The Collective Spirit

Brought to you by the Members of George's Hall Probus Club.

Issue 83 - 1 March, 2026

President's Report

Our February meeting was our birthday meeting, we celebrated 32 years as a club, which is quite an achievement. We celebrated with a beautiful cake that disappeared very quickly. Thanks to Keith and Heather for organising the cake and Colleen for organising the plates and serving it out. The cake was cut by Dimiti Finch who was awarded a twenty year certificate. Congratulations Dimiti.









It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Dawn Yates. Dawn had only been a member of our club for a very short time, but she had many friends among our members. She will be sorely missed. Our thoughts go out to her family and all her friends.

Our guest speaker this month was Gillian Lewis from the Maritime Museum who gave us an interesting talk on the "Salvage of the Century", the recovery of gold from HMS Edinburgh sunk during WWII. There will be no speaker at our March meeting which will be our Annual General Meeting. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Keep smiling, Sue Brown



February Birthdays

Cheryl Beaver, Colleen Cook, Robyn Elder, Sue Israel, Norma Jenkins, Sally Touma, Diane Tuckey, Marg Sharp



March Birthdays

Mary Crouch, Laura Morgan, Margaret Shirlow, Be Spithill, Linda Urquart, Karen Locke, Meryl Waters

Best wishes every one Barbara Doust

From the Money Man



Our finances at 24/02/2026 were:

Balance carried forward 1 January 2026		**6,309.57**
Receipts		
Attendance fees received	496.00	
Membership fees	275.00	
Outings	10,284	
Raffle	126.00	
Reserve transfers	0	
Theatre shows	50.00	
Trading table	82.00	
Total Receipts		**11,313.00**
Payments		
Attendance fees paid	-480.00	
Capitation Fees Probus SP	0.00	
General expenses	-173.50	
Guest speaker	0.00	
New Equipment	-798.00	
……Raffle Prizes	-140.00	
Outings Payments	-3,100.00	
Reserve Payments	0.00	
…….Theatre payments	0.00	
General expenses	0.00	
Raffle prizes		
Total Payments		**-4,691.50**
Total funds held		**12,931.07**
Less Deposits for Outings/Club Grant		-8,324.00
Club Funds available		**4,607.07**

Ray Cook

Our Front Desk:

When you enter the room at Club Condell Park where we hold our meetings, the first people you see are our ladies that look after the procedural matters that have to be checked and completed first up.

1.Have your name marked off as attending. Please wear your **NAME badge**.

2. Pay your attendance fee of **$8.00** per person

3. Purchase raffle tickets. Three tickets for **$2.00**. It is not compulsory to buy tickets, but it goes towards supporting our club activities.

4. It is always helpful if you have the right money or at least small notes. (We don't have a large 'float' and if we get too many large notes, the process of moving members through smoothly can be held up while we have to look for sufficient change.)

Each of the above takes a small amount of time and must be done so please be patient and respectful.

Thanks Ray Cook

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

Upcoming events:

4 March	Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30
18 March	Bahai Temple and Pittwater Tour. Coach will leave Club Condell Park at 8.30 am.
21 March	*The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Guild Theatre, Rockdale at 2.00 pm. **This is a Saturday**. Cost $25. Payment now.
1 April	Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30
15 April	Lunch at the Little Snail, from 11.30. 50 Murray Street, Pyrmont. $48 to be paid now. Payment for drinks to be paid at the restaurant on the day.

Other activities planned for 2026.

29-30 April	2 day Blue Mountain Getaway with High Tea at the Hydro Majestic and trip on the Zigzag Railway. Full payment due NOW.
7 May	Biggest Morning tea at home of Jan and Bill. All proceeds to the Cancer Council. **This will be a Thursday**.
19 June	Tour and High Tea at Parliament House of NSW, 11.30 am, Strangers Restaurant, 8 Macquarie Street, Sydney. **Note that this is a Friday.** Cost $70 per person. Payment required by 27 May.
29 Oct – 2 Nov	Proposed tour to Grafton for the Jacaranda Festival. Cost $1575, single supplement $399. We need a minimum of 30 persons for this tour and we need to confirm our booking immediately. Please put your name down NOW if you wish to attend.

Please make sure that you put your name down on the lists found at the tour desk if you wish to attend any functions. Information sheets for all activities are provided there. Also please pay attention to the final dates for payments.

Keep Safe, Jan

Winslow Wig's Who said that?



Yesterday is history
Tomorrow is a mystery
Today is a gift
That's why we call it the present



Answer at the end of the newsletter

Out and About – Lunch at Club Menai

Our first outing of the year was a lunch at Club Menai. The food was good , as usual. And so was the company.



















Zigzag Zac's Book of the Month.

Crossing the Desert
By Yo Camel



Something to do



If you like Thai food take a drive to Como and try the *Rim Nam Thai Restaurant*, 2 Cremona Road, Como - for lunch or dinner. Hop on a train or jump in the car and come down and try *Rim Nam Thai* in the heart of the Shire where people are friendly, and boys grow into men!

"Thai Rim Nam is nestled amongst the trees in historic Como, overlooking the Georges River and surrounded by nature – sit back, relax and lose yourself in our beautiful surrounds. Enjoy a wide range of authentic Thai cuisine, mouth watering desserts and choose from our extensive wine list. This combined with our warm hospitality will create a unique dining experience. Our extensive menu features a wide range of local produce and fresh ingredients with true Thai flavours and no added MSG."

Willy and Dash's Lazy Wandering Walkers



If you are interested in doing a lazy 2km to 3km walk with a little fun and one or two surprises on the way, with a coffee and cake after – then join Dash and Willy on the **last Friday** of each month. Our calendar dates for the next 3 months are as follows:

March 27th: meet at Wharf 4, Circular Quay at 10am. We will catch a ferry to Milsons Point and walk to the Secret Garden – about a 2.4km walk – coffee after at Milsons Point or back at the Quay (up to you!). This walk is low grade but has about 10 steps into and out of the garden.

April 24th: meet outside Customs House, Circular Quay at 10am. We will walk the Little Laneways of Sydney – about a 2.2km walk – coffee after or on the way (up to you!) This walk is a low-grade walk.)

May 29th: meet at Wharf 2, Circular Quay at 10am for a 2.9km walk over the Harbour Bridge to Milsons Point. A coffee at Milsons Point and a ferry ride back to the Quay, or, a coffee at the Quay – your choice. (This walk has a gradual up-hill walk for around 1.5kms of the walk.)

Weather: if temperature is forecast above 33° F **we don't walk**. If the weather forecast is for rain, **we don't walk**.

NO SPEED WALKERS ALLOWED!!!

We will wait for 10 minutes before heading off on our walks. You can call Dash on 0417 490 740 if you are running late.

(Ciao Bella, Dash and Willy)

In the Shire with Luppo

Oyster Bay Public School (OBPS) opened in February 1944, starting as a single-teacher school due to strong community demand, and has since grown into a vibrant hub with two sites serving hundreds of students in the Sutherland Shire, known for strong community involvement, restorative practices, and diverse programs.

The school has expanded significantly, exceeding 400 students by 2014 and now operating across two sites (primary for Years 3-6 and infants for K-2) just 300 meters apart on Phillip Street. (Note from Dave, it had 2 sites in 1957 when I was there as well just in case they forgot).

OBPS is central to the Oyster Bay community, known for active parent involvement and core values like respect, resilience, responsibility, and compassion. It offers strong programs, in creative arts (band, choir, dance) and sports.

The school's development coincided with post-WWII growth in Oyster Bay, with pathways and steps built in the 1930s connecting the suburb to the bay and Como.

The school ran its inaugural Oyster Bay Art and Craft Festival in 1970. Today, it is the largest event of its kind in the southern part of Sydney and has become a proud tradition of our school community. Each year, thousands of dollars in fundraising goes directly into classrooms and school programs, providing high-quality educational resources that benefit every student.



The success of the festival is made possible by the outstanding support of the parents and the wider Oyster Bay community. Staff, students and families work together for months to plan the event, which is renowned for its excellent organisation, high-quality exhibits and fun playground activities for children.

The festival opens on Friday night with an exciting program that includes an auction, entertainment and the presentation of art and craft awards. The weekend continues with a wide range of stalls, rides and games, live entertainment, and performances by the school bands, choirs and dance groups. After more than five decades, the last weekend in May remains a highlight of the year.

And guess who attended Oyster Bay Public School in the two sites - a Kit Kat if you can guess.

See you next Month, Luppo



Wally and Nelly Waramuk's
Must see movie,
All the way from Rick's in downtown Casablanca,
a Baghdad production, a Kabul film and starring
Billy Fats Wal'a and Dave Ned Noodle –
it's "Major Holdup".
Get your free ticket at morning tea.



Aromatherapy



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

by Elizabeth Rea

Over the last few weeks, I've found myself being taken back to songs, sayings, etc from the 60's, 70's and probably the 80's. More from things arriving on my phone through Facebook, Instagram, etc. Not that you'll find me, head in my phone, tapping messages etc. But the necessity of deleting things often draws me to articles etc. that people have posted and occasionally they can be interesting, funny or both.

One of the first things I came across was a posting of Murphy's Real Laws: I hope you get a giggle from them.

Everyone has a photographic memory. Though some don't have film.
He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory. (*I think that can sometimes be me in all three*!!)

Then there are sayings we would have known from the 50's, 60's and I'm sure into the 70's.
Does anyone remember driving a jalopy?
Everything's Hunky Dory – and we're not talking about a fish.

This triggered so many memories - typing on a manual typewriter – carbon copy! Carbon paper! If you were typing a report for the boss and you had to type three copies and you made a mistake. Rolling the paper up and individually erasing the error on each page. (Mmm, I think we had something called Tippex, small tabs of paper that you put between each page!? Bless the person who invented Liquid Paper).

'Sounding like a broken record.' (Although with vinyl coming back in, you never know!!!)
And putting on our 'best bib and tucker' when we were going out!!

Then on to music – I was trying to find something easy to listen to which doesn't distract me from what I'm doing (i.e. compiling our Newsletter and concentrating on spelling.)

Having gone through my CD's – yes, I still have some (many!!) But no, so looked through the TV channels and I found 'Crooners and Swooners'. Songs that are easy to listen to and just quiet in the background. Many male singers to start, but it made me think of the TV shows we watched, in black & white, The Andy Williams Show, Perry Como, Ed Sullivan, (I can still see him introducing the Beatles!)

But the Crooners: Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Dean Martin, Sammy David Jnr, etc, etc, - and the thing that floored me, almost literally, I was walking through the loungeroom singing along with the words and looked up – and it's Jimmy Durante!!! Heaven forbid, and I knew the words!!
Time to log out – I hope this has given you a giggle or two.

Next month, I think I'll dive into the swooners, female singers and inventors! Or anything you may mention. A couple of people spoke to me after our meeting, and I have some things to follow up!
Till then, stay safe, Liz

Not in the Shire with Susie

The Crossroads at Casula, the Hunts Motel



Another landmark at the Crossroads at Casula in the Hunts Motel. It all started back in 1960, when Harry's father and siblings began what was then known as Hunts Motel, a modest family business that would grow to become a local landmark. Situated at The Cross Roads, the motel offered 11 rooms when Hunts first opened its doors. It catered to travellers heading up and down the old Hume Highway with room tariffs a modest $5.50 a night, a reasonable ask for the 1960s. The motel further expanded in the 1970s to include a first class seafood restaurant, an indulgence that was practically unheard of in South Western Sydney at the time.







History will remember Harry Hunt as a leader in small business, industry, philanthropy and a passionate advocate for the people of Liverpool and Macarthur. He was often called Mr Liverpool, and so his name will live on. In 1971 Harry married his wife, Sybra, and together they had three children, with his two daughters born and raised in the hotel their parents owned. In the 1980s, Harry bought the business from his siblings and begin a re-development. By the time Harry was finished, Hunts was a 140-room hotel and conference centre, boasting more than five acres with its own pool and tennis court.

Harry Hunt served as president on the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce for many years, was also involved in NSW Business Chamber, was the founder and president of the South-West Sydney Tourism Taskforce and Development Economic Taskforce, among many others. As a successful businessman, Harry was also compassionate and generous. He was a supporter of multiple local charities and hosted many fundraising events, breakfasts and dinners for Lifeline, Youth Solutions, Liverpool Quota and Liverpool Rotary.

For many years, Harry and Sybra put on a Christmas lunch for those in need at Hunts Hotel. Later he started providing accommodation to those left homeless due to the wildfires in NSW in 2019. This was a valuable trial run for when those needing accommodation when Covid-19 came knocking, and then the floods in 2020. This program then evolved into providing emergency shelter for people escaping domestic violence situations and other family emergencies.

More next time, Sue

Members' Corner

Thanks to all our contributors

Denise's One Liners

Thanks Denise

Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die
W C Fields

Rob's jokes of the week

Thanks Rob

Good morning. How did the computer catch a chill?
It's Windows were left open!!

What is NOVINOPHOBIA??
The fear of running out of wine.

My New Year's resolution is to give up eating all deli meats. I know it will be hard to quit cold turkey.

Only the Irish

Thanks Frances and Robert.

Son: Dad, what's an alibi?
Father: An alibi is the ability to be in two places at once.

Overheard on a Dublin bus.
"How's your wife?"
"She's very sick".
"Oh, dangerous?".
"No, she's too weak to be dangerous".

Seamus loved the drink. Every evening he would go down to the pub and come home drunk. This was very trying for his wife. Then she had a brilliant idea.



Seamus always took a shortcut home on a path that led him through the churchyard. So she got hold of a pair of horns, a devil's mask and a black curtain.

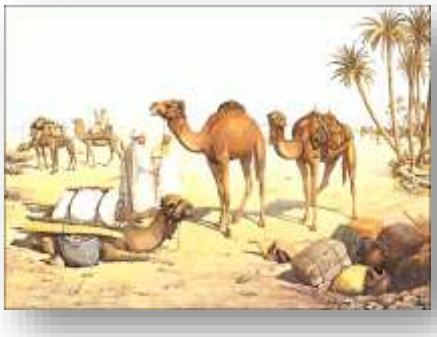
Late one night when she knew he'd be returning from the pub, she dressed in them and hid behind a tall tombstone. When she spotted Seamus staggering home, she jumped out, thinking that he'd be scared out of his wits.

"I'm the devil" she roared.
"Well, I'm very pleased to meet you" Seamus replied. "We're sort of related. You see, I'm married to your sister"!

Murphy's Law:

Never argue with a fool – people might not know the difference!

Urgent Teletext
Dash and Willy's Journal of The Days of Their Live's



All was looking good after the first 65 minutes. Big Chuck was in the saddle "not looking too good" but he was in good hands with Bev Binhow by his side. He had a little trouble with his hoody, but it was ok. Kit Kat and Rob Hob were doing it ok, looking like professionals. Mongo was a little uneasy in the saddle but looking better as time went on. Flies were his problem. Unlike the rest of the group, he decided not to use the gimshee (a net going over your face.)

Will and Dasha were towards the back and, considering Dasha had his guitar over his shoulder, he was good. Willy's harmonica was in his pocket he was bouncing around with a smile. Pitt was up the front keeping a close eye on the surrounding country while Gramya was next to Mongo talking about the last night's concert and bringing up the rear was Sav, keeping both eyes on the country around and behind him.

Pitt folded back to Sav leaving B. Binalong and B. Howlong to be the forward command. How is it looking back here, Pitt asked. It's up and down, said Sav, but my old knee is telling me someone is watching us. Yes, Pitt said. We are only another 45 minutes from our first stop of the day at Chamdo Springs, where we will have a good view of anyone coming on us, so I think they will just watch us from the hills. Not long after, Chamdo Springs appeared in the distance. An old bombed out camel stop but it had shade and water. Pitt said to the BB's keep the camels close just loosen the saddles, don't take them off.

Pitt went ahead to check on the camp in case others were already using the site. He signed to the others to come in, all was clear. As Sav was the last in, Pitt said just do a ride around to make sure we don't have any issues. Ok, he said, see you in 10. Big Chuck was the first off his camel (fell off) and you guessed it, he asked, what's to eat. Slow down, Gramya told him. We need to look after the camels first. Bring yours over, then we set a roster as to who gets the food, sets up and who does the dishes. "I'll do the food, he said. "No Chucky, we will let Gramya do the roster, said Mongo. I'll second that, said Kit Kat.



Sav came back with the all-clear. The BB's had the camels in check, Gramya had the roster in check, with Kit Kat and Rob Hob doing the first food service. Mongo on with the utensils. Willy and Dasha on the pillows to sit on and Big Chucky on washing up. (Ho Ho it was heard) munka (eats) was coffee and pumpkin damper all round.

Pitt had a quiet word to Sav. We need to keep a very close eye out till we make camp at Domodedovo this evening. Along the way we need to tell Willy, Dasha and maybe Kit Kat about our thoughts on what is happening and what we need to do tonight. Good idea, said Sav, I'll let Gramya know.

So, will the bandits attack? See you next time to find out, Dave.

Andrea's Welfare Report

It was nice to see Elizabeth Crocker back at our meeting this week. Beatrice Drew is doing well and is hoping to come to the March meeting. Denise Ericsson is recovering well after recent surgery.

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

Highsenburg's Quiz

G'day! Well how did you go with (awesinliceh)?

Correct, it's Wincheilsea

Winchelsea is a historic, picturesque town in Victoria, Australia, located 115 km southwest of Melbourne on the Barwon River. Known for its rural charm and rich heritage, it serves as a gateway to the Otway Hinterlands and features attractions like the 42-room Barwon Park Mansion, the triple-arched bluestone bridge, and the Heritage Trail.



It was first settled in the 1830s, and features numerous National Trust listed properties and has a strong pastoral history.

The town has a population of 1,954. A famous resident was Elizabeth Phillips Harding who set up the Austin Hospital in Melbourne in 1882.

Answers

Who said that: Eleanor Roosevelt



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.