The Collective Spirit

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

Issue 85 - 27 April, 2026

President's Report



Hi everybody

It was another good turnout at our meeting this week. April is the beginning of a new Probus year and we are starting the year with 77 members. We are all looking forward to another good year.



Probus is celebrating 50 years in Australia this year and we are proposing to celebrate it later this year. At the moment, the plans are for a cocktail party on 30 September. Stay tuned for more information.

Our guest speaker this month was Nick Gleeson. Nick is an amazing and inspirational man. He is a wonderful speaker and had the whole group enthralled. When we listen to him talk about his exploits, mountain climbing, marathon races, cricket, football, it reminds us all to give thanks for all the good things in our lives.

Keep smiling, Sue



Vale, Ron English

We were saddened to learn of the sudden death of Ron English on 14 April. Ron and his wife Adele have been long time members of our club. Our thoughts are with Adele and the family. RIP Ron.
Ron's funeral will take place on Friday 1st May at 1-00pm at Forest Lawn Memorial Park Leppington, North Chapel. Refreshments will be provided following the service, location to be advised.



Vale, Diane Harvey

It is with deep regret that I advise you of the passing of another of our members. Diane Harvey (Di) passed away on Sunday 5 April, surrounded with family, friends and a lot of love. She is now flying free, soaring high. Di courageously battled cancer for a number of years but always had a smile on her face and an amazing attitude. Our thoughts go out to her family and friends, she will be sorely missed.



I had to include my favourite photo of Di, taken on our trip to Yarrawonga. When she walked through the door on that last night, we knew that she had won the prize for the most creative hat!

From the Money Man



Georges Hall Probus Club Inc.

Financial Summary
As at 21 April, 2026 :

Balance carried forward		**6,309.57**
Receipts		
Attendance fees received	1,560.00	
Membership fees	1,975.00	
Outings	23,633.00	
Raffle	412.00	
Reserve transfers	300.00	
Theatre shows	275.00	
Trading table	307.00	
Total Receipts		**28,462.00**
Expenses:		
Attendance fees paid	1,544.00	
General expenses	824.58	
Guest speaker	70.00	
New Equipment	798.00	
……Raffle Prizes	160.00	
Outings Payments	20,260.00	
Reserve Payments	296.00	
……Theatre payments	275.00	
Total Payments		**24,227.58**
Total Funds Held		**10,543.99**
Less Reserve Account		4.00
Less Capitation Fees 77 x $21.50 =		1,655.50
Club Funds available		**4,421.49**

Ray Cook



April Birthdays

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

May Birthdays

Judith Brooker, Dimiti Finch, Dave Lupton, Margaret Miles, Irena Nowak, Dawn Slater, Judith Wilson

Best wishes every one Barbara Doust





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



Upcoming events:

29-30 April	2 day Blue Mountain Getaway with High Tea at the Hydro Majestic and trip on the Zigzag Railway. Tour is fully booked. **Please be on the bus at 8.00 am**.
6 May	Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30
7 May	Biggest Morning tea at home of Jan and Bill. 2 Stevens Street, Panania. All proceeds to the Cancer Council. **This will be a Thursday.** Cost $25 to be paid on the day. All proceeds to the Cancer Council. Please ensure your name is on our list. 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. Cost $70 per person. **Please note that in order to fit in with Parliamentary requirements, this tour is on a FRIDAY. If you haven't already paid, this is due now to assist with organisation of the finances.**
16 September	Proposed tour to Tulip Top Gardens, This is a longer day tour than the usual, as we have to travel much further than usual. We will leave at 7.30 a.m. and return about 5.15 p.m. The good news is that we will not be on the bus all day, we will spend two and a quarter hours in the gardens. The gardens are arguably the best Tulip display in the country and there is plenty of seating around the garden and the display with gentle background music throughout the park, it is superb. The cost for 30 persons is $90 per person and you do have morning tea at Heatherbrae Pies and lunch at the gardens **AT YOUR COST**. (You can bring your own lunch into the garden if you wish). If you wish to attend please place your name on the list at the tour desk. Please note change of price to make it easier for the ladies collecting the money,
29 Oct – 2 Nov	Proposed tour to Grafton for the Jacaranda Festival. Cost $1575, single supplement $399. Please obtain information sheet from tour desk. This is a "one off" tour, which has to occur at a particular time. Currently we have insufficient numbers to confirm our booking, so please place your name on the list if you wish to join the tour. At this time, Hopkinson's Tours have sent information to eight other Probus groups and expect to be able to obtain the numbers for this tour to go ahead.

Keep Safe, Jan

Reluctant Hero

Thanks, Bev Spitell



His life would be changed by a lottery draw,
If his number came out, he would be sent to war.
He did not have the right to say no,
Those ruling the country said he must go.
To fight in a land he had never heard of,
Far away from the land he loved.

He was but twenty when they sent him to Vietnam
He went as a boy and returned as a man.
To fight in a war that would never be won.

For what chance did he have when friend and foe looked alike
How could they call this a fair fight?
He would never forget this senseless war.
Often wondering what the hell he was fighting for.



He never talks of the horrors he went through
Of the mates that died by his side.
He did not return home with a feeling of pride.
No heroes welcome would there be here
Only the angry shouts of protesters when he drew near.
Calling him names because they did not understand
He was only following other's commands.

He did not choose to fight in this war
But he had no say in it, no say at all.

Willy and Dash's Lazy Wandering Walkers



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 33o 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)

Out and About

Lunch at the Little Snail

Photos by Denise Ericsson and Marg Golder

We were back to the Little Snail at Pyrmont for our three course French luncheon. This has proven to be a popular spot and we have now visited here many times. A trip in the train to Central, then the light rail to Pyrmont. An easy trip, even if the light rail was very crowded. Thanks to Jan, Bill and Mark Golder for organising the day and to Gai for providing us with excellent travel information.













Zigzag Zac's Book of the Month.

The Sink Whole.
By Phil T. Whole



Something to Do



If you like walking, you don't have to be a power walker, you might just like to walk slowly enjoying the open space around you. Then a great walk is from San Souci to Ramsgate or, if you are up to it, to Brighton, all along the beautiful waterways of the George's River and Botany Bay.

Starting at the St George Sailing Club just off Captain Cook Bridge, going past the site of (for those that remember) Mick Moylans Pub, past George's River 16 foot Sailing Club, along to Sandringham Park and around to Ramsgate. It takes an average walker around 60 minutes and if you want to keep on going to Brighton, it's another hour.

The clubs you pass have coffee shops outside and Ramsgate has two good coffee shops.

In the shire with Luppo.

Flemings Supermarket, Jannali



The Flemings supermarket in Jannali, was a local institution that operated for approximately 70 years, famously surviving for a decade as the last remaining Flemings-branded store in Australia before its closure on May 19, 2020.

Known for its nostalgic, old-fashioned, "step back in time" atmosphere, it operated as a, Woolworths-owned "secret" store, retaining original branding, non-digital signage, and a manual conveyor-belt system. The store was famous for having no self-service checkouts and operating with a traditional, personal service approach.

On May 19, 2020, Flemings Jannali closed its doors for good. The store was replaced by a modern Woolworths Metro just a few doors up on Box Road



Wally and Nelly Waramuk's

Must see movie,

All the way from Humpty Doo's outdoor walk in and sit down movie house. It's a Pilgrim production, a Flea Bag movie filmed on location in Mongos Forest. Starring James Brown-Bond, Dav Rick-Burton and for the first time, Sue Dribble Daws in the movie **Molly's Place.**

First screening booked out.

Not in the Shire with Susie
Bass Hill

Bass Hill is named after George Bass, a surgeon and explorer who was granted land here in 1798. He had arrived in the colony in 1795 and on arrival he and Matthew Flinders decided to explore parts of the colony. In 1796 on a small boat called the *Tom Thumb*, they sailed into Botany Bay and explored the Georges River. They sailed as far as present day Georges Hall.

The area developed rapidly after the completion of Liverpool Road in 1814. Originally known as Irish Town because of the Irish settlements, it later became known as Upper Bankstown. It became officially known as Bass Hill in October 1924.

During WWarII, Bass Hill was the location for a small transmitting station that was owned and operated by the RAAF. It was located on the corner of Manuka Crescent & Johnston Road. This facility worked in conjunction with the Bankstown Bunker on Black Charlies Hill and with a remote receiving station that was located in Picnic Point.



The Bass Hill Skyline Drive-In opened in 1956 and was the first drive-in theatre to operate in New South Wales. It later became a twin with a capacity for 724 cars. It was Australia's oldest continually operating drive-in theatre and closed in 2007. Following its demolition, a housing estate, named "Viewpoint" was established there.



The original Bass Hill Post Office was located on the corner of the Hume Highway and Hector Street, operating as both a post office and general store in the 1950's, with some members of the community recalling walking there to collect goods.

Bass Hill Plaza was established in 1984 and has undergone lots of redevelopment in that time. Today it includes a Woolworths Supermarket, Kmart, Aldi, Medical Centre, Post Office and approximately 60 specialty stores. It looks very different today to when it originally opened.

More next time, Sue





Members' Corner

Thanks to all our contributors

Rob's Joke of the Month

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

If farmer **A** sells apples and farmer **B** sells bananas what does farmer C sell?
Medicine!!!!!

Denise's One Liner

If it jams - force it. If it breaks, it needed replacing anyway

Murphy's Law

The other Line always moves faster

Only the Irish

Thanks Frances and Robert.

"Waiter, what is this stuff?"
"That's bean salad, sir."
"I don't care what its been I want to know what it is now!"



A man was travelling by himself in a hot air balloon. As he passed over West Cork, he called down to an old man. "Hello there, where am I?" The old man looked up. "Oh you can't fool me" he shouted, "you're up there in that little basket!"

More funnies

Thanks, Sandra Baker.

Wife: "Could you please go and buy one carton of milk, and if they have eggs, get 6".
Short time later, the husband walks in with 6 cartons of milk.
Wife: "Why did you buy six cartons of milk"?
Husband: "They had eggs!"

Boss: "Do you believe in life after death?"
Employee: "Certainly not, there's no proof of it."
Boss: "Well there is now, after you left early yesterday to go to your uncle's funeral, he came looking for you."

Out of the mouths of babes.

Teacher" Maria go to the map and point out where Australia is.
Maria: pointing, here it is
Teacher: Now who discovered Australia
Class: Maria did!

Teacher: Glenn, how do you spell crocodile
Glenn: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L
Teacher: No, that's wrong.
Glenn: Maybe its wrong but you asked how I spell it.

Teacher: Donald what is the formula for water
Donald: HIJKLMNO
Teacher: What are you talking about?
Donald: Yesterday you said it was H to O

Teacher: Clyde. Your composition on "My Dog" is exactly the same as your brothers. Did you copy it?
Clyde: No sir, it's the same dog.

Teacher: Harold what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested.
Harold: A teacher

Recipe Corner

Jam Drops
(Thanks Carol Walshaw)



125 g butter, softened
1 egg
225g (1 ½ cups) self-raising flour
Raspberry jam
110 g (1/2 cup) sugar
½ - 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
Pinch of salt

1. Preheat oven to 160° C. Grease a large baking tray.
2. Beat butter and sugar until creamy, light and fluffy.
   Add egg and vanilla and beat again until well blended.
   Fold in sifted flour and salt.
   Form into small balls the size of a walnut and place onto prepared tray, allowing room to spread.
3. Make indentation in the centre of each ball and place a small quantity of jam in each. Bake for about 20 minutes until the biscuits are light golden brown. Remove from oven, move positions of the biscuits on the tray quickly and allow to cool on the tray and become crisp.

Lemonade Scones

3 cups S.R. flour
1 cup 250 mls lemonade
1 cup (250 mls) cream
Milk for brushing

METHOD:
Preheat oven to 230 (fan forced)
Lightly grease oven tray
Sift flour
Make a well in the flour and add cream and lemonade
Mix quickly to a soft sticky dough with a knife.
Do not overmix
Turn onto a lightly floured board
Knead lightly. Press or roll out. Cut into rounds.
Place close together on oven tray
Brush with a little milk
Bake for 10-12 minutes.





Winslow Wig's Who said that?



Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter

Answer at the end of the newsletter

Dash and Willy's Journal of The Days of Their Lives

The only way into camp Domodedovo was through a small two-sided pass. The camp has two old stone buildings that are falling apart and a cooking pit in the middle of a small yard. Sav had coffee on the fire as the sun was just going down. As Pitt led the group in, he told Binlow to take the camels behind one of the buildings, feed them and make them comfortable for the night.

Pitt told everyone to help Binlow with the camels and get their swags ready for the night and asked if the people on cooking duty tonight could the get the night's meal ready, pumpkin bread, corn sausage and olives. He asked Big Chuck to bring the 4 wild chooks over but don't let them out of the bags.

Pitt called Gramya and Sav over - he said after dinner Gramya, take Willy and Dash over behind where the camels are and stay there. Sav, you take Kit Kat and go behind the other building and wait for his signal. Pitt will take Rob Hob and get the chooks set up and we need to make sure Big Chuck and Mongo are sleeping near the fire. All good then? So, after dinner when everything was cleaned up and everyone had a wash Pitt said to everyone, we need to get a good night's sleep, we have a big day tomorrow. He would fill them in at breakfast. He then said to Mongo and Chuck, you two take the first sleep next to the fire, everyone pick your spots, Pitt said he will take first watch.

Well, it only took 20 minutes before Mongo and Chuck were in dream land. Pitt and Sav got the 4 wild chooks and put them into 2 of the swags, took the bags off them and closed the swags up. He said to them, take your places and we wait. They took their places and waited.



It only took about 50 minutes, the fire was almost out when the 3 bandits slowly crept into camp, swords in hand. As Mongo and Chucky had their heads out and were snoring, the bandits made for the two swags that were closed thinking Gramya must be in one of them. Well, as soon as they pulled the swag open the 4 chooks jumped out screeching and biting. The 3 bandits dropped the swords trying to protect themselves. Pitt, Sav, Kit Kat and Rob Hob jumped out grabbing the swords while the bandits could do nothing.

Pitt and Sav tied the bandit's ankles and hands and put a blindfold on them. Sav stuck old socks in their mouths and put them in one of the buildings. The four of them would take turns watching the bandits till morning. Chuck and Mongo never moved through the whole thing.

So, what will they do with the bandits. See you next month to find out, Dave.



Quote of the Week

If I had known I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself."

Anonymous

Andrea's Welfare Report

Giannina Och is recovering well from her knee replacement surgery. And it was very pleasing to see Elizabeth Crocker back at our meeting this week.

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

Highsenburg's Quiz

So, did you unscramble last issue's jumble?

ooerpckono?

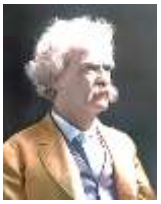


The answer is Coopernook. A small, charming town on the Barrington Coast of New South Wales, located 24 km north of Taree and 11 km west of Harrington and famous for its hotel, The Coopy.

The name "Coopernook" means "the elbow" in the local Aboriginal language, Biripi. This name refers to the bend in the Lansdowne River which looks like an elbow of an arm.

Answers

Who said that: Mark Twain



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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