sight!

Why do Peruvian owls always hunt in pairs?
Because they are Inca-hoots!!

In the Shire with Luppo:

The old Sutherland Saddlery building



The plaque on the front of the building celebrates the establishment of an ambulance station which was the original use for the site serving the local community from 1929. The building opened in 1929 as an ambulance station, and a plaque marking the event remains on the front of the building.

The ambulance station was relocated to Sutherland Hospital after it opened in 1958 and the building was used for other purposes until 1966 when saddle maker Don Stuart and his family moved in, running the business downstairs and living above.

The Saddlery, in 1989, displayed one sign "Saddler" and another in the shape of a horse. It was flanked on the right by the Grand Parade Railway overpass and a carpark to the left. The Stuart family ran the business until 2000 when that side of the business closed due to a decline in interest in locally produced saddles.

The site continued as Sutherland Art Gallery which had already been established there but also, later closed leaving the building empty.

A heritage consultant's report said proposed conservation works would have "a positive impact" on the building.

Not in the Shire with Susie

Warwick Farm

Warwick Farm was occupied by Irish political prisoners transported after the Irish Rebellion of 1798. Land grants of 40 acres were made to transportees in 1809 and for some time it was known as Irish Town. John Hawley Stroud, the superintendent of Liverpool Orphans School, received a grant in 1804 on the present site of Warwick Farm Racecourse and named his property after Warwick in England.

William Forrester bought the property in 1882 and changed the name to Warwick Farm to match his initials. He became one of the most successful trainers of his time and in 1889 he and Edwin Oatley were the principals in the formation of the Warwick Farm Syndicate Race Club.



The first meeting was attended by people prominent in the racing world, and supported by a crowd of over 5,000.

During World War II, the racecourse was utilised as a camp by Australian, American and British armed forces. The camp was known as Camp Warwick and also HMS Golden Hind.



As well as horse racing, there was a motor racing facility in operation from 1960 to 1973, hosting numerous major events including the Australian Grand Prix. However, the circuit was expensive to run, and the circuit closed. The last major race was a round of the 1973 Australian Touring Car Championship, which was won by Peter Brock.

Warwick Farm is also famous for the large replica of the Sydney Harbour Bridge which sits outside the Peter Warren car dealership. It was built and assembled during half-time at the 1987 Rugby League Grand Final at the SCC by Royal Australian Navy apprentices before being purchased by Peter Warren.



The area has changed dramatically over the last ten years, with upgrades to the raceway, the building of an international hotel and a huge industrial and logistics hub with modern office/warehouse facilities.

More next time, Sue

Urgent Teletext

Well, that afternoon everyone was downstairs in the bar waiting for the camel man to arrive. Pitt said to Sav "I hope Gramary got the right size clothes" Sav said, "Big Chucks will be interesting."

Gramary arrived 5 minutes later, "Everyone you need to come out the back." They all followed Gramary. Waiting for them was an oldish man, a young lady and a young man. Gramary said, "this is Ben Binalong, these are his camels and this is Harry Howlong, and his partner Bev Binhow. Ben will instruct you about the camels and Harry and Bev will help with your gear."

So Willy and Dash went off with Ben to get camel instructions while the rest got their gear. Camel clothes are very loose fitting with locals wearing bellbottom pants, a woolen shirt and a big cape over their head along with what the locals call a konnob. It's a long piece of material that is wrapped around your head and can be used as a mouth protector when a sand storm is around. The pants are made out of like an animal skin, not very fashionable.

Kit Kat, being the smallest had no trouble and looked like a local. Mongo and Rob Hob had a little more trouble picking between bellbottoms or open leg pants, but in the end, they got bellbottoms. But when Big Chuck came out he looked like he had put on 25 kilos, he was huge in his bellbottoms as they were the only pants that fitted him and the cape made him look even bigger. Mongo said, "I pity the poor camel."

Willy and Dash arrived to get their clothes and could not believe the size of Chuck's. Willy said, "I hope they have more then one camel for Chucky." How was the camel instructor? asked Kit Kat. All good, said Dash. You just have to roll with the camel, don't go against the camel. That sounds just great said Chuck.

Dash and Willy had no trouble getting fitted. They both looked like locals and both got bellbottoms. So, everyone was waiting for big Chuck to have a go on his camel (Pot Hole was her name) and I think she wished she was back in the desert when big Chuck finally got on, after 5 goes and falling off the step ladder. But Sav came up with the quote of the day, "Chuck looks like the Manly Ferry going through the Sydney Heads in a huge storm. But in the end everyone was fitted and had instructions regarding their camels (Pot Hole Chuck'ys, Storm was Willy and Kit Kats as they were doubling up being the smallest, High Top was Rob's, Speedy was Mongos and Herby was Dash's.)



After everyone was fitted and had instructions on camel riding Gramary said that Ben and Harry would be coming along with the group for the first five days to make sure the camels were okay. Who is going to check on us, asked Chuck. You'll be an expert by then said Dash. Gramary, Pitt and Sav said go and freshen up we will meet down stairs in 2 hours for dinner and the show.

We'll see what the show brings next month,
C ya Dash.

Andrea's Welfare Report

It was nice to see a number of our members who have been on the sick list back at our meeting this week. Welcome back Val Newman, Elizabeth Crocker (who is still having problems with her leg) and Heather McGuckin. Beatrice Drew is well; however, Darrell is not doing so well. Jan Brown was absent; she had a nasty fall on Tuesday. She says that she is feeling fine, just not a pretty sight!

Mavis Burgess is now in Whiddon Easton Park Residential Care home at Glenfield. We wish her well and are thinking of Tony who is going through a difficult time.

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.

Andrea would also like to thank all her fellow travellers on the Lightning Ridge tour. Due to her mobility issues, she wasn't able to get off the coach at every stop but was well looked after by some wonderful, thoughtful people.

Highsenburg's Quiz



Last months answer from the jumble is

Warrnambool

On the south west coast of Victoria on the Great Ocean Road and would you believe, the story is that Smoky Dawson was raised here.

C U next month H

Answers

Winston Churchills mother was born in Brooklyn USA (true or false)
The answer is (True)

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.