

The Collective Spirit

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

Issue 87 - 28 June 2026

President's Report

Hi everybody

Winter is well and truly here now, the nights are cold but we are still having some beautiful days. Its good to have lots of activities to keep getting us out and about.

Our speaker this month was Senior Constable Steve Jacka who spoke about scams, being safe on line and the Next of Kin Program.

In this day and age, everybody is very susceptible to scams and the scammers are getting cleverer all the time. Steve left a number of handouts for the group. If you missed out, we will bring some along to the next meeting.

However, here's some simple tips.

STOP Don't give money or personal information to anyone if unsure.
THINK – Ask yourself could the message or call be a fake?
PROTECT – Act quickly if something feels wrong.

You can find more information at Scamwatch. www.scamwatch.gov.au

Albert Ham reminded us all of the members we have lost recently and how important they all were to our club. As a result, we have decided that we will open all future meetings with a minute's silence to remember them all.

Keep smiling, Sue

Something to Do

As we are all in retirement and have a seniors card and a gold opal card, have you ever stopped to think of what you can do with these two cards. Well next time you are in a cafe having a coffee or a snack or in a club having a meal, show your seniors card. You might be surprised, you may get a discount.



When you are out shopping before you go in to a shop have a quick look at the window it may have a sign "seniors card welcome". It never hurts to ask.

Did you know you can travel on a train to Newcastle, Bomaderry, Goulburn for $2.50. You can travel on any train, light rail, metro, ferry or bus for just $2.50.

How good is that!

From the Money Man



Georges Hall Probus Club Inc.

Financial Summary
As at 23 June, 2026 :

Balance carried forward	**6,309.57**
Receipts	
Attendance fees received	2,504.00
Membership fees	2,050.00
Outings	25,005.00
Raffle	671.00
Reserve transfers	520.00
Theatre shows	483.00
Trading table	421.00
Grafton Tour	500.00
Total Receipts	**32,154.00**
Expenses:	
Attendance fees paid	2,488.00
Capitation Feed Probus SP	1,655.50
General expenses	944.58
Membership Refunds	220.00
Guest speaker	25.00
New Equipment	798.00
……Raffle Prizes	300.00
Outings Payments	23,155.00
Reserve Payments	300.00
…….Theatre payments	485.00
Total Payments	**30,371.08**
Total Funds Held	**8,092.49**
Less Deposits for Outings/Club Grant	2,780.00
Less Reserve Account	220.00
Less Theatre	500.00
Club Funds available	**4,592.49**

Ray Cook

Dash and Willy's Lazy Wondering Walkers



If you are interested in doing a Lazy 2k to 3k walk with a little fun and one or two surprises on the way with a coffee and cake after, then join Dash and Willy.

July Friday 31st meet at Wharf 4 Circular Quay at 10am. Get a ferry to Milsons Point walk to the Secret Garden, about a 2.4k walk. A 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.

PLEASE NOTE. This is a change of route. We were originally going to walk across the Harbour Bridge but people were disappointed that we missed the Secret Garden due to bad weather. We will do the Harbour Bridge later.



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



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 $50. MUST BE PAID NOW
29 July	Fifth Wednesday lunch at Picnic Point Bowling Club. From 11.30.
Friday 31 July	Lazy Wandering Walkers. Secret Garden.
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.
Saturday 29 August	Guild Theatre Rockdale. Baskerville (A Sherlock Holmes Mystery). 2.00 pm. Cost $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. 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 NOW.

Keep Safe, Jan



June Birthdays

Sandra Baker, Margaret Cousins, Diane Ham

July Birthdays

Robert Best, Jan Brown, Sandra Cohen, Denise Ericsson, Albert Ham, Barbara Kains, Pauline Lange, Sonja Lind, Margaret Mitchell, John O'Shea, Joy Scott, Carol Tonkinson



Best wishes every one Barbara Doust

Out and About
Our trip to Parliament House

Photographs by Sue Brown and Cathy Dice



Thanks to Dave Lupton and Jan and Bill for organising this great day out. We all made our way by public transport to Parliament House where we passed through security with lots of bips because of our many artificial knees, hips and shoulders.

The tour was very interesting with guided tours of the lower and upper houses where we learned lots about how parliament operates and the history of the building.





















This was followed by a delicious high tea with a smoky dry ice effect.









Winslow Wig's Who said that?



The Secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly and lie about your age.

Answer at the end of the newsletter

In the shire with Luppo.

Gymea Trade Union Club



The Gymea Trade Union Club, widely known as Tradies Gymea, was established in 1960. It began as a modest gathering place for trade union members to discuss industrial and political issues, later transforming into a cornerstone of the local community.

It originally operated out of a converted house on Manchester Road, facing stiff opposition from local residents before expanding into a respected neighborhood hub.

In June 1979, the club hosted a historic NSW Labor Caucus meeting attended by then Premier Neville Wran, which included important changes to eligibility for membership.

The club has evolved from a small hall into a multi-million-dollar entertainment and hospitality venue. To secure its future and support struggling community groups, the club expanded via amalgamations. It absorbed the threatened Caringbah RSL and the Helensburgh Workers Club, expanding its operations to three distinct venues.

Today, Tradies features modern amenities like the Folk restaurant, an Endota day spa, a "Kids' Space" and the Members Bar.

It hosts lots of community activities, like housie, trivia, indoor bowls, Bridge and Mahjong.

Wally and Nelly Waramuk's

Must see movie,



All the way from The Siberian Desert - a Long Drop production, a Xanadu movie starring Billy Cassidy and Dave Di Nero in the latest Movie from the Far East, called:

The Strait of Hormuz

Tickets selling in 3 or 4 days we think

Not in the Shire with Susie

Western Sydney International (Nancy Bird Walton) Airport

Sydney's new airport, the Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI), is officially opening for domestic and international passenger flights on October 25, 2026, following the launch of cargo flights on July 26, 2026.



After decades of debate on the location of another airport within Greater Sydney, the federal government announced in 1986 that Badgerys Creek had been chosen as the location for a second major airport for Sydney and undertook a series of land acquisitions for the site. However, following the purchases, the decision was made that construction of a third runway at Sydney Airport was more appropriate, and all work on the site was halted. It wasn't until April 2014 that the decision to build the airport was made and the site of the airport was officially designated by the federal government.

The airport's first phase can handle up to 10 million passengers annually. Initially, passenger flights will feature domestic services with Jetstar, plus international routes with Air New Zealand. Qantas will follow with additional domestic departures in 2027. Future stages of the airport are expected to begin after Stage 1, and will include an expanded or additional terminal and a second parallel runway. This will allow the airport to handle approximately 82 million passengers annually by 2063.

The site has comprehensive parking and is accessible via major road infrastructure, including the newly constructed M12 Motorway and upgrades to The Northern Road. The Sydney Metro – Western Sydney Airport line will offer a direct link between St Marys station and the airport terminals. The line was expected to be complete in time for the opening of the airport but may not commence until 2027.

Who was Nancy-Bird Walton?



A 'trailblazer in the sky', 'born a bird without wings' and 'an Angel of the Outback' – these are just some of the ways aviation pioneer Nancy-Bird Walton has been described.

Nancy-Bird first stepped into a plane, a de Haviland Gypsy Moth, in 1928 at the age of 13. She immediately fell in love with the thrill of flight and became, at the age of 19,the youngest Australian woman to earn a licence to fly commercially.

She took fellow Australians on joy flights to fairs across the country, introducing many to her passion for flying, but it was her skills as a talented aviator that helped save lives. She became known as the 'Angel of the Outback' for her work transporting doctors across communities in regional NSW. Without the technology that pilots rely on today, Nancy-Bird navigated using nothing more than telegraph lines and fences as reference. She would land in fields, careful to avoid hazards such as kangaroos and rabbit holes.

Nancy-Bird established the Australian Women Pilots' Association in 1950, and served as president for 40 years. She held her pilot's licence right up to three years before her passing at the age of 93 in 2009.

More next time, Sue

Members' Corner

Thanks to all our contributors

Rob's Joke of the Month

What has a lock and no key?... hair.
What runs all day and stays still?... clock.
What has no legs but runs fast?...a motor

Denise's One Liner

What was once thought can never be unthought

Murphy's Law

You can make a heaven of hell, or a hell of Heaven

Only the Irish

Thanks Frances and Robert.



"And now we have a new six piece band", the radio announcer said. "they only know six pieces"!



"Our next singer" announced the theatre manager "is someone who wanted his name up in lights in every theatre in the world. So he changed his name to EXIT"!

Grinners are Winners – the value of a smile!

Thanks Denise Ericsson



A smile costs nothing: but gives so much.
It reaches those who receive, without making poorer those who give.
It takes but a moment, but the memory sometimes lasts a lifetime.
None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, none is so poor but that he can be made richer by it.
A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business, and is the countersign of friendship.
It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged.
A smile is sunshine to the sad, and is nature's best antidote for trouble.
Yet, it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is of no value to anyone until it is given away.
Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has none to give.



ATTITUDE, AFTER ALL, IS EVERYTHING.

WORK LIKE YOU DON'T NEED THE MONEY

LOVE LIKE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN HURT

DANCE LIKE NO ONE IS WATCHING

Early Memories

Early memories of hospital stays

Thanks Denise Ericsson

I can remember several visits to Eastern Suburbs Children's Hospital as a small child. The hospital was located in the grounds of Centennial Park, and at age two and a half, I can remember, sitting in the front of an ambulance being nursed by Mum. I was being taken to the hospital Casualty department, for treatment of Tetanus Poisoning, where I had to have Penicillin injections to save my life. Of course, at that age I was unaware of what the visits were all about. I can also remember being taken to the duck pond which was in close proximity to the hospital, to visit and feed the ducks after some of my visits. (probably to help forget my ordeal).



My next memory of the hospital was when I was aged six, to have my appendix removed. I remember the wheatmeal porridge served every morning, and my bed being taken onto the long verandah during the day. On the end of the veranda, stood a beautiful, painted, wooden rocking horse with a lovely, long mane, on which other children were allowed to have a ride. However, I was never allowed to even sit on it, and I remember being very upset. I can still remember the anesthetic, which was Ether. It was like being drawn into deep circles going round, and round, and vomiting on waking up, and being stiff and sore afterwards. The huge, deep baths at the hospital, the smell of the soap that mum supplied, which was Pears, and the smell of the nurses, which I now recognize as the smell of someone who smokes.



I can still remember the stiff, wide, white veils they used to wear, their bright red cardigans with a little watch pinned to their uniform, which they used to hold when taking your pulse.

I Remember

Thanks Carol Coutts

I remember the cheese of my childhood
And the bread we cut with a knife,



The children helped with the housework
And the man went to work, not the wife
The cheese never needed the ice chest
The bread was crusty and hot,
The children always seemed happy
And the wife was content with her lot.
I remember the milk from the billy
With its lovely rich cream on the top
The dinner came straight from the oven
And not from the fridge in the shop.
The kids were a lot more contented
They didn't need money for kicks -
But a game with their mates in the paddock
And sometimes the Saturday flicks
I remember the shop on the corner
Where a penn'orth of lollies was sold
Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic
Or is it I'm just growing old.



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

A short recap so far.

"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. We will then go from Tosali to Kalinga which will be our last camel trip. It's only a 3 hours ride. In Kalinga it will only be a one night stay before we pick up the train to Katoombra. Gramya has someone in Kalinga that will take the camels from us."



So everyone was packed and ready to go in 15 minutes. Big Chuck was the first ready. Pitt had a quiet word with Sav and the camel herders. Everyone said "see you tonight Sav" and slowly departed. It was slow going, the trail to Tosali is very mountainous you are climbing one minute then a steep descent the next. Pitt was waiting at the bottom of the last descent. As they passed he told them "one more hour and we stop for a break at the border of the Kingdom". Again Chucky didn't say a word.

On arrival at the border stop there was a stone building like a checkpoint/come store. Pitt told them to stay with the camels and give them some water while he and Gramay saw the border inspector.

After about 10 minutes Pitt and Gramay came out with this very large man. He was 6 feet 9, about twice the size of Pitt, with what looked like a huge sword (similar to a Claymore) hanging off his hip and a big feathered hat on his head which made him look even taller. Pitt shook his hand and walked over to us.

Pitt and Gramay called us together. "Right we have paid the toll to the Kingdom, we can go into the store for a meal and the inspector will take us over the border. He will stay with us for about an hour after we cross. So go have something to eat after you tie your camels to the rail.

The inspector was standing at the door of the store as we walked in. Well he was the biggest man we have ever seen, he made Chucky look like a midget. The meal was pumpkin bread, goat and potatoes with a coffee. Gramya said "we leave in 40 minutes, so eat and rest up till then, Sav should be here by then."

What is next in store for our travellers. See you next month to find out.



Zigzag Zac's Book of the Month.

The Boot
By Sid Sole





Recipe Corner



We are always looking for recipes. This is a very popular item in our newsletter. We have lots of great cooks in our club and I'm sure there are plenty more recipes out there to share.

Cherry Ripe Ice Cream Slice

Thanks Dawn Slater



2 x 200 g malt biscuits
600 ml thickened cream
1 tin condensed milk
3 85 gm Cherry Ripes

Line a 20x30 cm tin with baking paper.
Arrange half of the biscuits on bottom of the tin.
Beat cream until thick and add condensed milk.
Stir well and add chopped Cherry Ripes.
Cover with remaining biscuits and freeze.
Can be drizzled with chocolate.

Orange Cake

Thanks Dawn Slater



250 gm butter
1 cup sugar
2 cups SR flour
4 eggs
2 oranges (the grated zest and juice of both)

Cream butter and sugar and add eggs.
Blend in flour, alternatively with orange juice and zest.
Bake in 20 cm tin in moderate oven for approximately an hour.

Andrea's Welfare Report

It was good to see Margaret Cousins, Elizabeth Crocker and Barbara Kains back at our meeting this week. Frances Dumbrell is still not well and Beatrice Drew has returned home from hospital following a bout of cellulitis. Max Jenkins is now in care at Beechworth.

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

Mdryrotfel

So how did you go with Mdryrotfel ?



Well it's Myrtleford, 280 ks northeast of Melbourne, part of the Alpine Shire, population around 3,000. Some well known residents include Gary Ablett, Sam Kekovich from the AFL and cricketer Merv Hughes.

See you next month H

Answers

Who said that: Lucille Ball



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.