The Collective Spirit

Brought to you by the Members of George's Hall Probus Club.
Issue 84 - 29 March, 2026



President's Report

Hi everybody
Our March meeting and our Annual General Meeting went very well this week. 2025 has been a good year for our club and I look forward to 2026 being equally as good. I'm looking forward to continue working with the committee and all the members over the next year to continue growing our thriving and friendly club.





2026 is the 50th Anniversary of Probus Clubs in Australia. We will be celebrating this later in the year, so look out for more details about this. An afternoon tea was recently held at Government House to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of Probus. 100 Proberians from 100 different NSW Probus clubs were entertained by the Governor of NSW, Margaret Beazley and I was honoured to be part of this group.

It was very interesting talking to others about their clubs. They are all run very differently, but its not surprising to learn that we all face similar challenges. Succession planning is always on everybody's mind. Clubs do not run themselves, they need people to do the work behind the scenes. I heard stories of other Probus clubs who had many members but had to fold because they were unable to find office bearers and we hope that is never the case for our club. But many of our office bearers have been undertaking their roles for many years and that is not sustainable. They all work very hard but cannot continue to do this forever. We need new people, with new ideas.

If you feel that you would like to contribute in future years please come and talk to any of our committee. This will give you a chance to learn about the respective roles and we, as a club can have a viable progression plan.

We will also continue to pursue new members for our club and I encourage every member to take this on board. We welcomed our newest member at the meeting, Barbara Kains and we would like to thank her for her donation of jams for our trading table. Along with Margaret Cousins, these raised $90 towards our club funds.

However, we can't forget our long standing members, who are the backbone of our club. Almost half our members have been with us for more than ten years. That is an outstanding achievement. We have honoured many of these members previously, but this month presented Membership Award Certificates to eighteen members who have been part of our club for ten years or more. These were:

- Andrea Best
- Robert Best
- Bill Brown
- Jan Brown
- Dawn Slater
- Peter Moore
- Heather Wicks
- Muriel Richards
- Frances Dumbrell
- Robert Dumbrell
- Albert Ham
- Diane Ham
- Annette Melville
- Sandra Cohen
- Maureen Taylor
- Dave Lupton
- Margaret Cousins
- Denise Ericsson.

Our committee for 2026 was elected at our AGM. Thanks to all those members who have agreed to take on the various roles. And I would like to welcome a new face to our committee. Thank you to Carol Walshaw for taking up the Vice President role. Thanks to Owen Doust for acting as our returning officer.

President	Sue Brown
Vice Presidents	Heather Wicks, Carol Walshaw
Secretary	Gai Cavanough
Treasurer	Ray Cook
Tour Coordinators	Jan Brown, Margaret Golder
Membership Secretary	Barbara Doust
Guest Speaker Co-ordinator	Denise Ericsson
Newsletter Coordinators	Dave Lupton, Sue Brown, Elizabeth Rea

Other positions filled:

Theatre Party Co-ordinator	Margaret Cousins
Welfare Officer	Andrea Best
Front Desk	Heather McGuckin, Colleen Cook, Barbara Doust
Auditor	Owen Doust
Public Officer	Owen Doust
Receipts	Margaret Shirlow, Heather Wicks
Trading Table books	Andrea and Robert Best

At the AGM we awarded Life Membership to two of our valuable members, Jan Brown and Ray Cook.



Both these people have made outstanding contributions to our club over the years and we thank them for that.

Keep smiling, Sue Brown

From the Money Man

Our audited Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Ray Cook, Treasurer

Georges Hall Probus Club Inc. Annual Treasurers Report

Financial Statement for year ended 31st December 2025.

Balance carried forward from previous year	**$ 28191**
Cash Receipts	$120356
Cash Payments	$142237
Closing Balance	**$ 6310**
Made up by: Club Funds	$ 5220
Deposits for Future Outings/Tours/Etc	$ 1090

Club Assets

Projector: $1113,(30/01/2019) PA System: $1039,(3/11/2017) Laptop Computer: Gift

Club Funds Summary

Balance 1st March 2025		**$28191**
Income		
Attendance Fees Received	$ 4824	
Club Grant	$ 1700	
Membership Fees	$ 908	
Raffle	$ 1198	
Outings	$ 37971	
Trading Table	$ 1261	
Reserve Transfers	$ 4194	
Theatre Shows	$ 425	
Tour Hobart	$ 5300	
Tour Lighting Ridge	$ 62575	**$120356**
Expenses		
Attendance Fees Paid	$ -4720	
Capitation Fees; Probus SP	$ -1750	
General Expenses	$ -1290	
Guest Speaker	$ -345	
Raffle Prizes	$ -340	
Outing Payments	$-42298	
Reserve A/c Payments	$ -4194	
Theatre Payments	$ -450	
Completed Tours	$ -86850	
		$142237
Balance 31st December 2025		**$6310**

Membership No: 89.

Thanks to the Members and committee for their support.

.....Raymond Cook, Treasurer.23rd February 2026

Audit Statement

I have examined the accounts of Georges Hall Probus Club Inc for the year ended 31st December 2025.

In my opinion this statement is consistent with the supporting records and gives a true and fair view of the Clubs Financial results for this period.

.....Owen Doust. Hon Auditor 23rd February 2026

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

Upcoming events:

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.
29-30 April	2 day Blue Mountain Getaway with High Tea at the Hydro Majestic and trip on the Zigzag Railway.
6 May	Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30
7 May	Biggest Morning tea at home of Jan and Bill. All proceeds to the Cancer Council. **This will be a Thursday**. Please place names on list at tour desk. This is essential for catering and organisation of seating.
Friday 29 May	Willie and Dash's Wandering Walk. See details later in the Newsletter.
Saturday 6 June	"Brighton Beach Memoirs", a play by Neil Simon at the Guild Theatre Rockdale. Cost $25.
Friday 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 23 April.
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







Something to think about

Thanks, Warren Cousins

Barely the day started and …. its already six in the evening
Barely arrived on Monday and its already Friday

…… and the month is already over
…… and the year is almost over
…… and already 40, 50 or 60 years of our lives have passed
…… and we realise that we lost our parents, friends
…… and we realise its too late to go back.



So Lets try, despite everything, to enjoy the remaining time
Lets keep looking for activities that we like.
Lets put some colour in our grey.
Lets smile at the little things in life that put balm in our hearts.

And despite everything, continue to enjoy with serenity the time we have left.
Lets try to eliminate the afters.
I'm doing it after ……
I'll say after ……
I'll think about it after ……

We leave everything for later like "after" is ours
Because what we don't understand is that

Afterwards, the coffee gets cold ……
Afterwards, priorities change ……
Afterwards, the charm is broken ……
Afterwards, health passes ……
Afterwards, the kids grow up ……
Afterwards, parents get old ……
Afterwards, promises are forgotten ……
Afterwards, the day becomes the night …..
Afterwards, life ends ……



And then its often too late
So Lets leave nothing for later.
Because still waiting for later, we can lose the best moments
The best friends
The best family

The day is today.
The moment is now.
We are no longer at the age where we can afford to postpone what needs to be done right away.
So lets see if you have time to read this message and then share it.
Or maybe, you'll leave it for "later"
And you'll never share it.

Out and About –
Trip to the Baha'i Temple

We had an enjoyable day out, visiting the Baha'i Temple at Ingleside, lunch at Club Palm Beach and a trip home via the Northern Beaches. The temple and grounds were beautiful and a very calming space. It's a shame the beaches were obscured by the rain but we had a good time anyway. Thanks to Jan, Bill and Margaret for organising the day and to all our wonderful members who made our fabulous morning tea.














Something to do

Hungry Point Cliff Top Walk



This extension to the Cronulla Coastal Walkway is the perfect place to end, rest, recover and enjoy the superb views across the Port Hacking to the suburbs of Bundeena and Maianbar. This magnificent waterway hosts a variety of watersport activities and has views out over the Royal National Park on the southern horizon.

The new elevated walkway is a suspended boardwalk and can be accessed directly from within Hungry Point Reserve (Nicholson Parade, Cronulla) or, directly from Cowra Place or, by following The Esplanade in a westerly direction from Salmon Haul Reserve. The site incorporates interpretive signage, seating, an accessible viewing platform and bush regeneration, enhancing the reserve's environmental value and visitor experience.

This pedestrian link at the southern tip of the Cronulla Peninsula leads from the east coast outlook to a viewing platform or, alternatively, a short walk up the stairs and (via Nicholson Parade) around to Darook Park Reserve on the picturesque Gunnamatta Bay.

Willy and Dash's Lazy Wandering Walkers



Unfortunately, our walk on Friday March 27th to the Secret Garden had to be cancelled, due to inclement weather. We will try an organise another date for this walk later in the year.

And our walk on Friday, April 24th also had to be cancelled. Life for Willy and Dash keeps getting in the way.

We are still planning to walk on the **last Friday** of each month. 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. Our next planned walk is:

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

The Imperial Hotel Clifton



The Imperial Hotel on the South Coast, at Clifton, has a rich history tied to local coal mining. A small timber pub was built on the site in 1884 to serve the bustling Clifton mining community, which grew to nearly 1,000 residents. After being acquired by Resch's Brewery, the original pub was demolished and replaced by the grander, existing building in 1911, becoming a significant local landmark.



The local coal mine's closure in 1991 significantly impacted the hotel, reducing its trade. This was further impacted when Lawrence Hargrave Drive closed in 2003 due to landslides. The road was closed for repairs for three years and the Imperial Hotel closed in 2003.



Shellharbour Workers Club purchased the building in 2015, initiating a significant renovation. The Imperial at Clifton reopened in 2021 as a revitalized venue with a restaurant, cafe, and event spaces, preserving its historic features like original fireplaces and timber stairs. blending modern design with its iconic clifftop heritage.

See you next Month, Luppo



March Birthdays

Mary Crouch, Laura Morgan, Margaret Shirlow, Bev Spithill, Linda Urquart, Karren Lock, Meryl Waters

April Birthdays

Marilyn Baulman, Liz Conway, Warren Cousins, Elizabeth Crocker, Robert Dumbrell, Max Jenkins, Keith McGuckin

Best wishes every one Barbara Doust



Winslow Wig's Who said that?



How do I confront aging? With a wonder and a terror



Answer at the end of the newsletter

Not in the Shire with Susie

Thanks to Judith Wilson for this month's story.

The Changing Face of Bankstown

St Paul's Anglican Church



Another piece of Bankstown's history is about to disappear. St Paul's Anglican Church, on the corner of Chapel Road and French Avenue is soon to be demolished to make way for a 23 story building, with 180 housing units and only about 40 car spaces.



This church has occupied this site since 1912. 114 years! The original building was a weatherboard building. In the 1930's, a brick building was commenced. It was to be built by Gordon Wilson Pty Ltd (owned and supervised by my father-in-law, William Gordon Wilson). With the available funds and the approaching war, only half the church was finished in this time.

After World War II, donations and fund raising commenced towards the completion of the church buildings. This eventuated in early 1960 by the same firm, with my husband, Leslie Gordon Wilson who supervised finishing the remaining building of the church and bell tower. The finished church was dedicated in February 1961 and consecrated in November 1968. A committee has unsuccessfully been trying for the last ten years to obtain Historical status for the church. It is also an Anzac History and Historical Memorial site with various ashes and plaques of Bankstown identities, WWII veterans and parishioners, resting in a special Memorial Garden and lining the church walls. There are also some previous Minister's ashes buried below the altar.

In the new build, there will be shops on ground level and office space on level one. The Church has been allocated a hall on level two for use of Sunday services and a unit available for the Minister's residence. Another hall will be available for Church on Friday evenings and Sundays, and available at other times for a Child Care Centre and public usage.

Our Bankstown history goes back to early settlement and its so disappointing that we have so little history and original buildings in Bankstown to be proud of and be able to pass onto our children and newcomers to the area.

Notes about the proposed development.



The development will provide 185 apartments, mainly studio and 1 bedroom apartments, for seniors, essential workers, women over 55, and a four-bedroom rectory for the church's Senior Minister. Anglicare Sydney will operate the housing and provide support services. Also included is a new purpose-built church and ministry centre for up to 500 people, a 50-place early learning centre, retail and commercial spaces, and a 61-space car park.

More next time, Sue

Members' Corner

Thanks to all our contributors

Denise's One Liners

Thanks Denise

You will always find something in the last place you look.

Rob's jokes of the week

Thanks Rob

Why did the man raise his left foot at midnight on December 31?
He wanted to start the new year on the right foot

What happened when a truck carrying Vicks VapoRub crashed on the freeway?
There was no congestion for hours!!!!

Only the Irish

Thanks Frances and Robert.



At the end of the party, a guest was searching for his coat.
"Sure, you're wearing it", said his host.
"Why, so I am", he exclaimed. "I'm so glad you told me or I'd have gone home without it"!

Have you heard about the explorer who paid 10 euro for a sheet of sandpaper? He thought it was a map of the Sahara Desert.



A wealthy tycoon brought a 1,000 acre farm. He paid more than the property was worth because a magnificent pine tree, said to be 300 years old was growing there. Back in the city, many of his friends didn't believe that the pine was that old. So the new older called his caretaker, Jack to verify the tree's age.

Four days later, Jack reported his findings. "Good news, boss" he said. "this tree is even older than we thought – its an incredible 332 years old!" "Excellent work, Jack" the tycoon replies. "and how did you manage to pin point its age?"

"Simple" he replied. "we cut it down and counted the rings"!

Murphy's Law

A bird in the hand is safer than one over head.





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

So after pumpkin damper and coffee everyone was back in the saddle heading to the night camp at Domodedovo. It was still about 2 hours ride away. They had been lucky with the heat, it's only been 43 degrees. But tonight's temperatures will drop to around 6 degrees. A wise move by Pitt to bring swags instead of sleeping bags.

Pitt, Gramya and Sav had a quiet talk to the small group while everyone was eating. They chose to tell them about the bandits and what might be happening that night. Dash, Willy and Kit Kat suggested they add Rod Hod which was agreed to by Pitt. The only two that would have no idea what was going on would be Big Chuck and Mongo and Pitt would take responsibility for not telling them and explain why.

As they were breaking camp Sav said to Pitt and Gramya that he spotted what looked like a glare from something shiny in the distance. Pitt told him to keep a watch and when they got about 45 minutes from the camp he wanted Sav to go ahead and check it out. Then he told Mongo to gather up those four wild chooks that had roamed into camp, we will need them. Straight away Big Chuck said "you blood good one, chicken for dinner". "Ok" said Pitt "you help Mongo". Well you should have seen the mayhem but the two of them finely rounded them up. Sav told them to stick them into the black bags he gave them as it would settle them down. Kit Kat asked Willy and Dash what does Pitt want with the chooks ? Willy just said Pitt will tell them in good time.

The ride to Domodedovo was slow but quiet. They were on time as far as Pitt was concerned, so all was going well. As he folded back to Sav, past Gramya he said "you stick with Dash and Willy like glue tonight, no doing your own thing". "Ok" she said. Dropping back to Sav he said "in about 15 minutes go ahead and check out the camp. The bandits will hang back till they think we are all asleep. So you take Kit Kat on the left and I'll take Rob Hob on the right. That will leave the boys and Gramya over the back." Pitt said he thinks the bandits will come in the middle of the pass as it's the only way into the old camp.



So Sav stayed back behind a group of rocks while the group headed off to the camp. He stayed for about 15 minutes until he could see the bandits approaching, there were only 3 in the group. Then he took off, cut in front of our group making to camp Domodedovo where he did what Pitt had asked him to do. Then it was time to make a brew of coffee, break open a pumpkin biscuit and wait as the group would be 10 to 15 minutes away.

So what will the night bring? See you next month to find out. Dave.



Zigzag Zac's Book of the Month.
The Tea Party
By Phil T Pot



Andrea's Welfare Report

It was nice to see Denise Ericsson back at our meeting this week following her surgery. Beatrice Drew is back in hospital but is doing well. Max Jenkins is in hospital.

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



Daylight Saving

Don't forget to set your clocks back.
One hour behind at 2 am
On Sunday 5 April 2026.

Highsenburg's Quiz

So lets see if you can unscramble this weeks jumble. The answer will be in next month's edition and it's not in Queensland .

ooerpckono

C ya then H.

Answers

Who said that: Keanu Reeves



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.