The Collective Spirit

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

Issue 86 - 30 May, 2026

President's Report

Hi everybody
It was good to see everybody again at our meeting this week. Winter is starting to hit and its good to get out and about. In the absence of Craig, we were looked after by Rosa from Club Condell Park. We learned that Craig recently had an accident at the club where he received fourth degree burns from water from an urn. Some of us ran into him later in the day and he is in good spirits but is scheduled to have surgery next week. We all wish him well and a speedy recovery.

Once again, Denise has done a wonderful job and engaged a fascinating guest speaker for us. Annette Brodie from the Reconnect Project told us all about their amazing charity where they repurpose phones, laptops and tablets to provide to persons in need. Thanks to everybody who brought along their old technology to donate. If you were unable to bring your donations to the meeting you can still donate them directly to the charity. They are located at 8 The Strand, Penshurst.

It was really nice to receive an email from our speaker last month, Nick Gleeson.

> *Hi Denise,*
> *We thoroughly enjoyed our visit and meeting so many wonderful people. It was quite apparent, the warmth and care you have for each other. I received so much praise, reality is that my audience is my strength and brings me enormous joy. If okay, I will at some stage send you the link to our podcast, Humaning With a Difference. We hope to launch in the next few weeks.*
> *Please pass on my very best to the Members of the Club and let them know I loved visiting them.*
>
> *Regards, Nick Gleeson*

Vale – Diane Moore



It is with sadness that we learned of the recent death of Diane Moore. Diane joined our club in September 2000 and was an active member of our club until illness overtook her around 2023 and she had to go into care. She was our Theatre Co-ordinator for more years than anyone can remember, arranging many theatre parties over the years, taking us to all the big stage shows that came to Sydney. Most of the time there would be well over twenty members attending.

She also arranged for us to go to TAFE functions to be the guinea pigs for students undertaking cooking courses. 98% of the meals we tasted at these lunch time functions were very good. Peter, her husband and also a former member of our club is also in care and we are sad to hear of his loss. She is now in a better place and at peace.

Keep smiling, Sue

From the Money Man



Georges Hall Probus Club Inc.

Financial Summary
As at 26 May, 2026 :

Balance carried forward		**6,309.57**
Receipts		
Attendance fees received	2,056.00	
Membership fees	2,050.00	
Outings	24,495.00	
Raffle	563.00	
Reserve transfers	300.00	
Theatre shows	356.00	
Trading table	383.00	
Total Receipts		**30,203.00**
Expenses:		
Attendance fees paid	2,040.00	
Capitation Feed Probus SP	1,655.50	
General expenses	931.58	
Membership Refunds	25.00	
Guest speaker	140.00	
New Equipment	798.00	
……Raffle Prizes	160.00	
Outings Payments	20,391.00	
Reserve Payments	296.00	
…….Theatre payments	275.00	
Total Payments		**26,712.08**
Total Funds Held		**9,800.49**
Less Deposits for Outings/Club Grant		5,194.00
Less Reserve Account		4.00
Less Theatre		81.00
Club Funds available		**4,521.49**

Direct Banking to our Probus Bank Account.
Thank you to all our members that use Direct Banking to pay for Outings and Trips Away. As a rule, I do not acknowledge receipt of monies unless it is the first time a member is using this facility.

If you wish to receive an acknowledgement of a transaction all you have to do is send me an email or a copy of the bank transfer. Once I see the funds in the bank account, I will confirm the transaction.

Many thanks. Ray Cook Treasurer. 0414 961 588
E-mail. Colray10@bigpond.com

Ray Cook

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

Upcoming events:

3 June	Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30
Saturday 6 June	"Brighton Beach Memoirs", a play by Neil Simon at the Guild Theatre Rockdale. Cost $30.
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. Payment is due now.**
1 July	Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30
15 July	Christmas in July at Club Condell Park. From 11.30. Cost to be advised
29 July	Fifth Wednesday lunch at Picnic Point Bowling Club. From 11.30.
Friday 31 July	Lazy Wandering Walkers. Milson's Point.
5 August	Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30
19 August	Lunch at Riverview Restaurant, Beauty Point Resort, Bernard Road, Padstow Heights. From 11.30.
2 September	Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30
16 September 	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. We will spend two and a quarter hours in the gardens. The cost for 30 persons is $90 per person. We 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). Please pay by July meeting.
30 September	Fifth Wednesday. Probus 50th Birthday Celebration. Finger food style party at Club Condell Park. More details later. Cost to be advised.
29 Oct – 2 Nov	Tour to Grafton for the Jacaranda Festival. This tour is now going ahead. Cost $1575, single supplement $399. Hopkinson's Tours now have other Probus clubs interested to obtain the numbers. If you intend to go, please make sure you put your name down and pay $100 deposit at the June meeting to ensure your spot.

A Note from Jan

The Biggest Morning Tea. Thanks to everyone who assisted unpacking goods, donating gifts and food, setting up and cleaning up, serving on the day and in so many other ways. Without all this help, this day would not be a success and we would not raise the great amount we have for the Cancer Council , current proceeds are $2,870.

Keep Safe, Jan

Something to Do



If you are looking for something to do, you will need a day to do it but I am sure you will enjoy it. Spend the day in Berry, going by train.

Go into Central Railway Station and hop on the south coast train (or as it is known The Coastie). Take it all the way to Kiama. The train does not stop at Berry. You will need to hop off, hop on the rail motor to Berry. The rail motor is one of NSW's Endeavour Rail Cars. It operates a shuttle service between Kiama and Bomaderry because the line is electrified only as far south as Kiama. The trip between Kiama and Berry takes approximately 15 minutes and they generally run on a reduced hourly or bi-hourly off-peak timetable, connecting smoothly with the services from Wollongong and Sydney.

Once in Berry, get off, walk the shops, have lunch at one of the cafes then head back to Central. Berry is an interesting town and there are some spectacular views up and down the coast. All this for $2.50 plus your lunch.

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:-

June No walk due to a prior commitment
July Friday 31. Meet at wharf 5 Circular Quay at 10am. We will get the ferry to Milsons Point and walk to the Secret Garden. This is a 2.4 kilometre walk and it does have about 10 steps into the garden. A coffee stop somewhere can be arranged.

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.

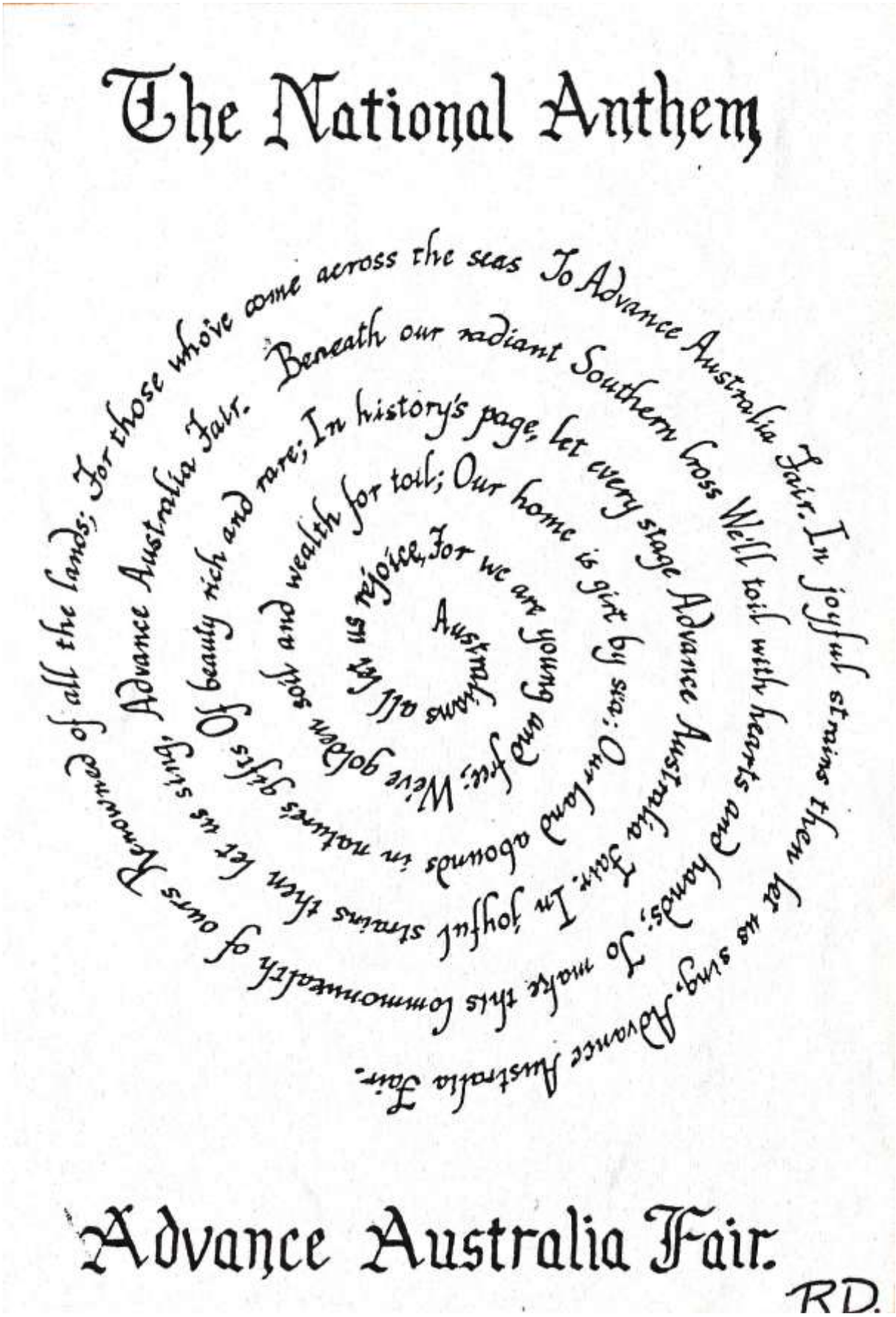
(Ciao Bella, Dash and Willy)



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

June Birthdays
Sandra Baker, Margaret Cousins, Diane Ham
Best wishes every one Barbara Doust





Thanks Robert Dumbrell

The Biggest Morning Tea





Thanks to Jan and Bill for sharing their home and organising another spectacular Biggest Morning Tea to support the Cancer Council. Jan and her friends have been running this function for more than fifteen years and over that time have raised a large amount of money to help battle cancer. This year they raised almost $3,000.



The function takes a lot of work and Jan and Bill cannot do it without the generous support of so many people. Too many to name. Thanks to everybody who donated all the goodies we got to eat, especially the cooks who baked a wide variety of cakes. Thanks also to the people who donated prizes for the raffle, especially Colleen Cooke who donated a beautiful hand made knitted rug. Thanks to the people who helped get ready, who cleaned up afterwards, or did any of the other myriad of things that made the day run smoothly.

As usual, Bill organised some fun games. Who knew we'd all be standing around looking at a toilet seat in the middle of the back yard! Congratulations to Karren who guessed Bill's cryptic toilet puzzle.























Our trip to the Blue Mountains

Photos by Cathy Dice, Dirk Gruene, Carolyn Dingledei, Sue Brown

From Marilyn Baulman

I wish to say what a wonderful trip it was to the Blue Mountains. We could not have wished for more perfect weather it was beautiful. Our first stop was Blackheath Gardens, then Govetts Leap (what a wonder outlook from there).

Then off to the Hydro Majestic for High Tea which was lovely especially being given containers to take our leftover cakes in. Booked into Leura Gardens Resort for a lovely dinner and breakfast with a great view over Leura golf course.

After breakfast off to Echo Point for a brief look at the three sisters then onto the Zig Zag railway. That was a spectacular trip, it was great to hear the old steam train chugging up the hill and blowing its whistle. I want to thank Jan and Marg for organising this great overnight trip and receiving a small refund was a bonus.

We all echoed Marilyn's comments. Everybody spoke about the wonderful time we had. We were blessed with beautiful weather and were rewarded with some amazing autumn foliage. Thanks to Jan and Bill for their organisation and Marg, Ray and Colleen for their assistance. Thanks also to our wonderful driver, Andrew. And thanks to everybody in the group for being such a happy, thoughtful and caring bunch of people. Everybody looked out for everybody else.



Our first stop was the Campbell Rhododendron Gardens. It wasn't the right time of the year for the flowers, but the gardens were still beautiful and a very calming place.







After a stop in Blackheath for coffee and shopping, we headed to the iconic Hydro Majestic Hotel for our High Tea. The hotel has been restored beautifully and the views were amazing. We were glad we didn't have lunch, there was plenty to eat and we all brought home doggy bags full of left over cakes.







Our accommodation at The Leura Gardens Resort was excellent (well apart from the very steep driveway that we all had to walk up). And they provided a great dinner and breakfast.

Thursday began with an early visit to Echo Pont. It doesn't matter how many times you have been here, its always spectacular. And the morning was crisp and clear.





But the highlight for me was the trip on the Zigzag Railway. Once again, the weather was spectacular and the views were amazing. We had a carriage to ourselves and chatted to each other and the volunteers working on the railroad. It's a fascinating story and an amazing piece of engineering.













In the shire with Luppo.

Just outside of the Shire – Warragamba Dam



Warragamba Dam is a heritage listed dam in the outer South Western Sydney suburb of Warragamba, in the Wollondilly Shire. It is a concrete gravity dam, which creates Lake Burragorang, the primary reservoir for water supply for the city of Sydney. The dam wall is located approximately 65 kilometres west of the Sydney central business district.



The dam was devised as part of a collective engineering response to Sydney's critical water shortage during World War II and was originally known as the Warragamba Emergency Scheme. Constructed between 1948 and 1960, the dam created capacity for a reservoir of 2,065 gigalitres and is fed by a catchment area of 9,051 square kilometres. The surface area of the lake covers 75 square kilometres of the now-flooded Burragorang Valley. It was designed and built by the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board. A small hydroelectric power station was incorporated into the design of the dam but has been disconnected from the grid since 2001. The dam was added to the NSW State Heritage Register in 1999.

Drought has severely depleted the level of the dam at times. On 8 February 2007 it recorded an all-time low of 32.5% of capacity. On 2 March 2012, it overflowed for the first time in fourteen years. It overflowed again in 2016, 2021, 2022 and 2024.

The dam is an interesting place to visit. There is a modern visitor centre where you can take a journey through the water cycle in the 'Water for Life' exhibition. You can relax with a picnic in the grounds. Or take a self-guided walk around the dam grounds and discover its history. Interpretive signs and heritage items along the way reveal the stories behind the dam's construction. Pause at the Workers' Memorial and pay your respects to the 14 dam builders who died during construction.



There are numerous lookout points, including three viewing platforms at the Visitor Centre which offer excellent vistas of the upstream dam wall and Lake Burragorang. Other lookout points include the Warragamba Dam Wall, the Eighteenth Street Lookout (which provides a view of the auxiliary spillway and a distant view of Warragamba Dam wall) and the Burragorang Lookout (a 40 minute drive from Warragamba Dam, managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service).



Wally and Nelly Waramuk's

Must see movie,

All the way from Sally's Corner it's a Ding Bat production, a Norman Gunstan film and starring two new actors ,Bob Down Brown and Davy Dosie Uptown

It's called **The Long Drop**

Tickets on sale now

Not in the Shire with Susie
Our local libraries (Canterbury/Bankstown)

Our local libraries have been around with us for a long time and are an integral part of our communities. In Canterbury Bankstown, they are now known as Library and Information Centres and provide much more than just allowing us to borrow books.

The main library at Bankstown has undergone many changes since it first opened in 1946 as a dedicated free children's library. A full Central library service opened in 1954. That building was demolished in 1981 and there have been quite a few changes since then, with a state of the art centre opening in 2014.







There are nine locations. The main library is at Bankstown, with branches at Chester Hill, Panania, Padstow, Riverwood, Earlwood, Greenacre, Campsie and Lakemba. In addition, there is a huge catalogue of e-books that you can borrow on line.

There are routine and special events occurring all the time at all of the branches. You can join a knitting or a crochet group, meet up at a book club, participate in a craft group, play mahjong, play chess, trivia, bingo, and even dungeons and dragons. There are also exercise classes and chair yoga. Most activities are free.

Our libraries can also help with local and family history. They will take you through their records and advise on potential sources of information. Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre has research material to guide beginners and experienced people to trace their family tree and find out more about our area. There is no charge to use the Family History Collection - it's FREE!



Today, the Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre acts as the central hub for the district's history. It houses an extensive Local and Family History collection, featuring thousands of books, microfiche, maps, and archival resources. Patrons also have free in-library access to premium genealogical databases like Ancestry Library Edition and Find My Past.

The libraries also provide Justice of the Peace services and you can book a librarian to help you understand technology. I haven't detailed them here but there are also lots of facilities, services and activities for children of all ages.

If you want to find out more, just drop into one of the centres and talk to a librarian. Or call them on 9707 9000. Or check out their website: https://www.cbcity.nsw.gov.au/library-and-knowledge-centres

More next time, Sue

Members' Corner

Thanks to all our contributors



Rob's Joke of the Month

What do you call a car that's being driven by a sheep in a swimsuit?.. A lamb bikini!!!!

Over the weekend several police cars had their wheels stolen. Officers are working tyrelessly to solve the crime

Denise's One Liner

If in doubt, make it sound convincing.

Murphy's Law

He who knows everything, actually knows nothing

Only the Irish

Thanks Frances and Robert.



"Just look at all the dust on my desk!" fumed the angry office manager. "It looks like it hasn't been cleaned in a fortnight." "Well, don't blame me sir" the cleaning lady replied, "I've only been here a week".

Did you know

The Country Women's Association of NSW

- Was established in 1922
- Lobbied for compulsory fitting of seat belts in vehicles (1966)
- Lobbied for random breath testing (1980)
- Lobbied for compulsory helmets for cyclists (1986)
- Lobbied for retail outlets to cease using plastic bags (1999)
- Distributed $19 million to drought affected families



Winslow Wig's Who said that?



As you get older three things happen: The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two.

Answer at the end of the newsletter

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



Pitt, Sav and Gramya were up at the crack of dawn, so once the rest of the group got coffee and a pumpkin scone, Pitt said "come in close, we have a change of plans". "Not again" said Big Chuck. "Sit down and eat" said Kit Kat.

"This is the plan" said Pitt "from here we will be going North West to the Kingdom of Kalinga in Persia to a small town called Tosali. We will be staying two nights so we can arrange tickets on the Trans Persia Rail Train. It's called the Arwon Express to Katoombra on the Westen side of the great Persian Gulf. Then we will then go from Tosali to Kalinga which will be our last camel trip, it's only a three hour ride. In Kalinga we pick up the train to Katoombra. Gramya has someone in Kalinga who will take the camels from us. It will only be a one night stay in Kalinga."



"Hey" said Mongo, " I have an uncle that I think still lives in Katoombra. I might have time to say hi". "We will see" said Pitt. "The train trip will take us two nights to get to Katoombra. It has no beds, so your seat is your dining chair, your day chair and your bed. Now Sav is staying with our guest and our camel handlers for three hours after we leave. Then Sav will high tail it to meet us at a little watering hole on our way. The boys will stay with our guest for one more hour before high tailing it back home."

Rob Hob asked "what's stopping our guest from following us and trying to ambush us again". Pitt said "Sav and the boys will make sure our guest knows where we are going so once they hear that they will not follow us" "How do you know that" said Willy". "Because our guests are wanted dead or alive in the Kingdom". "Right you are" Dasha said.

"So we need to be packed up in 40 minutes and on the road". Chucky asked "why the change of plans?" Pitt said "this will cut our trip down by a month and there will be less chance of any more ambushes". "Well why did we not take this way from the start?" Again a question from Chucky. Pitt said "Chucky, you and your group hired me and Sav to get you home. Now if you can get yourselves home any quicker be my guest. Pay us the full contract and we will be on our way. Its up to you Chucky".

Willy and Dasha stepped in and said "No. Pitt you, Sav and Gramya are the bosses. Whatever you say goes. Chucky be happy." "Ok so now you have 25 minutes to be packed up. Get going, we leave in 24 minutes" said Pitt. "Next time shut up Chucky" said Kit Kat. "Yes you have a big mouth Chucky" said Rob Hob.

So what is next for the group find out next month see you then. Dave



Zigzag Zac's Book of the Month.

The Window
By Pane Glass



Andrea's Welfare Report

It was very pleasing to see Giannina Och back at our meeting, following her knee replacement surgery. Barbara Kains is recovering from hernia surgery and Margaret Cousins has just had hip replacement surgery. Frances Dumbrell is not well, suffering with arthritis in her spine.

We wish all these people (and any others we don't know about) a speedy recovery.

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

Highsenburg's Quiz

This months jumble to undo is:

Mdryrotfel

See how you go. And it's not in Queensland

See you next month H

Answers

Who said that: Norman Wisdom



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.