The Collective Spirit

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

Issue 89 - 30 August 2026

President's Report

Hi everybody

I hope you all have been enjoying our lovely sunny winter weather. And it was good to see the great turn out at our meeting last week.



As usual, Denise had organised an interesting speaker for us again this month. Ron Ray from the Maritime Museum gave us a fascinating talk about Captain (or should we say Lieutenant) Cook and his ship, the Endeavour. We might have all thought we knew this story, but we were wrong, we learned lots that we didn't know and Ron corrected some of our misinformation.

We were very pleased to learn that we have received grants totalling $5,000 from Club Condell Park through Canterbury Bankstown Council's Social Inclusion and Seniors Wellbeing Program. The grants can be applied to any of our activities and functions outside Club Condell Park. This means we can reduce costs for members on some of our activities. As a result, we have reduced the price of our tour to Tulip Tops by $40 and Ray has already refunded this money to the relevant people. In addition, we are able to subsidise our upcoming tour to Port Macquarie, by $100 for members.

We were disappointed to learn that our proposed tour to Grafton for the Jacaranda Festival was unable to proceed. However Hopkinson's have come up with a great substitution with a tour to Port Macquarie in early October. There are more details about this trip later in the newsletter. The timing is very short and we need to know numbers as soon as possible. If you haven't already done so, please contact Jan Brown (0407 019 434) and arrange to pay your $100 deposit. If you were booked on the Grafton tour your deposit will be transferred across or refunded if necessary.



Our fifth Wednesday activity in September will be a finger food style party at Club Condell Park to celebrate Probus's fiftieth anniversary in Australia. We have arranged for entertainment by two local groups, so it should be a lot of fun. I look forward to seeing you all there.

And just a reminder. Craig has advised us that the bistro at Club Condell Park will be undergoing renovations next month and the kitchen will be closed on the day of our September meeting. The Chinese restaurant and the Coffee lounge will still be open but there will be limited seating downstairs. Craig has organised for a limited menu to be available to us which can be served upstairs in our meeting room.

Keep smiling, Sue

From the Money Man:

Georges Hall Probus Club Inc.

Financial Summary
As at, 25 August 2026 :



Balance carried forward		**6,309.57**
Receipts		
Attendance fees received	3,536.00	
Membership fees	2,168.50	
Club Grant	5,000.00	
Outings	31,100.00	
Raffle	955.00	
Reserve transfers	560.00	
Theatre shows	735.00	
Trading table	514.00	
Grafton Tour	1,100.00	
Port Macquarie Tour	1,085.00	
Total Receipts		**46,753.50**
Expenses:		
Attendance fees paid	3,520.00	
Capitation Feed Probus SP	1,714.60	
General expenses	1,069.76	
Membership Refunds	25.00	
Guest speaker	220.00	
New Equipment	798.00	
Raffle Prizes	310.00	
Outings Payments	27,969.30	
Reserve Payments	500.00	
Theatre payments	735.00	
Trip away Grafton	300.00	
Total Payments		**37,161.66**
Total Funds Held		**15,901.41**
Less Deposits for Outings/Club Grant		3,990.00
Less Club Grant		5,000.00
Less Reserve Account		60.00
Less Grafton/Port Macquarie		1,885.00
Club Funds available		**4,966.41**

Ray Cook



August Birthdays

Jenny Bargh, Gai Cavanough, Cathy Dice
Elizabeth Rea, Maureen Thorne

September Birthdays

Andrea Best, Ray Cook, Owen Doust,
Muriel Richards

Best wishes everyone, Barbara Doust



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

2 September	Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30
16 September	Tour to Tulip Top Gardens. 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 is $90 per person ($50 for members with our Club Grants subsidy). 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). **NOTE. The coach leaves from Club Condell Park at 7.30 am. You need to be at the club by 7.15 am.**
30 September	Fifth Wednesday. Probus 50th Birthday Celebration. Finger food style party at Club Condell Park. Cost $35. Please put your name down and pay NOW.
7 October	Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30. for those people not going on the Port Macquarie tour.
Mon 5 -Fri 9 October	Tour to Port Macquarie. Cost $1450 ($1350 for members with our Club Grants subsidy), single supplement $400. If you intend to go, please make sure you put your name down and pay $100 deposit **NOW**.
4 November	Panania RSL – Morning tea and/or lunch. From 10.30
18 November	Possible trip to Pine Ridge Miniature Donkey Farm and lunch at the Tahmoor Inn. Cost $105. More details later when the trip is finalised.
Saturday 28 Nov	Guild Theatre Rockdale. Steel Magnolias. 2.00 pm. Cost $25 or $30 (depending on numbers)



Keep Safe, Jan



Wally and Nelly Waramuk's
Must see movie,

All the way from downtown Coopanook, from the open air playhouse. It's a Loonamoon production a Daisyville movie. Starring Cliff Hangman and Ray Humpty in the latest movie out of Bulahdelah.
It's **The Trading Post of Greekop.**
Get a free first screening ticket from the girls on the sign in desk.

Port Macquarie Trip Itinerary

We need 30 people to ensure that this trip goes ahead. If you are interested please contact Jan Brown (0407 019 434) as soon as possible.

$1,450 per person ($1,350 for members with the subsidy). Single supplement $400. 4 nights accommodation and breakfast at the Country Comfort Waters Edge Hotel

Day one

- Depart Condell Park 8.15 am
- Morning tea, Heatherbrae Pies (own expense)
- Lunch Greenhouse Cottage, Nabiac
- St Thomas Anglican Church Port Macquarie
- Dinner, Country Comfort Waters Edge Hotel

Day two



- Port Macquarie Information Centre
- Koala Hospital
- Roto House
- Ricardoes Tomato and Strawberry Farm, lunch, tour and afternoon tea (scones with jam and cream)
- Sea Acres Rainforest Centre and Boardwalk
- Dinner, Country Comfort Waters Edge Hotel

Day three



- Historic Hannan Vale
- Morning tea, Moorland Cottage Café (scones with jam and cream)
- Harrington Lookout
- Lunch, Wingham Golf Club
- Manning Valley Historical Society Museum
- Wingham Brush Nature Reserve
- Dinner, Country Comfort Waters Edge Hotel

Day four



- Forster Visitor Information Centre
- Morning tea (own expense),
- Lunch Cruise Free Spirit Cruises (2.5 hours)
- Forster Arts and Crafts Centre
- Dinner, Country Comfort Waters Edge Hotel

Day five

- Lake Cathie scenic view
- Morning tea, Taree Service Centre (own expense)
- Lunch, Lakeside Village Tavern, Raymond Terrace
- Arrive Condell Park approximately 5.15



Zig Zag Zac' Book of the Month

Close the Door
By Ben Lock



Out and About

Photographs by Sue Brown, Denise Ericsson & Elizabeth Rea

Fifth Wednesday, Lunch at Picnic Point Bowling Club









Everyone always enjoys our days out.

Lunch at Picnic Point Bowling Club was even more special. We got to share in Albert's birthday celebrations.















Lunch at Riverhigh Restaurant Beauty Point























Dash and Willy's Lazy Wondering Walkers



On Friday July 31, a large group of members met Willy for a walk from Milsons Point to Wendy's Secret Garden, at Kirribilli. They had a great time. Dave and Bill are unable to continue organising these walks but we have plans for them to continue. Stay tuned for more information.



Something to Do

Would you like to know about the first ship to visit Australia (no not the Endeavour). The Duyfken in 1606. Then go take a look at a replica at The Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney.

The Duyfken initially served as a fleet scout and pathfinder in the East Indies for the Dutch East India Company (VOC) and was heavily involved in breaking the Portuguese monopoly on the spice trade. Before her historic Australian voyage, the vessel sailed trade routes, participated in blockades, and charted regions around New Guinea. In 1605, the VOC dispatched the *Duyfken* from Bantam (Java) to explore the coasts of New Guinea. Crossing the Torres Strait in early 1606, Captain Janszoon sailed roughly 320 km down the western coast of Cape York Peninsula.



Finding only an arid, muddy coastline rather than the expected riches, and facing violent skirmishes with the local Indigenous people where several crewmen were killed, the ship turned back. The crew named their turning point Cape Keerweer (meaning "Cape Turn Again") and mapped approximately 300 km of uncharted territory. This voyage is the first historically documented European contact with Australia, predating Captain James Cook's arrival by over 160 years.

Following her groundbreaking voyage, the original *Duyfken* continued to serve in the waters of the Indonesian archipelago. The exact date and location of the ship's retirement or sinking are unknown, but it is believed she was broken down or lost to naval conflicts within a few years of her famous expedition. To celebrate the maritime achievement, a full-scale, seaworthy replica of the *Duyfken* was constructed in Fremantle, Western Australia, and launched in 1999. Built using principles of experimental archaeology, it offered an accurate look at 17th-century naval travel. The replica eventually found a permanent home and can be visited today at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney.

In the shire with Luppo.

Como Pleasure Grounds



Next time your in the shire and have time go for a drive go down to Como and have a look at Como Pleasure Grounds. Como Pleasure Grounds is a popular, kid-friendly park with a playground, picnic tables and BBQs as well as a bike track and walking loop path. These beautiful grounds have panoramic views of the Georges River and surrounding bushland.

While you are there, go for a stroll over the old railway bridge (you can still see a part of the old railway platform). Or do what we did as kids, go in the tunnel that takes you under the rail line for the old station and listen to the train rumbling overhead. When you come back enjoy a coffee at the Blackfish Cafe at the boat shed.

Not in the Shire with Susie

Sylvan Grove Native Garden



Sylvan Grove Native Garden is a bit of a hidden gem. It's a peaceful bushland escape that showcases a stunning variety of Australian native plants, with winding paths perfect for a slow stroll. The garden isn't huge, but it feels like a little slice of the Aussie bush in the middle of the suburbs. You'll spot all kinds of wildflowers and towering trees, plus some handy signs if you're into learning as you go.

It's quiet, relaxing and great if you just want to clear your head or take in some nature without going far.



The Sylvan Grove Native Garden is in Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point (just off Henry Lawson Drive) and is managed by Canterbury Bankstown Council. It is open on week days (7 till 3.00), weekends (9 till 4.30).



It has over 1,500 species of native plants which have been lovingly gathered and nurtured from all over Australia. You can take guided tours (by bookings only), or simply appreciate or study it in all its natural glory.

The garden was first developed in the early 1960s. It took about 10 years to really develop it and opened to the public in 1970.

This garden's a great showcase for some really spectacular native plants from all around the country. It's a place you must come and see if you're in the area to get some inspiration about what you can plant in your own garden.

I have just learned that the council's libraries are organising excursions to Sylvan Grove Native Garden - perfect for seniors! You will be taken on a tour through the 1,500 species of native plants. There are two tours for seniors:

1. Departing from Campsie Library and Knowledge Centre, 14-28 Amy Street, Campsie on Wednesday 23 September, 10am-noon
Bookings: **https://ow.ly/12Vp50ZBaq5**

2. Departing from Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre, 80 Rickard Rd, Bankstown on Thursday 24 September, 10am-noon
Bookings: **https://ow.ly/hJ3q50ZBaq4**

Cost: $3 per person. Bookings essential. Bookings open Monday 24 August.

More next time, Sue

Early Memories

We have another of Denise's early memories this month. It's really interesting and thanks to Denise for taking the trouble to give it to us. People tell me how much they enjoy reading these, but NOBODY else has given us any. If you feel that writing it down is too difficult, tell it to Elizabeth or Sue and we will write it up for you. I'm sure there are lots of great stories from our childhoods out there. So any contributions will be eagerly received.

MY EARLY MEMORIES OF BRONTE BEACH
Denise Ericsson

I remember often being taken to Bronte Beach Park on a Saturday afternoon with Mum, to meet up with her best friend. I loved to play on the swings, ride on the little train in the park, or sit with mum in one of the little sheds scattered around the park, to have slices of home- made cake and cups of "brew", as "Aunty Ive" called the cups of tea, dispensed from a thermos flask.



Ivy O'Brien was mum's oldest friend, who she had gone to school with at Portland, as a child. "Aunty Ive" as I knew her, lived in Nance flats in Pacific Avenue, which ran directly behind the shops, which were located at the tram stop. We would get off the tram, meet Aunty Ive, and head towards the beach and the sheds in the park, which were off to the right. Or, you could go to the left, where the swings and razzle dazzles or roundabouts and slippery dips were, and beyond that, the Gully, then known as the Bronte Tip.

One of my earliest memories is, whilst having afternoon tea with Mum and Aunty Ive, I needed to go to the toilet. There was a line of huge palm trees, which ran along the edge of the tram line. As the toilets were on the other side of the park, I can still remember, being told to just pop behind the trees, as nobody would be able to see me. I laugh now that I think about it, as anyone passing by on the tram, would have had a close- up view of me squatting behind the palm trees.

I can remember on many summer days, learning to swim in the Bogy Hole, a safe little pool, surrounded by a half circle of rocks close to the beach. Sometimes the three of us would walk to Bondi, passing Tamarama beach along the cliff tops, gathering water cress, in the wet cracks and crannies of the rocks for "Uncle Charles" who was a vegetarian. I can still see him at the southern end of the beach, sitting on the promenade, with his back against the changing shed of the baths, sunbaking, and waving to us as we left the beach.

As my sister and I got older, we spent much of our time at Bronte with our friends, wearing our "bubble" costumes, frequently getting burnt on the shoulders, and sporting bright red, painful sunburn, and blisters. During school holidays, we would be at the beach in the morning, come home for lunch and then return in the afternoon. Sometimes if it was very hot, we would return on summer nights, when Dad got home from work, to walk down to the beach, to sit on the cool sand, sometimes swimming in the Bogy Hole.

Members' Corner

Thanks to all our contributors



Rob's Joke of the Month

What do you call a cow with one leg?... lean beef !!
What do you call a cow with no legs?... ground beef !!

Denise's One Liner

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

Murphy's Law

Death is the number one killer in the world.

Only the Irish

Thanks Frances and Robert.



An old Irish farmer called in a repairman to fix his electric clock.
He examined it and then told him "There's nothing wrong with it, you simply haven't plugged it in".
The farmer replied "I don't want to waste electricity, so I only plug it in when I want to know what time it is"!

More Funnies

Thanks Carol Walshaw

You know you're getting old when you barely do anything all day, but still need to have a nap to continue to do barely anything.

Once you hit a certain age, life is just a delicate balance of trying to stay awake and trying to fall asleep. While slowly, getting worse at both.









Winslow Wig's Who said that?

Worry is like a rocking chair: it gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere.



Answer at the end of the newsletter

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

Dasha and Willy's Journal of The Days of Their Life's

So after settling into the accommodation at Alibaba's Place, Gramya had all the rooms sorted, everyone had freshened up they met Pitt in the cave bar in the basement. Pitt told them "we'll be here four nights, as the train is six hours late. So instead of departing Thursday night we depart Friday morning at 6 am".

First stop will be Tallahassee. The train will pull onto a siding there for the night, as you will understand the next morning when we go over the Fernando bridge and through the Gorshkova Pass. The train will travel through the next night before we arrive in Cartahena for a night then it's into Katoombra, arriving about 6 pm.



The first day is the most dangerous part of this trip as often the train gets held up by bandits. We have had our share of these people over our trip so far said Rob Hob. Chuck asked what time is dinner ? But no one answered him.

Willy asked about the plans for tomorrow, Dash asked if we could go for a walk around Kalinga. Sav said "only if you have one of us with you". Kit Kat said "sounds like a ball of fun this place"!

"Right" Pitt said "if some of you would like to have a walk around tomorrow, Sav will be downstairs at 10 am. Mongo, I have arranged a friend of ours to meet you tomorrow morning to help you look for your uncle's place. His name is Al Hibbitter and he has lived here for 25 years. I will meet you in the foyer at 10.30 and introduce you to him".

"Gramya and another friend of ours, Vladimir Rykov will get our train tickets and make sure our travel papers are all correct as we will often get checked by Empire State Guards along the way. I'll be working on our crossing of the Harmus Sea tomorrow so go have dinner have a good rest and see you in the morning."

Will Mongo find his uncle's place? See you next time Dave

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.

Two versions of Cauliflower and Blue Cheese Soup

Thank you Margaret Cousins.

Cauliflower & Blue Cheese / Cauliflower & Chicken Noodle Soup



Follow directions for both soups till the blending with a sieve or stick blender, when you add the preferred flavour.

The amount of soup made can be adjusted by size of cauliflower and amount of stock used.

1x cauliflower cut into flowerettes
1 or 2 brown onions diced
1 or 2 potatoes diced
Chicken or vegetable stock
Salt & pepper to taste
Cream or cream cheese to make a rich creamy soup if liked.

Your choice of soft blue cheese about 2or 3 ozs or 1 pkt Continental Chicken Noodle soup or home brand.

Soften onion over low heat in a little oil or butter (do not brown).
Add vegetables & some stock.
Steam till all vegetables are soft & add rest of stock & seasonings.
Remove from heat.

If your choice is chicken noodle add the packet before blending.
Blend with blender, sieve, or food processor

Blue cheese is crumbled into your plain version now.

If liked cream or cream cheese added just before serving to make sure it doesn't split.
Soup may be frozen without cream.
Enjoy!!

More Funnies



Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don’t have film.
He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
A day without sunshine is like, well, night.
I just got lost in thought, It was unfamiliar territory.

Andrea's Welfare Report

There was no welfare report at our August meeting and we hope everybody is doing well.

We know that almost all of us are suffering from one thing or another, so we just ask that you look after yourselves.

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

Highsenburg's Quiz

Ok everyone how did you go with our jumble?

It was Daylesford,



Located 114km northwest of Melbourne, Daylesford is Australia's premier spa capital. Nestled in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, it features the country's largest concentration of natural mineral springs. The region offers a relaxing escape with hot mineral baths, lush botanic gardens, and a renowned gourmet food scene.

See you next month H

Answers

Who said that: Erma Bombeck



We are always looking for contributions to our newsletters.



Remember, The Collective Spirit is for all of us, by all of us.

If you would like to contribute to our newsletter, you can contact any of our newsletter co-ordinators:

Dave on d.tourgossip@gmail.com or 0417 490 740
Sue on suebrown1948@gmail.com or 0412 899 193
Elizabeth on eejayrea@gmail.com or 0409 901 225

Compiled and designed by Sue Brown, Elizabeth Rea and Dave Lupton

Thanks to Club Condell Park for printing copies of our newsletter for members.