

The Collective Spirit

Brought to you by the Members of George's Hall Probus Club.
Issue 80 - 30 November, 2025

President's Report

Here we are almost at the end of another year. Summer is definitely here now and I was not surprised to see such a good attendance at our meeting this week. Quite nice to be inside an air-conditioned club when the outside temperature is so high.

It was with great sadness that I needed to report the recent passing of a number of people who were important to our club, including two of our long standing members.

Darrell Drew joined our club with his wife Beatrice in 2002. Some years ago, Darrell had major surgery for cancer and won the battle, but life has now caught up with him. He passed away on 12 November. Our thoughts are with Beatrice and the family.

Mavis Burgess joined our club with her husband Tony in 2001. She was an active member until her health deteriorated a few years ago. She passed away on 23 November. Unfortunately, Tony's health is not good and he is awaiting palliative care. Our thoughts are with him and the family.

Noel Scanlon, would be known to many of our older members as he has been the President and Director of Club Condell Park (the "Trotting Club") for many years. Noel was very helpful to our Probus Club in our early days as we were being established and our association with Club Condell Park continues today.

Our thoughts are also with Carol Coates whose mum passed away last week, aged 101. Carol has asked me to pass on her thanks for our kind thoughts and support at this time.



It was a very busy meeting with lots of things to discuss, more about these later in the Newsletter. As usual, we finished with a guest speaker, a wonderful talk from Judith Dunn, who regaled us with interesting anecdotes about epitaphs on gravestones. We have had Judith speak to us a few times over the years and she has also guided us on some of our day outings. She is a very interesting and amazing person and we appreciate the support she's given us over the years.

Keep smiling, Sue Brown



Thought for the day

Every day is a new beginning. Take a deep breath, smile and start again.

From the Money Man



Our finances at 25 November 2025 were:

Balance carried forward 1 March 2025		**$ 28,190.69**
Receipts		
Attendance fees	4,288.00	
Club Grant	1,700.00	
Membership fees	908.00	
Raffle	1,060.00	
Outings	37,150.50	
Trading Table	963.00	
Hobart Tour	5,300.00	
Lightning Ridge Tour	62,575.00	
Theatre Shows	425.00	
Reserve account	4,194.00	
Total Receipts		**118,563.50**
Payments		
Attendance fees	-4,184.00	
Capitation fees Probus SP	-1,750.00	
Guest speaker	-275.00	
General expenses	-995.79	
Raffle prizes	-340.00	
Outings	-37,438.00	
Completed trips	-86,850.00	
Theatre payments	-275.00	
Reserve account	-3,552.00	
Total Payments		**-135,659.79**
Total funds held	**11.094.40**	
Less Deposits for Outings/Club Grant	-3,400.00	
Less Deposits for Theatre	-175.00	
Less Reserve Account	-642.00	
Club Funds available	**6,877.40**	

Ray Cook

Traveller's Tales

Thanks Ray Cook



In August, this year Colleen and I were on an OutBack Spirit trip in South Australia. Our coach pulled into a park at Port Lincoln for lunch and while we were waiting for our food to be served a few of us wandered over to the toilets for you know what.

We noticed this sign on the men's and ladies' toilets, and we started to wonder how you could stage a large event in the toilets as there was only one toilet behind each door. Maybe the signs were put in the wrong place.

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

3 December	Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30
8 December	Georges Hall Probus Club Christmas Party. Club Condell Park, arrival from 11.30. **PLEASE NOTE** THAT THIS IS A **MONDAY.** This is a subsidised event. $40 per member and $45 per non-member
	The charity we are supporting this year is the Wayside Chapel – contributions are purely voluntary.

I am currently working on activities for 2026. Still to be confirmed is lunch at Club Menai on 11 February.

At the meeting, I spoke about a proposed trip to the Blue Mountains in March 2026. The date has now been confirmed as 29-30 April (note, this is different from the dates I first mentioned). More details available soon.

Keep Safe, Jan

The next outing to the Guild Theatre will be 21 March 2026 for "*The Importance of Being Earnest*". More details next year.

If anybody is interested, the theatre is showing a pantomime, "Goldilock's Mum Meets the Three Bears". That sounds like fun. If you are interested, contact the theatre directly.



Picnic Point Bowling Club are presenting a "Choir Night" on Wednesday 10 December. Starting with a children's choir from Panania Public School at 6.30 and followed by an adult choir at 7.00. No entry fee, no need to book. Just come along, enjoy the choirs and have a meal and a few Christmas drinks.

Out and About
Melbourne Cup Day at Club Condell Park
Thanks Ray Cook

Over twenty of our members attended Club Condell Park for Melbourne Cup function. It was a good day; the food was good and the entertainer this year, Michael Montgomery was very good. A good day was had by all and some of us came home with extra cash.







Constitution Review



Probus South Pacific has undertaken a review of the constitution of affiliated Probus Clubs and has now come up with recommendations for changes to the existing constitutions. This includes a standard generic constitution which PSP would like all clubs to adopt. This has been updated and terms clarified but remains very similar to the existing constitution (2013). However, supporting the generic constitution, clubs are asked to establish their own standing resolutions.

Your committee has reviewed the documents and is recommending that we adopt the generic constitution. We have also looked closely at the standing resolutions and have developed our recommendations regarding these. In the main, nothing has changed from our existing constitution and bylaws, with a couple of exceptions and these are outlined below.

SR3. There is no maximum number of consecutive terms for which a Committee member may serve in the same role.
Currently, this stands at one year for the President and three years for other Committee members, but can be extended under certain circumstances.

SR7. The maximum number of ordinary members of the club will be 100.
Currently, this is not defined.

As part of this review, the Financial year for our club will now be 1 January to 31 December each year, instead of 1 March to end of February. This was raised by Ray Cook and discussed at recent meetings. The matter was agreed to by a majority of the members, using a show of hands at our November meeting and will be implemented from December 2025.

A motion to adopt the new constitution and standing resolutions will be proposed at our General Meeting in January 2026. This was discussed and copies made available to interested members at our November meeting. If you would like copies of the proposed constitution and standing resolutions and the existing constitution and by-laws, please contact the President, Sue Brown.

Something to do



If you are looking for something to do, maybe a relaxing lunch. Hop on a train to Cronulla and after a short walk, you will find Cronulla RSL club.

Go to the bistro area, pick a table overlooking the beach where you can see right around to Boat Harbor. Enjoy a relaxing lunch with a nice glass of red (or white), finish with a great coffee and just watch one of the Shire's great views from your table.

Cronulla RSL -38 Gerrale Street, Cronulla 9523 6833

Traveller's Tales (2)

The Giants House, Akaroa, New Zealand

Thanks Denise Ericsson

Eight years ago, I was on a cruise to New Zealand prior to entering hospital to have foot surgery. For my journeys ashore, I had to choose excursions which were not too strenuous. In Akaroa, I chose a bus tour which included travelling to Barry's Bay Cheese Factory, The Okains Bay Maori and Colonial Museum and a visit to The Giants House. I wondered what the Giants House would be all about, and whether I had made a good choice in selecting this tour.

The scenery travelling to Barrys Bay and Okains Bay was spectacular and to conclude we travelled back to Akaroa to visit The Giants House. The bus pulled up at the base of a steep hill, with a signpost which announced we had arrived at the Rue Balguerie. The driver stopped the bus and announced, "you have to get off now, as the bus is not able to go up the hill". What a bedraggled lot we were trudging up this steep hill, some of us less fit than others, having to stop several times to catch our breath.



Fortunately, it was well worth the effort!!! The story goes that over a hundred years ago, a small girl looked up at the grand two-story house which she saw emerging from the bush above Akaroa and imagined that Giants lived there. The house was originally built for the first manager of the Bank of NZ in 1881 and was then named Linton. We were greeted by a very colourful lady who was the creator of this incredibly beautiful and quirky restored house and magnificent garden. Josie Martins is an International Artist and Horticulturist, who has spent many years travelling the world as a practicing artist in residence, absorbing their cultures and artwork.



Being on a hillside, the gardens are terraced with mosaics and sculptures of musicians and of whimsical animals, birds and comical characters. There are stairways with spider steps, there is a rainbow staircase, a mosaic sculpture of Marcel Marceau, and the "Nosy Parkers", a mosaic sculpture of two dogs looking over a terrace wall. The influence of Gaudi and Barcelona is everywhere. A grand piano which is set in the garden has been covered with mosaics, and planted with succulents. It is almost impossible to describe the joy, fantasy and wonder of this magnificent, creative house and garden and how it lifts your spirit.

While I was gazing with pleasure at the kitchen and saying to myself, "I could live here", a voice behind me said "me too". I turned round to see another fellow traveller eyeing off the happy yellow kitchen with colourful plates on the wall and the navy blue and white tiled floor. We just laughed and started talking. We continued around this beautiful house, all the while learning that my newfound friend and I shared a mutual love of art, sculpture and gardening.

That was the start of a lovely friendship which continues today. I have mentioned The Giants House to many people including my travel agent, and strangely no one has heard of it. So, I am spreading the word! If you visit Akaroa please take the time to visit this unique house and garden, you will be absolutely amazed and delighted. You may even discover a new friend like I did.

Out and About

Fifth Wednesday activity. Restaurant at Beauty Point

Once again Jan and Bill had organised a lovely lunch for us at the Riverhigh Café Bar and Restaurant at Beauty Point Resort. It is a beautiful place, a great menu and friendly staff. We had a very good attendance and everybody enjoyed their meals and our time there. But it definitely came with a story!









The Curried Prawn Lament

By Sue Brown with endorsement from Sandra Gruene

It was Beauty Point on the fifth Wednesday
When all of Probus came out to play
And as usual, we battled the rain.
Oh no, Jan, wet weather again.

I checked the menu and made my choice
And told the server in a very loud voice
I'll have the special prawn curry
But they didn't have any, that was a worry.

So instead I ordered a seafood plate
And it was very nice, but wait!
What was that smell that was wafting by
And what did I see out of the corner of my eye?

I looked around, all in a flurry
And saw my friends eating prawns and curry!
What! I said. How could that be?
What! I said, what about little old me?

The curry cook had turned up late
If only I'd known to be patient and wait
I wouldn't have had that disappointment in vain
The prawns were back on the menu again.

A little birdie told the chef I was sad
And he didn't want me to feel so bad.
So he came up with an amazing deal
And presented me with a take away meal.

Thank you to the friendly chef, Dan
I am now his greatest fan.
I enjoyed the curry at home the next day
And I'll be back, come what may.



Out and About

Not quite the Fairground Follies.

Thanks Margaret Cousins

The Bowral Fairground Follies outing seemed silly for us to travel north to meet a coach then travel south past our home to attend, so we arranged to meet all there. Then, Warren being a committee member for our village was required to be present at a photographic appointment. Time 10am to 10.45 am the same day.

We left home promptly at 10.50 am, setting the car's GPS to Bowral, arriving just in time to see the coach driver board the bus and our members straggle on board. "Never mind, we'll follow them to the Tahmoor Inn and have lunch". I punched in the directions for said pub. The coach passed, so we followed. But the GPS said left, down a lane signposted with " Low Bridge ahead". Trustingly we followed the GPS and the coach drove on!! We followed blindly for quite a while, me muttering beneath my breath "Should have followed the coach", while Warren queried why would you travel sooo far south only to return to Condell Park later? The GPS had us turn into an insignificant country road and announced,
you have reached your destination".

I consulted my phone for the directions to Tahmoor Inn and was told it was 45mins in the northerly direction. Warren conceded we weren't going to have lunch with everyone, so we travelled back to Sutton Forrest Hotel for a quiet lunch for two. We continued back, but now getting directions only to Tahmoor. Several destinations were listed, I chose the Hotel on Remembrance Drive, arriving in time to watch the coach driver unlock the coach for members to board.

It was a lovely sunny day for a drive in the country



November Birthdays

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



December Birthdays

Bob Apolony, Mavis Burgess, Robert Crocker, Carolyn Dingeldie, Frances Dumbrell, Adele English, Margaret Golder, Peter Moore, Val Newman, Maureen Taylor, Carlia Touma



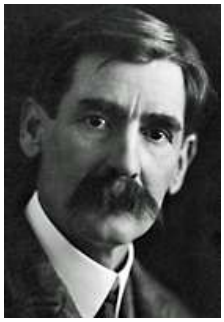


January Birthdays

Bill Brown, Barbara Doust, Beatrice Drew, Charlie Hattie, Annette Melville, Kathryn Muldoon, Giannina Och, Sylvia Somers

Best wishes every one Barbara Doust

In the Shire with Luppo



Did you know that Henry Lawson was a resident of the Shire?

Largely hidden in an idyllic bush setting by the water at Como West stand the foundation stones of the cottage where Henry Lawson lived for several years during and after WWI. Lawson also stayed at Cronulla, and he is seen in a photo at the official opening of the ocean wharf at Salmon Haul, just inside Port Hacking.

In 2006, the site and the foundation stones of the cottage Lawson rented in is now what is now Paruna Reserve, Como West. The site is near the former quarry from which the stone for the Como Railway Bridge and the Como Hotel was taken

Lawson constructed a bush timber railing beside a walkway from his cottage to a rock where he would sit, look at the Woronora River, and write poetry. Lawson spent much time contemplating and scratching his verse in the Bonnet, Periwinkle Cave and along the secluded and peaceful banks of the Woronora River.

The only access was via the Woronora River. Henry rowed his boat, or hitched a river-ride with a local, to the Como Hotel, tying the boat to a post in front of the door (before Scylla Bay was filled in).

He was regarded as a recluse, an aloof figure sitting in the corner of the pub. He didn't take much notice of what people were saying, not joining in the banter and hilarity. This was attributed to his deafness. He couldn't hear what was going on around him, but he did enjoy the friendly company and he would sometimes recite his poetry or sell them for drinks; and he had his regular spot in the old pub. His mates would come out from the city at the weekend, and they encouraged Henry's drinking, often repairing to the Como Hotel.

See you next Month Luppo

Willy and Dash's Lazy Wondering Walkers





Well on a beautiful Sydney sunny morning our small group of Lazy Wondering Walkers headed off for our walk around Circular Quay past the Opera House and around Farm Cove to Lady Macquaire's Chair and back to the Quay

It was only a small group of three for our walking group today, myself, Jenny Bargh and Warren Cousins. Billy was unable to join us today.

Our next walk is Friday 12th December, meeting at 9.30 am at Wharf 4 Circular Quay. We would love to see you.

Not in the Shire with Susie

Chester Hill

The area that became Chester Hill was originally the southern part of John Thomas Campbell's *Campbell Hill* estate, which covered 1,000 acres in 1815 between Parramatta, Liverpool and Woodville Roads. Much of this land remained undeveloped until the first subdivision was made in the 1920s when the first shops were also built. The post office opened in July 1934, and the first public school in January 1945.Development into a residential and light industrial suburb accelerated after the







railway line opened in 1924, with the station being named Chester Hill. A local resident, Miss H. A. McMillan, was instrumental in naming the suburb and the railway station. She first suggested "Hillcrest" and then "Hillchester" before finally proposing "Chester Hill," which was accepted. The name is thought to be an inversion of "Hillchester," which is derived from the Latin "castra," meaning "fortified camp".

A significant tract of land between Priam and Hector Streets had been occupied by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) from the 1960s. This area was used for accommodation and mess facilities for the nearby 2 Stores Depot (Regents Park) and the Ground Equipment Maintenance Squadron (Villawood). These properties were disposed of and subsequently acquired first by the Southern Cross Bible College and then by Salamah (Muslim) College.



Chester Hill is the home of Frenzy Park, a family entertainment centre. It has trampolines, a soft play area (complete with soft ball guns), a ninja course, rock climbing and a driving course (complete with traffic lights) where kids can drive their own mini cars and learn the road rules.

More next time, Sue



Wally and Nelly Waramuk's
Must see movie,
It's a Bullpitt production, a Kingswood movie all the way from Constantinople's Great Bazaar movie house and starring none other than
Billy Holliday, Jan Monroe and Dap Cooper
in **Ningizzida Country**.
See the book keeper for your free tickets**.**

Members' Corner

Thanks to all our contributors

Denise's One Liners

Thanks Denise

I used to have a handle on life, but then it broke

Rob's jokes of the week

Thanks Rob



What is the difference between the bird flu and the swine flu?...
One requires a tweet-ment, the other an oink-ment.

Why should you never use a dull pencil? Because it's pointless!

Why do melons have weddings? Because they cantaloupe

Why do Peruvian owls always hunt in pairs? Because they're inca-hoots!!!!

Only the Irish

Thanks Frances and Robert.



Through an unfortunate error, the wrong name appeared in a death notice in the morning paper. When the man alleged to be dead read the notice, he was extremely annoyed and rang the editor.

"I've just read my death notice in your paper", he said angrily.

"Really", the astonished editor replied, "and where are you ringing from?'

A little trivia for you

Do you know what NASA stands for ?

Answer later in the newsletter



Zigzag Zac's Book of the Month.

Gulf of El Dorado
By Billy Hopalong



Urgent Teletext

The next morning after a great night they all meet in Rick's cafe across the road from the Casbah to have breakfast and say their goodbyes and head off

While they were having coffee and breakfast, Pitt said to Sav, "a dicky bird told me you and Gramya took a late camel ride down to the ride-in theatre to see Casablanca on the big screen last night, hay ha so?" Sav said, "do you know it was the first movie I took Gramya to see some years ago Hey, that dicky bird should have helped pay for the camel."

Everyone was talking about last night in the Casbah with the band. Rob Hob could not believe how good Pitt and Gramya were. Kit Kat said he would like to know more about the Gramya, Sav and Pitt's relationship. They seem to go back a long way. Mongo said he had a great night, loved all the songs and thought Sammy finishing off with "You must remember this" was the best. Big Chuck said the bread was great, Clive got him thirds and Willy said "god help the camel."



After most had finished breakfast, Pitt said "Ok it's time to go over what is happening today and tomorrow, so firstly. Ben Binalong, Harry Howlong and Bev Binhow will be here in one hour with your camels. We need to be heading off 30 minutes after that as we have a 3-hour ride to our overnight stop at Domodedovo (be aware this place is a bombed out old camel stop so don't expect too much). It's a barn, but it'll be comfortable. We will have a short comfort stop at Chamdo Springs on the way.

Then tomorrow we have a 5-hour ride to the City of Nebuchadnezzar, we stay there for two nights - I'll fill you in more from there.

Mongo said, "Hey Chucky, you ready for our camel ride?. Kit Kat said, Is the camel ready for Chucky? "Hey, Chuck, don't eat any more bread", said Rob Hob.

Sav came over to Pitt, quickly saying "don't look, but across the road in that cafe are three of the bandits that chased us 5 days ago on the way here". "Yes" Pitt said, "and in the back of the cafe is the head bandit, so don't say anything to the others, but keep your eyes open". Just then, Gramya came over, "did you see who is over the road"? Yep, Pitt said, keep it to ourselves. Just then Willy said look, it's the camels.

So, what are the bandits up to and how will the group go with the camels?
See ya next month to find out.



Winslow Wig's Who said that?

I'm at the age when my back goes out more than I do!

Answer at the end of the newsletter



Andrea's Welfare Report

We were saddened to hear that Darryl Drew and Mavis Burgess passed away recently. Our thoughts are with their families. Unfortunately, Beatrice is now back in hospital and Tony Burgess is now in hospital awaiting transfer to palliative care. Elizabeth Crocker is still struggling with her leg and is not very mobile at the moment.

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

Immniileatb



How did you go with (lmmniileatb). Of course it's Nimmitabell. It's a small, historic township located in the Monaro region of New South Wales. It's known for its rolling plains, proximity to the Snowy Mountains, and its annual Steampunk at Altitude festival.

The town is also recognized for its significant altitude (1070 meters above sea level), making it one of the highest in Australia.

Answers



Who said that: Phyllis Diller

Little trivia answer**:**
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA

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.