

The Collective Spirit

Brought to you by the Members of George's Hall Probus Club.
Issue 79 - 27 October 2025

President's Report

Hi everyone

Summer is really upon us now, with the day of our last meeting having the hottest October day on record. I did notice some people staying in the air conditioned club longer than usual. A very wise decision. Luckily, the crazy heat bubble only lasted one day and we've gone back to more sensible temperatures. For a while at least.



It was a very special meeting for three of our members. Liz Conway , Keith McGuckin and Heather McGuckin have now chalked up 20 years as members. That is a real achievement. And we thank them all for the roles that they have undertaken and the part they've played in making our club as great as it is.



Our planned guest speaker, Howard Collins was unable to attend but Denise was able to organise a last minute substitution. Mark Hutchings, Executive Director, NSW Maritime gave us a very interesting talk about his career in the NSW Police and with Maritime Transport. Thanks to Mark for making himself available at such short notice.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our proposed trip to Tasmania in 2026. We weren't able to get enough numbers to make the trip viable. But special thanks go to Sandra Cohen for all the hard work she put into trying to get this off the ground. We are now looking at coming up with some alternate proposals for tours next year.

Keep smiling, Sue Brown



October Birthdays

Sue Brown, Kath Westwood, Heather Wicks, Carol Walshaw

November Birthdays

Carol Coates, Sandra Gruene, Diane Harvey, Jan Clarke, Karlene Lawrence, Heather McGuckin, Barbara Winterbottom



Best wishes every one Barbara Doust

From the Money Man



Our finances at 21 October 2025 were:

Balance carried forward 1 March 2025	**$ 28,190.69**
Receipts	
Attendance fees	$ 3,784.00
Club Grant	$ 1,700.00
Membership fees	$ 908.00
Raffle	$ 926.00
Outings	$ 35,045.50
Trading Table	$ 757.00
Hobart Tour	$ 5,300.00
Lightning Ridge Tour	$ 62,575.00
Theatre Shows	$ 250.00
Reserve account	$ 3,794.00
Total Receipts	**$ 115,039.50**
Payments	
Attendance fees	$ 3,680.00
Capitation fees	$ 1,750.00
Guest speaker	$ 275.00
General expenses	$ 927.21
Raffle prizes	$ 320.00
Outings	$ 13,619.00
Completed trips	$ 81,550.00
Hobart	$ 100.00
Theatre payments	$ 275.00
Reserve account	$ 2,870.00
Total Payments	**$ 105,366.21**
Total funds held	**$37,863.98**
Less Deposits for Outings/Club Grant	$ 24,985.50
Less Deposits for Hobart	$ 5,200.00
Less Reserve Account	$ 924.00
Club Funds available	**$ 6,754.48**

As part of the work on the new constitution, Probus South Pacific has recommended that club's financial year be changed to start on 1st January and end on 31st December. Currently our year ends 28 February.

Having had a long think about the change, I now agree that it is a very good idea for a number of reasons, which I explained at our October meeting.

To make this change, it requires first approval of the committee. To date the e-mail responses from committee members agree with the change of date. I am proposing that we can discuss it and hopefully ratify it at the November general meeting. Then we can close the books on 31 December each year, commencing this year.

Ray Cook

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

29 October	Fifth Wednesday. Lunch at Riverview Restaurant at Beauty Point Resort. 33 Bernard Road, Padstow Heights. 11.30 am. Note that there is limited parking.
5 November	Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30
14 November	Dash and Willy's Lazy Wandering Walkers. Meet at Circular Quay Wharf 4 at 9.30 am for a lazy 3ks walk with a little fun and one or two surprises on the way
19/20 November	Hunter Valley Lights Tour. We have not been told the pick up time for this trip as yet. But it will probably be quite early. **AS SOON AS WE RECEIVE THE INFORMATION WE WILL LET EVERYONE KNOW**
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
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 subsidised event. $40 per member and $45 per non-member

Keep Safe, Jan

Dash and Willy's Lazy Wondering Walkers



Well we had an increase in our walking group today. Thank you Cheryl and Jenny for coming on our walk around the Opera House, Farm Cove and onto the Calyx for a look and a coffee.

If you are interested in doing a lazy 3ks walk with a little fun and one or two surprises on the way meet at Circular Quay Wharf 4 (09.30) on Friday 14th November.





Traveller's Tales

My Travels in 2016 (Part 2)

Thanks Charlie Hattie



From Toronto we visited Ottawa (Canada's capital), Quebec City and Montreal, then on to Calgary to visit the Stampede Grounds, which I enjoyed greatly. We also visited the Masters Equestrian Centre and the Heritage Park Historical Village An amazing display of vintage motor cars, motor cycles, etc. Next stop was Vancouver where we visited Butchart Gardens. If ever you are in Vancouver, these gardens, in my view, are a must see attraction. The gardens were developed in an old quarry, putting it to meaningful re-purpose

We then did the Rocky Mountains Bus Tour via Whistler, Sun Peaks, Jasper, Lake Louise and Banff. Following the tour, we boarded a cruise ship and did the Inside Passage Cruise up to Anchorage and then a bus trip to Fairbanks. While in Fairbanks, we flew up to Cold Foot and took a shuttle, the last few miles up to Wiseman, 63 miles north of the Arctic Circle – absolutely fantastic. Yes, I have a photo of me standing beside the Wiseman sign up there. Also, we went to "North Pole" to Santa Klaus House. While there, I ordered Christmas Cards to be sent to the grandchildren plus some nieces and nephews.



I developed a rapport with the bus driver on the tour. Every time I got off the bus I shook his hand, thanked him, then put one of the fluffy toys he had on the dashboard on his seat. Nothing was said about the fluffy toy trick until 18 months or so later when he and his wife did a cruise from LA to Sydney. He got in touch with me and I had lunch with them. As we were parting company, he asked if I knew who it was 'playing with his fluffy toys?' Yes, I confessed.

Back in Anchorage, we hired an RV and drove to Seattle via Dawson City, Dawson Creek and then across the Rocky Mountains to Vancouver, and across the border to Seattle. A most enjoyable and interesting drive, with off-road camping, and lots of animals to see, including bison, buffalo, bears and deer. In Dawson City it was our intention to play a round of golf at the Top of The World Golf Course, but unluckily found it closed. We arrived in Whistler again where we missed the second opportunity to go to the top chair lift point because of inclement weather. The first time we were there, it was a Mountain Bike Convention, and everything was too crowded.

We finished with a few days in San Francisco. On the morning of our departure for home, I woke with minor bleeding on my leg. Concerned due to our impending flight to Sydney, I took myself to hospital where I spent most of the day. I was released in time for the flight, with advice to see my doctor when I got back to Sydney.

On arrival back in Sydney, went to my Doctor on my way home from the airport. She checked and said all seemed okay. So I came home, put my suitcase in the house, collected my second pre-packed suitcase, picked up five of the grandchildren and took them for a week's holiday at Boambee Bay. I needed the rest ha! ha! ha! The main thing was that the grandchildren all enjoyed their holiday, as I did mine, both with them as well as overseas.

Out and About
Fairground Follies

What an amazing day we had visiting the Fairground Follies at Bowral. This is a truly magical place, takes you right back to your childhood. A very interesting tour by Craig and Gracie who are passionate about all their exhibits. Thanks to Jan and Bill for organising the day and turning on beautiful weather. An excellent lunch was had at the Tahmoor Inn. Everybody who came is still raving about the place and the day.







Photos by Sue Brown and Cathy Dice.


















Poet's Corner

Nelly

Thanks Bev Spithill



Old Nelly had been a beauty in her younger days.
She still liked to doll up whenever opportunity came her way.
Rumour has it that this was going to be a top notch affair.
So she's put her best hat on and the lippy she hadn't spared.
He fox fur stole was melting at the seams.
But it was on the inside and could hardly be seen.
A bit of spit and polish had brought her shoes up like new.
She couldn't afford a new pair so these would have to do.
Her reflection in the mirror didn't look too bad.
Pity about the stains on her best bag.

She locked the door and shuffled down the street.
These bloody shoes were pinching her feet.
Arriving at her destination she was greeted by all around.
This sure was the biggest do she'd ever seen in town.
Just look at those cars, bloody big things.
Anyone would think they were expecting the king.
And the flowers, just look at those.
Carnations, poppies and every coloured rose.
Bloody waste, they'll die in this heat.
Gawd I wish I could rest me weary feet.
There's a seat over there next to May.
Excuse me dear, whose funeral is it today?

In the Shire with Luppo

How did Tom Ugly's Bridge get its name?



Tom Ugly's Bridge was named after Tom Ugly's Point, a geographical feature at the northern end of the bridge.

The most prominent theory and most widely accepted explanation suggests that the point was named after Tom Huxley, an early resident of the area. Aboriginal people in the area had difficulty pronouncing his surname, and the name "Tom Ugly" stuck.

There are other theories about the name's origin. One suggests the name comes from an Aboriginal man named Tow-weiry. Another involves a fisherman named Tom Illigley, or a one-legged man called "Tom Woggleg" or "Wogul Leg Tom".

The name "Tom Ugly's Bridge" was officially adopted to distinguish it from other bridges over the Georges River, particularly after the construction of the Captain Cook Bridge and Alfords Point

C'ya next time, Luppo

Not in the Shire with Susie

Yagoona

The area now known as Yagoona was originally occupied by the Bediagal people. Yagoona is an Aboriginal word meaning 'now' or 'today'. With European settlement, it was once part of an area known as Irish Town, due to the high concentration of Irish rebels transported here from Ireland in the late 1700s. Land grants were issued to Irish families.

St Matthew's Anglican Church was built on Liverpool Road (now Hume Highway) in 1861 to cater for the Protestants of the district as well as to function as a school.

The suburb of Yagoona was created in 1927 and the Yagoona railway station opened on July 16, 1928, when the Bankstown line was extended to Regents Park. With the closure of the Bankstown line while it is being converted into a metro line, the station is still open with trains running to Regents Park to link with services there. Over recent years, the shopping strip has been in economic decline as a consequence of major banks and retailers leaving.



Yagoona's major claim to fame is as the location of the first McDonalds in Australia. It opened in Dec 1971 with the US ambassador of the day, Walter Rice, at the launch, along with a mystery clown "holding balloons and wearing red and yellow striped stockings".

The store operated until 1994. However, in 2021, to celebrate 50 years in Australia, a new store was opened on the same location. The new restaurant looks very different from the original but reflects the style of the original restaurant in its unique décor. It features a historic timeline, images of the 1971 restaurant and a Happy Meal toy display with iconic toys from across the years.







Yagoona's most famous son is Anh Do. A Vietnamese refugee who grew up in the area. Ahn studied a law degree but six months shy of finishing his double degree, he opted instead to become a comedian and has never looked back. He is a well known and accomplished comedian, author, actor, and painter.

More next time, Sue

Something to do

Feeling like a nice walk, a nice lunch and maybe a ferry ride. Well here is all three in one, a nice outing. Take a ferry from the Quay to Cremorne, get off and follow the cement path around the headland for 2.5ks and you come to Mosman Rowing Club. Sign in, sit down and have a nice lunch with a great view.



After you finish, walk around the point for around 800 metres, and get back on the ferry to the Quay. What a nice day out.

The Spit Reserve, Mosman NSW 2088
https://mosmanrowing.com.au/

Members' Corner

Thanks to all our contributors



Denise's One Liners

Thanks Denise
Adam and Eve were the first ones to ignore the Apple terms and conditions.
At the gym, I decided to hop on a treadmill. People gave me weird looks, so I started jogging instead.

Rob's jokes of the week

Thanks Rob
Why don't skeletons fight each other?.. They don't have the guts
Where do dad jokes come from?....A dada-base
Back in the day cowboys would hang lanterns on their saddles at night to find their way home. They called it saddle light navigation!!!

Only the Irish

Thanks Frances and Robert.
"Please leave your hat here, sir" said Miley on his first day as a cloak room attendant.
"But, I don't have a hat" said the customer.
"Then, I'm sorry sir, but you can't enter the theatre" replied Miley. "I have strict instructions that patrons cannot attend the theatre unless they leave their hat in the cloakroom."

A Trivia Question for you

What do the letters USSR stand for? Answer in the back of newsletter



Thought for the day

My ability to remember song lyrics from the 70's far exceeds my ability to remember why I walked into the kitchen.

Urgent Teletext

Well, everyone was at the downstairs bar early, even big Chuck. He even brought the first round of drinks. Kit Kat wanted to take a photo of Chuck with his wallet out. Rob Hob said "no one will ever believe us, so quickly take the photo". Mongo said "I am having a double if he's paying".

Everyone was sitting around talking about the adventures they have had so far on the trip. Dash said I wonder how Captain Nut got on with his yacht. Willy said "last we heard it was beyond repair". Then Clive came in, telling the group that dinner was ready. So come over and dig in because after dinner Clive said he has a big surprise for them. Well dinner was a four course meal with mushroom soup, olives, local meats, halloumi, nuts, artichoke bread, rice pudding. Willy could only eat half of his.

After dinner Clive got on the mike. As our special guests are leaving tomorrow morning, we have got a one off guest lineup for three or four songs. We have our resident band The Low Bows with Snodgrass ,Sugpot , Gatsby and Corncraker along with Sammy on piano and Dash and Willy will join in along with Pitt, Gramya and Sav. So let's give them a big round while they make their way up here on stage. We will start with "Remember Casablanca" then "Downtown in a Subway" and maybe "Dream Girl". So let's get going.



Out on the stage was The Band, Sammy and Pitt on piano, Dash on guitar Sav on Saxophone, Gramya on vocals and Willy on harmonica. Mongo said "hey, they are not too bad". Kit Kat said "I think the band is hiding some of the not so good from the boys". Rob Hob said "I can't hear too many bad sounds" Big Chuck said "I wouldn't mind some more of the bread". What's that got to do with the band said Kit Kat. "I just like the bread" said Chuck.

Well they got a big round of cheering and clapping after each song. Gramya and Pitt sang "Dream Girl" together and got a huge round. They finished with a favourite of Dash and Willys "Sitting in a Rainbow", Dash on guitar and Willy on vocals. And the group even had an encore with "One more night." A great night was had by all. Clive finished, wishing the group a safe trip and inviting everyone to come and see the group off in the morning.

So what's in store for the group from tomorrow?
Cya next month to find out.



Winslow Wig's Who said that?

.

"Getting old is like climbing a mountain; you get a little out of breath, but the view is much better!"



Answer at the end of the newsletter

Meet the Quokka!

They say they are the happiest animal in the world!

Thanks, Heather Wicks



These small and mostly nocturnal marsupials were once described by a Dutch explorer as "a kind of rat" and were once widely distributed across the southwest of Western Australia and offshore islands. The largest population is on Rottnest Island and Bald Island, plus a small colony on the mainland of WA. Other than that, they can't be found anywhere else in the world. That is why so many tourists visit Rottnest Island just for a selfie. Including famous people. Here's Chris Hemsworth with a friend.



- They are from the same family as kangaroos and wallabies and move like their cousins by hopping and bounding with their small feet and short tails. The mothers also carry their joeys in little pouches!
- They are herbivorous and can also climb trees, climbing up to two metres high to grab leaves if necessary! They usually like to munch on native grasses and reach leaves just above their head for snacks. Beside leaves, they eat grasses, seeds, shrub buds and the occasional berry.
- They can go for weeks without eating by living off the fat stores in their short tails. They can also go for months without drinking fresh water, extracting most of the water they need from the plants they eat.
- They are very peaceful and love sharing spaces, they aren't territorial. No fighting over territory like kangaroos. Quokkas are happy to coexist peacefully with each other and even hop into shops on Rottnest Island regularly to say hello. But physical interaction can make them ill and spread disease. Unfamiliar odours from humans may even prompt mothers to abandon their young.



Quokka give birth in summer and carry their young in their small pouches up to September. Some females have been known to have birthed 17 joeys in their lifetime. Quokkas reach maturity around age two and have a life expectancy of up to 10 years. Their adult size is comparable to that of a household cat.



Wally and Nelly Waramuk's
Must see movie,
Nut Bush Revenge

All the way from Nimmitebell's open air garden movie house, a Grandmaster production. A Walybutt movie starring Zep Brown, Eva Brone and Dav Cussler in Nut Bush Revenge

Get your free ticket from the ladies on the sign on table.

Andrea's Welfare Report

It was nice to hear that Darryl Drew is doing well. But unfortunately, Beatrice is now in hospital. Mavis Burgess is settling into her new home and we are thinking about Tony who is going through a difficult time. Bev Spithill missed our meeting as she was having thyroid surgery. As far as we know, everybody else is doing fine.

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.



Zigzag Zac's Book of the Month.

Speedway, by I. Slow



Highsenburg's Quiz

Can you un-jumble this into a small town in NSW

Immniileatb

Answer next month

Answers

Who said that: Ingrid Bergman



The letters USSR stand for:

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

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

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