

The Collective Spirit

Brought to you by the Members of George's Hall Probus Club.
Issue 90 - 27 September 2026

President's Report

Hi everybody
Our meeting this month was a bit chaotic, with Club Condell Park's Bistro closed and lunch served in our meeting room. But as usual, Craig sorted it out and it went well.

We have a very good and very strong club, but we always need to be looking ahead. We talked about the need to keep encouraging new members and for all members to be involved as much as possible. It was heartening that two new members joined at the meeting and we welcomed five visitors.



Denise continues her run of arranging excellent speakers for our meetings. This month it was Stephen Cassettari who demonstrated the art of Chinese Brush Painting. His work was amazing and his droll commentary kept us all enthralled. Thank you, Stephen, and thank you Denise.

We are going to be busy in the next few weeks, celebrating Probus's Fiftieth Anniversary next Wednesday at Club Condell Park. Then 24 of us are off on our trip to Port Macquarie and we are all looking forward to that.

Because of the timing of our Port Macquarie trip, we have had to change the date of our monthly morning tea/lunch at Panania Diggers club to Wednesday 14 October. This change is for this month ONLY. We will continue to have this morning tea/lunch on the FIRST Wednesday of each month (except January). I look forward to seeing you all there.

Keep smiling, Sue

Something to Do



On the weekend, we decided to have a $2.50 day. So, we hopped on a train at Miranda, changed trains at Central, got on the old City Circle line, got off at Museum and checked out the old platform with its old advertising and some old photos on the walls of the tunnels.

Then we got back on a train back to Circular Quay where we got on a ferry to Manly. Had a coffee, got back on the ferry to the Quay, got on another ferry to Double Bay and had a great toasty and drink at a cafe on the wharf. Got back on the ferry to the Quay, had a gelato then got the train back to Miranda.
Apart from Coffee, Toasty and Gelato it was $2.50 how good is that!!

Thank you Mr Unsworth. So, for $2,50, and the cost of lunch, you have a great day out in the best city in the world.

From the Money Man:



Georges Hall Probus Club Inc.

Financial Summary
As at, 22.09.2026 :

Balance carried forward		**6,310**
Receipts		
Attendance fees received	4,016	
Membership fees	2,169	
Club Grant	5,000	
Outings	32,005	
Raffle	1,085	
Reserve transfers	735	
Theatre shows	735	
Trading table	649	
Grafton Tour	1,100	
Tour Port Macquarie	20,200	67,694
Total Receipts		
Expenses:		
Attendance fees paid	-4,000	
Capitation Feed Probus SP	-1,715	
General expenses	-1,095	
Guest speaker	-290	
New Equipment	-798	
Raffle Prizes	-340	
Outings Payments	-28,709	
Reserve Payments	-560	
Theatre payments	-735	
Trip away, Grafton	-900	39,142
Total Payments		
Total Funds Held		**34,861**
Less Deposits for Outings/Club Grant		-4185
Less Club Grant 2026		-5,000
Less Reserve Account		-175
Less Port Macquarie/Grafton		-20,400
Club Funds available		**5,102**

Ray Cook



Wally and Nelly Waramuk's must see movie,

All the way from downtown Cooma Snowy Open Air Play House.
It's a Brumby production, a High Country film.
Starring Chips Brown and Stew Uptown in the latest Movie
– **The Tracks Closed at Nutters Gap.**
Free screening for Seniors.



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



30 September	Fifth Wednesday. Probus 50th Birthday Celebration. Finger food style party at Club Condell Park. Cost $35.
5 – 9 October	Tour to Port Macquarie. The bus will depart Club Condell Park at 8.00 am. Please arrive by 7.45.
14 October	Morning Tea/Lunch at Panania Diggers RSL. From 10.30. Please see note in President's Report.
4 November	Morning Tea/Lunch at Panania Diggers RSL. From 10.30.
18 November	 Tour to Pine Ridge Miniature Donkeys. Bus departs 9.00 am and returns approximately 4.30 pm. Lunch at Tahmoor Inn and afternoon tea break at the Japanese Gardens and Tea Room, Campbelltown. Cost $95 members, $105 non-members.
Saturday 28 Nov	Guild Theatre Rockdale. "Steel Magnolias" Cost $30



As in previous years, our Probus Club does not hold a Melbourne Cup Function. However, Club Condell Park will hold one and members are welcome to attend this on Tuesday 3 November. If you are interested please sign up and pay at Club Reception and tell them that you are from Probus and we will arrange Probus tables.

Keep Safe, Jan

Walks with Jenny



I am very pleased to advise that our monthly walks will continue, though they will no longer be Dave and Willy's Lazy Wandering Walkers. Dave and Bill have found that life gets in the way and they can longer organise the walks. I would like to thank them both for suggesting the idea and leading the walks, which have become increasingly more popular.



And I would like to thank Jenny Bargh who has agreed to step up and co-ordinate the walks. These will be the same as previously, lazy and wandering, no speed walkers allowed and will take place on the fourth Friday of every month (weather permitting).

Jenny's first walk was on Friday 25 September and included a walk through the Botanical Gardens. It was disappointing that only one member turned up but Gai and Jenny had a lovely day in the gardens. Jenny's next walk will be on Friday 23 October and the plan is to walk across the Harbour Bridge. More details to follow, or you can contact Jenny on 0423 773 657.

The English Language



English is the third most spoken native language in the world. Standard Chinese and Spanish are first and second, respectively. More people in the world have learned English as a second language than there are native English speakers.

Why English is so hard to learn. (found in an article by Marlene Davis)
You think English is easy? Check out the following:

The bandage was wound around the wound.
The farm was cultivated to produce produce.
The soldier decided to desert his tasty dessert in the desert.
There was a row among the oarsmen about who would row.
The doctor had to subject the subject to a series of tests.

- English is the only language where you drive in parkways and park in driveways.
- It is also the only language where you recite in a play and play in a recital.
- Your fingers have fingertips, but your toes don't have toetips. Yet, you can tiptoe but not tipfinger.
- When you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's called a cargo.
- There is no egg in eggplant, no ham in hamburger, and neither apple nor pine in pineapple.
- The letter combination "ough" can be pronounced in over eight different ways, such as in thought, though, tough, cough, and drought.
- The word QUEUE is just a Q followed by four silent letters.

Do you remember ever using (or still use) some of these words – or hearing your parents using them?!

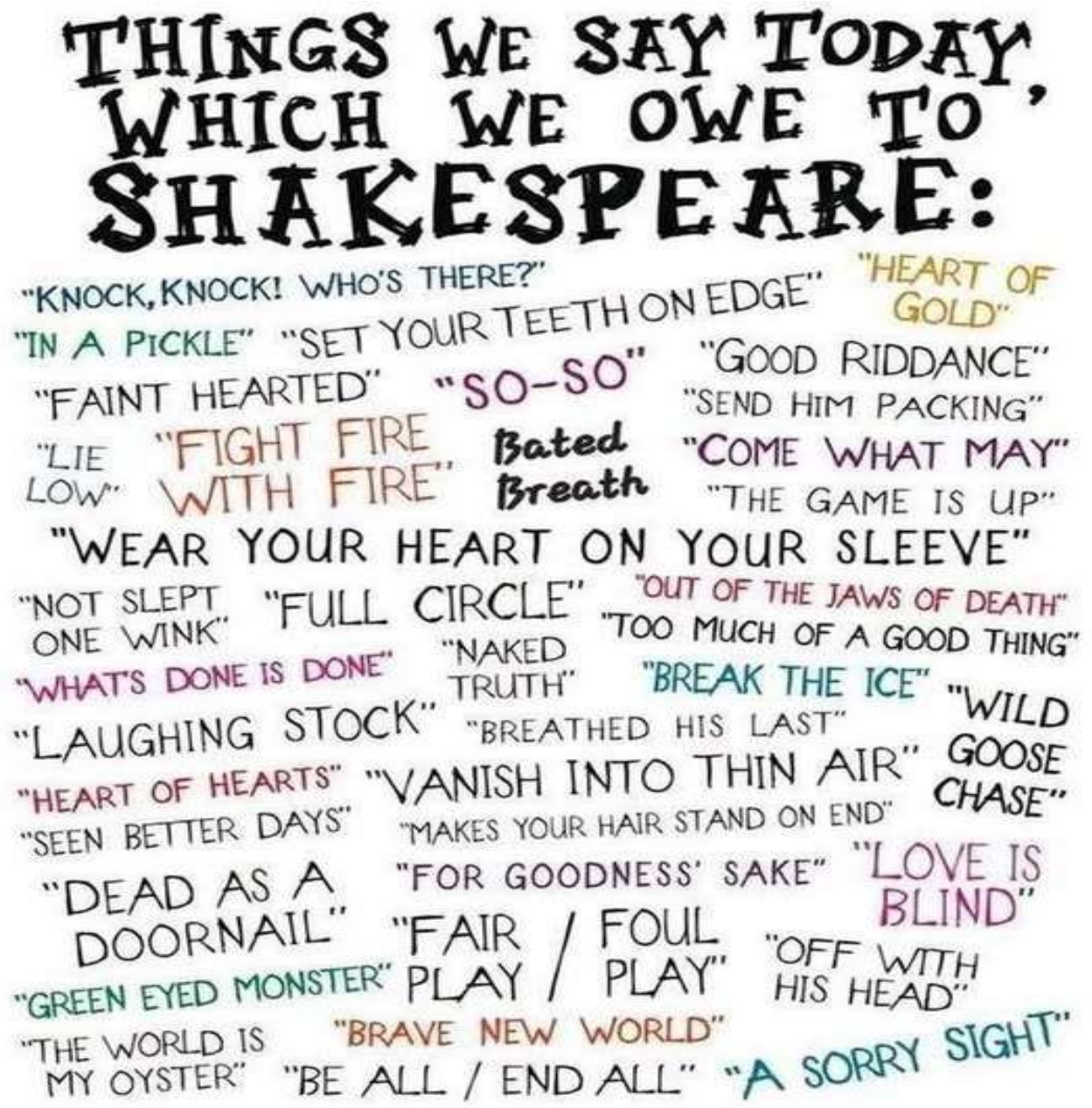
✓ Bamboozled	Doohickey	Gobsmacked
✓ Discombobulated	Malarkey	Whippersnapper
✓ Poppycock	Whatchamacallit	Thingamajig

Did you know?

- ✓ The Oxford English Corpus contains over 2.5 billion words. Most average adult English speakers know between 20,000–35,000 words.
- ✓ A new word is created every 98 minutes, which is about 14.7 words a day.
- ✓ The most complex word in the English language is "set." This small word has over 430 definitions and requires a 60,000 word definition that covers 24 pages in the Oxford English Dictionary.
- ✓ The word "good" has the most synonyms of any other word in the English language, at 380.



Shakespeare added 1,700 words to the English language during his lifetime.





September Birthdays
Andrea Best, Ray Cook, Owen Doust,
Muriel Richards

October Birthdays
Sue Brown, Carol Walshaw,
Elaine Higginson, Heather Wicks

Best wishes everyone, Barbara Doust



Out and About - Tulip Tops

Thanks Denise Ericsson
Photographs by Denise Ericsson, Cathy Dice and Marg Golder

We had heard so much about our destination, and were eagerly waiting for our coach trip to Tulip Tops, so everyone arrived at the Club bright and early, well prepared for a long day ahead. Our driver arrived ready to pick us up, but realised that he did not have a step on board, and departed to retrieve one. He finally arrived back with the step, and we quickly boarded the coach, and were on our way. We were soon leaving the metropolitan sprawl behind, and heading south down the freeway with everyone marveling at the new housing developments, and changes along the way. We made good time, and our first stop was at Heatherbrae Cake and Pie Shop, where we tucked into pies, cakes, coffee and freshly baked goodies.

It turned out to be a beautiful, but chilly day and soon we were on our way again, continuing our journey on the Federal Highway. Eventually we turned off the highway 13 kilometres from Lake George, and headed down the winding road, taking us to Tulip Tops. Tulip Tops is a magnificent property of 10 acres, established in 1997 by a family. Over half a million bulbs and annuals are planted each year, creating a spectacular spring display, amongst the variety of flowering trees. The bulbs are then dug up each year after they finish flowering.





Departing the bus, we were enticed down into a hidden valley, to a wonderland of colour, sounds of nature and a tranquil piece of paradise, where it was hard to not to be overwhelmed by the beauty. There was a plant nursery adjacent to the main entry, a shop selling honey and all things to do with bees, and a wine tasting area. There was also a Garden Café and a Dutch pancake and coffee shop, from which we were able to purchase our lunch, with tables and chairs set up outside, for us to sit in the beautiful sunshine out of the wind, enjoying this wonderful garden.

It was eventually time to leave, and finally boarded our coach for the journey back to Sydney stopping once again at Heatherbrae to stock up on freshly baked treats to take back home. To Jan and Bill who organised the trip, thank you so much for taking us to such a magnificent place.















In the shire with Luppo.

The suburb of Jannali



Jannali is a tranquil family-oriented suburb in the Sutherland Shire whose name means "*the place of the moon*" from an Aboriginal word.

Jannali is primarily a residential suburb. Samuel Gray purchased land in 1878 along which the Illawarra Railway line is located. Gray then sold this land to the Intercolonial Land and Investment Company in 1885.

The first estate was known as the Queen's Jubilee Township Como as it was released in 1888 to honour the Jubilee year of Queen Victoria. Some of the streets in this subdivision were also named for daughters of the Queen. However, it was not until many years later that the township boasted a shop, railway platform or an official name.

Jannali's population increased when the Depression took hold in Sydney in the 1930s. Many families forced from the city took up land in the subdivisions that opened in the Jannali area. Land was also later released after the end of World War Two. Jannali became the overflow for commuters who could catch trains to the city. In the 1970s there was a trend toward medium density housing and urban consolidation.



1884: The Illawarra railway line passed through, but trains did not initially stop.

1931: After the local progress association lobbied hard, the Jannali Railway Station opened, transforming the quiet bushland into an accessible village.

Post-WWII: Young families and returned servicemen moved to the suburb in large numbers.

1950s: Schools and community hubs opened, including Jannali Girls' High (1953) and Jannali Boys' High (1956), which later merged in 1992 to form The Jannali High School.



Zig Zag Zac' Book of the Month

The Roof
By Tilt Tiles



Not in the Shire with Susie
Bankstown Central Shopping Centre



Bankstown Central Shopping Centre which was originally named Bankstown Square is celebrating its sixtieth anniversary this month. It was opened on 21 September 1966 by Lady Cutler, the wife of a former NSW governor. At the time, it was Australia's largest shopping precinct and more than 100,000 people attended its opening.



Bankstown Square had two major department stores, David Jones and Big W, and about 100 shops, along with parking for 2900 vehicles. After changing management several times – and its name – Bankstown Central has more than 320 speciality stores and more than 15.2 million visitors a year. The centre has undergone a huge transformation and in the mid-2000s underwent several major extensions that added a combined 26,000sq m to the complex.





I grew up in Bankstown and I remember the opening well. David Jones occupied two levels and had a food court underneath. Big W stood at the opposite end and was very different to the Big W stores of today, including selling furniture and appliances. As a student, I worked there on weekends and there was a dress code, no slacks allowed and it was compulsory to wear stockings. One of my jobs was in the confectionary counter where we actually bagged all the lollies ourselves. There was instant dismissal if you were caught eating any while you were working. I was never fired, so I must never have eaten any!

The World Fair Restaurant was very innovative for the time, with centralised seating but lots of varied food outlets around. Very common today, but quite a novelty back then. It was cheap and easy and was open even when the rest of the centre was closed. We had many cheap Saturday night meals there.

More next time, Sue



Winslow Wig's Who said that?

People say nothing is impossible. But I do nothing every day.

Answer at the end of the newsletter



Members' Corner

Thanks to all our contributors

Rob's Joke of the Month

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



Denise's One Liner

"I told my doctor that I broke my arm in two places, and he told me to stop going to those places."

Murphy's Law

If you keep watching, eventually you will see something.

Only the Irish

Thanks Frances and Robert.

Have you heard about the stupid man who went to the hardware store to get some screws? "how long do you want them?" asked the shopkeeper. "Well actually, I was hoping to keep them" he replied.

Have you heard about the woman who got a scarf for her birthday present? She returned it because it was too tight.

"Mum" said little Jimmy, "you know that lovely vase in the dining room that's been handed down from generation to generation"? "yes, what about it?" "Well" said Jimmy, "the last generation just dropped it."



Thought for the day

The biggest lie I tell myself is
that I don't need to write that down.
I will remember it!!!

Early Memories

Thanks, Carol Coates

Living in a coal mining area, one of my jobs was helping shovel the coal into the coal bins. I was all of about 3 and I remember mum saying that I had more coal dust over me than in the bins. Of course that meant a bath in the tin bath in front of the open fire.

As kids we would love the Laurel and Hardy pictures where we would gather in the local hall. I think the same movie was shown over and over but we had threepence worth of lollies to share, my favourites were musk sticks and cobbers.



Another memory was 1954 when the Queen came to Lithgow. My sister and I had new yellow poplin dresses made for the occasion. Everyone dressed up, men in suits and ladies with handbags, gloves and hats. Quite funny when you think that we were all crammed into the local park to see the Queen. Those yellow dresses to this day are a talking point in our family. The attached photo took pride of place in the lounge room, it then got moved to the bedroom and somehow ended up on the laundry wall It is still referred to as the laundry photo.

The annual trip to Young took about five hours as we would have to keep stopping to fill up the radiator in the Austin A30. But the trip was well worth it as Nan and Pop owned a huge cherry orchard and we could eat as many cherries as we liked The tractor rides were so much fun.

Weekends were always family times and along with other families, we would go on picnics or blackberry picking or a swim in the creek or in the local Small Arms Factory Dam. There was no such thing as swimming pools.

The kids of today don't know what they are missing. They don't know how to make their own fun, they all seem too busy with phones etc.

I wouldn't change a thing in my early days.





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



At 10 minutes to 10, Al Hibbitter walked into the downstairs coffee bar of Ali Baba's Place. Pitt was waiting for him at a table, coffee in hand. "Pitt old man", Al said, as he walked up to the table. "It's been 5 years. How is Sav? Did you both come?" Just then Sav and Gramay walked in. Al spotted them, giving Gramay a kiss and a hug. "Sav old man, you have put a pound on," and Sav said, "and you have gotten older by the day". Just then Vladimea arrived and Mongo walked in.

Pitt introduced Mongo to Hibbitter and gave Al a quick overview of what Mongo was looking for. The rest of the group started to come in after breakfast. Pitt introduced them to Vladimea asking him to take the group for a walk around town with Sav, while Pitt and Gramay got the train tickets for tomorrow's trip to Tallahassee.

Mongo and Al set out down the main street called Java-nook Ave. Al asked, "how long has your uncle lived here?" Mongo said, "26 years." "Well," Al said, "in that case, we need to head to the old part of the city on Luksenburg Street, which is only a five minute walk. We will cut straight across from here and over the Bungobee Bridge. There are only 3 coffee shops there, it will be one of them."



Sav and Vladimea got the rest of the group together. "The one and only rule is - keep together and no bartering. Let's go" said Sav, but big Chuck said he wasn't going to walk he was staying in. "Ok", said Sav.

Pitt and Gramay headed for the train station. "It's not called after that town, it has its own name (Tickler-Mock), it's called after the first mongoose that was found in the area".

They were deep in conversation with the Station Master about an uprising on the other side of the old Fernando bridge. The Station Master said it's involving a tribal war between the McFlanagans and the McZemlya's. They are held up on each side of the train line so you may be held up for a time. We will see what happens, said Pitt. The others, with Sav and Vlad, headed north down Walygoat Street towards the markets.

So, what's in store for everyone in the coming hours and days?

See you next month, 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.

Beef Satay with Thai Peanut Sauce (from: Recipe Tin Eats)

Marinade:
600g / ½ lb beef rump steak
¼ cup coconut milk
1 tbsp. curry powder
1 tsp white sugar
2 tspn red curry paste
½ tsp baking soda/bi-carb
1 tsp salt

Thai Peanut Sauce:
1 tbsp red curry paste
2/3 cup coconut milk
1/3 cup natural peanut butter
1 ½ tbsp white sugar
1 tspn dark soy sauce
½ tsp salt
1 tbsp cider vinegar
1/3 cup water

METHOD:

1. Cut beef into 2.5cm / 1" cubes
2. Mix Satay Marinade ingredients into a bowl.
3. Mix beef into the Satay Marinade
4. Marinate beef for 24 hours. For this recipe, I don't recommend reducing the marinating time to ensure the baking soda has sufficient time to properly tenderise the beef.
5. Thread beef on to skewers. I like to use short skewers that fit inside a skillet. Typically, I'll thread 4 cubes on each skewer, but if I'm serving as an appetizer to pass around, then I might only do 3.
6. Cook skewers on the stove in a griddle pan or skillet – or better still, barbeque them – over high heat. For the most authentic Thai street food experience, cook it over charcoal.
7. Turn skewers to cook each side (i.e. all 4 sides) until nicely charred and cooked through to medium/well done, which takes around 8 to 10 minutes. It's important to know that beef tenderized with baking soda only becomes tender once thoroughly cooked. If it's medium rare, then the beef will be on the chewy side because we're using an economical cut of beef. Yes, this is the exact opposite of all the rules you read about cooking steak. (https://www.recipetineats.com/how-to-cook-steak/)!!
8. An even more amazing fact out, beef tenderized using baking soda is that it's virtually impossible to overcook. In fact, even when cooked to well done, it will still be pink inside!
9. Rest the skewers for 3 minutes before serving. To add some colour and visual appeal, garnish with a dusting of finely chopped peanuts, coriander/cilantro and finely sliced red chilli (use large ones so they aren't spicy).
10. And of course, don't forget the peanut sauce!!

PEANUT SAUCE:
Plonk all the ingredients into a saucepan over medium low heat and simmer for 5 minutes.

Thank you Jenny Bargh!

A Little Toilet Humour

As we get older a common topic of conversations is toilets and we are always looking for them. I was recently asked to include a story about toilets around the world in the newsletter. I have done this before, in a very early edition of the newsletter. That was so long ago, you have probably all forgotten, so I am including it again.

So here are a few questions. Have you ever?

- walked into a five star hotel lobby, acted like you owned the place, just so you could use their clean and swanky loo? *I have, very successfully*.
- stopped at McDonalds (a place you hate) just to use the bathroom? *Often.*
- taken photos of the toilet because it was so memorable? *Again, often!*
- been to a toilet that had no paper but where you use a water spray instead (sometimes known as a "bum gun")? *I did, but I was worried about how to use it without drenching the whole cubicle and myself in the process.*
- found a toilet cubicle so small, that you had to almost stand on the toilet to open and close the door? *Now, that was fun*!
- had to "spend a penny" to use the toilet? *I have many times, especially in Europe where I have paid up to one euro. I remember one incident in Austria where the dragon lady attendant wouldn't even give change, if you didn't have the correct money, you didn't get past her and through the turnstiles (yes, turnstiles!)*.
- got off a train to use the toilet at the station and took so long you missed it leaving? *I haven't but I know somebody who did, in Italy! His wife was not happy!*
- wondered why Americans have a thing about calling a toilet, a toilet? They are bathrooms (*never seen a bath in one*), rest rooms (*not a pleasant place for a rest*), wash rooms (*well, I suppose you can have a wash*). But my favourite is "comfort station". And they don't use toilet paper, they use "bath tissue"!
- been drenched in a self cleaning facility when you opened the door (*I haven't but I have heard stories of other Probus members who have)*

And just for the ladies. Have you ever?

- wondered why most places have an equal number of men's and women's toilets when that is so obviously impractical? *I'm sure men made these decisions!*
- used the men's toilet because the queue for the ladies was too long*? YES!*
- run to the toilet, breaking all speed records to get there, because you have seen a tour bus pull in and you want to beat the queue? *YES, again*!
- seen the look of despair on women's faces when the only toilets are squats?

And there are so many different ways to flush a toilet. Sometimes you use your hands, sometimes your feet, sometimes, they are motion activated and flush when you stand up, sometimes you have to pump them. My favourite was where I could see no possible way to flush, I looked for ages and thought I was going mad. In the end, I started to leave, feeling embarrassed, only to find that as I opened the cubicle door, the toilet flushed automatically.





But my favourite toilets are to be found in Japan. You need a degree to use them, but wow, they are amazing. They have heated seats, bidet jets and even play music so you can have privacy while you tinkle.

Written for your convenience, Sue Brown

Andrea's Welfare Report

It was good to see Beatrice Drew at our meeting this month.

Sandra Gruene is doing well, recovering from her second knee replacement surgery. Margaret Shirlow is recovering from shoulder surgery.

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

Well, can you unjumble this town -

dhteahad -

It's not in Queensland but it is in NSW.

C U next month with the answer, H.

Answers

Who said that: A.A. Milne



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, 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

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