The Collective Spirit

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

Issue 92 - 31 October 2026

President's Report

Hi everybody

It's been a very busy month for us this month. Firstly with our party to celebrate Probus's fiftieth anniversary in Australia and secondly with our very successful trip to Port Macquarie. The success of both these trips is down to Jan Brown and all her helpers. Jan works tirelessly to organise our events and it's a job that is becoming more and more difficult all the time. In particular, I would like to thank Jan for the amazing job she did on our Port Macquarie trip where she did over and above what was expected of her. Thank you Jan.

Our October meeting did not go quite according to plan. Our speaker, Judith Dunn was ill and had to pull out at the last minute. Judith is an excellent speaker and we have shared her enthusiasm many times before. So we wish her well.

One of our members, Sylvia Somers took ill during the meeting and we needed to call the ambulance for her. This resulted in a very abridged version of our meeting as we dealt with her treatment. The latest news on Sylvia from her family is that she is doing OK, has had tests done and is now discharged from hospital. She is now waiting for the results to hopefully get answers. Her family would like to thank all the Probus members for their friendship, concern and support through this time. I hope everyone is ok after such a disrupted and confronting meeting.

Keep smiling, Sue

Something to Do

Next time you have a free day, take a train ride into the city and go the Australian Museum. You would be amazed at what you can do and see there it's one fantastic place to visit



1 William Street, Sydney NSW 2010. The Australian Museum is open from 10am to 5pm daily, you can discover the extraordinary permanent exhibitions on display with FREE General Entry. The museum's main entrance is located on the corner of College Street and William Street in central Sydney, just across the road from Hyde Park and opposite St Mary's Cathedral. Walking to the Museum is a level 10-minute walk from Town Hall in the CBD and Gadigal Metro Station is even closer.

https://australian.museum/.

From the Money Man:

Georges Hall Probus Club Inc.

Financial Summary
As at, 28 October 2026 :



Balance carried forward		**6,309.57**
Receipts		
Attendance fees received	4,600	
Membership fees	2,254.50	
Club Grant	5,000	
Outings	34,075	
Raffle	1,236	
Reserve transfers	975	
Theatre shows	735	
Trading table	927	
Grafton Tour	1,100	
Tour Port Macquarie	35,700	
Total Receipts		**86,602.50**
Expenses:		
Attendance fees paid	4,584.00	
Capitation Feed Probus SP	1,714.60	
General expenses	1,120.89	
Guest speaker	340.00	
New Equipment	798.00	
Raffle Prizes	515.00	
Outings Payments	34,763.30	
Reserve Payments	740.00	
Theatre payments	735.00	
Trip away, Grafton	1,100.00	
Trip away, Port Macquarie	38,071.00	
Total Payments		**84,481.79**
Total Funds Held		**8,430.28**
Less Deposits for Outings		1,860.00
Less Club Grant 2026		1,115.00
Less Reserve Account		235.00
Club Funds available		**5,220.28**

Ray Cook



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

November Birthdays
Jan Clark, Carol Coates
Francesca Frizza, Sandra Gruene
Karlene Lawrence, Heather McGuckin

Best wishes everyone, Barbara Doust





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



4 November	Morning Tea/Lunch at Panania Diggers RSL. From 10.30.
18 November	Replacement activity. Lunch at Riverhigh Restaurant at Beauty Point, 33 Bernard Road, Padstow Heights. 11.30 for 12.00 lunch, at your own expense.
Saturday 28 Nov	Guild Theatre Rockdale. "Steel Magnolias" Cost $30
2 December	Morning Tea/Lunch at Panania Diggers RSL. From 10.30.
Monday 7 December	Probus Christmas Party in Memories, Club Condell Park. Cost for members $50 (this is a subsidised event). You need to have your name down and pay by the November meeting. Starting at 11.30.

Unfortunately our tour to the Pine Ridge Miniature Donkeys on 18 November has had to be cancelled. We are looking to re-organise this for March 2027.

Keep Safe, Jan

Walks with Jenny



There were four people on Jenny's walk this month. The weather was kind, the Bridge gave us fabulous views, Bill Brown was very informative as to how The Bridge had been put together, pointing out little details along the way, and lunch was delicious. We wandered from Circular Quay, up through The Rocks, past the market stalls, up some stairs, then more stairs, then the lift up to the walkway. On the other side it was a lift down to street level, a lunch stop In Kirribilli, then a wander through Kirribilli streets to catch the ferry back to Circular Quay.





The next walk will be Friday 27th November, through Barangaroo. We will meet at 10am at the Barangaroo exit at Wynyard Station , walk down to the foreshore and along to the Barangaroo Reserve. Depending how we all feel on the day we may walk further, past Walsh Bay and all the finger wharves , back to Circular Quay. It may just be a walk back to catch the Metro home, or the Ferry back to Circular Quay

Much to look at and enjoy and plenty of places for coffee and food along the way. Hopefully there will be more to join Jenny on the next walk. You can contact her on 0423 773 657.

Celebrating Probus's 50th Birthday

Photographs by Denise Ericsson, Elizabeth Rea, Sue Brown

We celebrated Probus Club's 50th anniversary this month at Club Condell Park. It was a fun day with entertainment suggested by two of our members. We enjoyed PHUN (Parramatta and Hills Ukulele Network), thanks Carol Walshaw (who also danced the hula for us). Followed by square dancing from Knee Deep Squares, thanks Mary Crouch. It was a great way to have some fun, celebrate the 50th birthday and have some involvement from other community groups. Thanks to Jan Brown for organising another great event.



























In the shire with Luppo.

The suburb of Oyster Bay



Oyster Bay is a suburb in Sutherland Shire, located 26 kilometres south of the Sydney central business district. It is set on a peninsula (Caravan Head) along the southern shores of the Georges River and it is known for deep waterfront properties, stunning northern water views, and great spots for kayaking, boating, and fishing.

While it does not have its own train station, it sits right next to Jannali and Como railway stations. It is well-serviced by local buses and has a small shopping centre with a post office, an IGA, a butcher, chemist, cafe/bakery and has a public school.

Popular spots include the popular Oyster Bay Bakery, Ward Crescent Reserve, the refurbished Green Point Reserve (which includes an observatory). And the Jannali village with shops and cafes is only a 5-minute drive away. Oyster Bay is one of the hidden gems of the Sutherland Shire.



Not in the Shire with Susie

Bankstown Railway Line



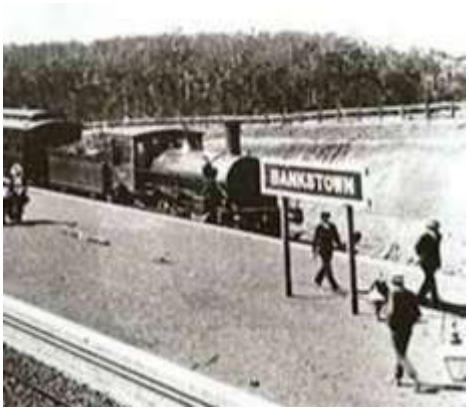
By the time you get this newsletter, the new metro Bankstown line will be open. It was officially opened to the public on Friday 30th October 2026. The first train ran at 4.30 am and there were crowds of people waiting to ride. Passengers will be pleased to see this, the route has been covered by buses for the last two years while the work was undertaken.



The metro will connect Bankstown through the CBD to the northwest on one continuous 66-kilometre Metro line. The high speed, driverless services will run every four minutes during weekday peak hours, every five minutes during the day, and every ten minutes in the evenings and on weekends. From Marrickville, the line continues through Sydenham Station and onward toward the City and North West via the Sydney Metro Network. No brand-new geographic station locations were built on the new metro line, but the existing stations between Sydenham and Bankstown were converted and upgraded.



The line has a long history. The first section of the line opened between Marrickville (Sydenham) and Burwood Road (later renamed Belmore) in 1895. In 1909 it was extended from Belmore to Bankstown, officially opening Bankstown Railway Station along with intermediate stops at Lakemba and Punchbowl.



It is now a hundred years since it was electrified in 1926. This was a historic event which marked the transition of the line from steam to electric traction, with overhead electrical wiring extended across the network to significantly upgrade public transport between the central business district and Sydney's outlying western suburbs. In 1928, the railway extended westward from Bankstown to Sefton Park East Junction, connecting to the Main South line.



Before the line was opened, people either rode into the city on a horse and cart or they walked to Haslem's Creek then the name for Lidcombe station. Prior to 1909, the couple of dozen people in the broader south Bankstown district then would walk across Salt Pan Creek marshes near Office Works, Punchbowl and then through paddocks to Belmore.

More next time
Sue

Members' Corner

Thanks to all our contributors

Rob's Joke of the Month
Why did the banana go to the doctor
It wasn't peeling well.

Denise's One Liner
Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

Murphy's Law
Why is there a D in fridge ? But not in refrigerator ?

Only the Irish
Thanks Frances and Robert.

"I can't make up my mind whether to be a poet or a painter" said Patrick.
"Oh! I think you should be a poet" Seamus replied.
"You mean you've read one of my poems?" asked Patrick.
"No", said Seamus, "but I've seen one of your paintings".



A miser had just won a car in a raffle but seemed quite glum.
"What's the matter" asked his friend.
"It's this other ticket. I can't imagine why I ever bought it."

Beware of Scams

By Sue Brown

At the last meeting I told of how I received a phone call from someone claiming to be from the NBN about improving my internet speed, but it turned out that it was a scam. Luckily I closed the call down before any damage was done. But it's quite frightening how "real" these callers seem, how persuasive they are and how easily you can be taken in. After following this up, I discovered that it was a very common scam (sadly one of many). NBN, and most other legitimate companies do not make cold calls like this. You can protect yourselves by following some tips:

- If you're ever in doubt about contact you've had from someone saying they're from NBN or trying to sell you an internet or phone service, hang up the phone and call your retail service provider to check if the person calling is a fraud. Look up the phone number yourself. Don't use a phone number the caller has given you.
- Never give your personal, credit card or online account details over the phone unless you made the call and the phone number came from a trusted source.
- Don't click on links or websites that you are uncomfortable about.
- Never give an unsolicited caller remote access to your computer.
- If you think you have provided bank account or credit card details to a scammer, contact your bank or financial institution immediately.

You can find more information at
scamwatch.gov.au
idcare.org

Early Memories

Some snippets from my early childhood by Marilyn Baulman

I lived with my parents in my nan and pops house at Mortdale until I was about 4 and a half years old and then Sandra came along . In my nan's house there was nan and pop, mum, dad and me, mum's sister Aunty Dorothy and her husband Uncle Alf and their son, my cousin, John who was 2 years older than me. There was also mum's brother Frank and a ring-in I don't know from where he came but we called him Uncle Ernie and he always called me Madeleine. John always told me to kiss Uncle Ernie goodnight at bedtime which I hated as he dribbled which was very off-putting, but of course John being John said this every night. Mum and dad were having their house built at Herne Bay (which is now Riverwood) and Aunty Dorothy was having their home built at Oatley, that's why we all lived together. Uncle Frank wasn't married.

Pop had an old Ford car (I'm talking something like a gangster would have) which, when we went out, nan and pop sat in the front, mum, dad, Dorothy and Alf on the back seat and John and me on a white stool behind nan and pop. We never went out when it was raining as the car had no windows, it was well air conditioned. We also had chooks which nan collected eggs from, but one day she asked John if he would go and get the eggs and suddenly there was John laughing his head off so we went to see what he was laughing at and to nan's dismay he was smashing the eggs on the path as he was coming back to the house. No doubt he was in a bit of trouble.

John and I used to go down to the park a few houses down. One day some boys started hitting me so John ran home. Mum asked where I was and he told them and she asked why didn't he bring me home but apparently his answer was "well they might have started hitting me" so my mum had to come and save me. He was quite a character and I loved him. I was glad I had so much time with nan as she passed away at 60. I was about 12.



Our nan went overseas a few times. We used go down and see her off at Circular Quay. We were allowed to go on board to her cabin until you heard someone ringing the bell yelling out "all ashore that's going ashore". We all threw streamers to each other as the ship left and the band played Auld Lang Syne. She went on the Arcadia, Oronsay, Orsova and Orcades.





My mum worked at the Piazza cafe at Mark Foys (which is now Darling Street courts) so every Christmas we would go and see Santa and then go through the caves which had different fairy tale stories each year such Cinderella, Snow White, etc. They were magical and then into the submarine which was dark inside and we sat as all underwater life went by the windows .It was fun.

We also went on holidays up to The Entrance. Mum and dad played Housie (which it was then) and us kids walked around playing some of the side shows with the money we were given. It was so safe then and just buzzing with people. Dad's sister moved to Scarborough, Queensland so many school holidays, dad would hire the old ply wooden caravan and off to Queensland we would go and park the van in Aunty May's place and have a wonderful holiday with our 5 cousins.

Bill Gilmour

Thanks to Margaret Cousins



Have you ever heard of Bill Gilmour? Australia has many unsung and often unknown heroes, Bill Gilmour is one of them. He was awarded the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2019 for his extraordinary and outstanding voluntary service to Tennis in New South Wales for many decades, as well as making a significant contribution to the sport of Tennis in Australia and internationally.

Bill started his tennis career at age 12 when he was selected to go to Brisbane to play in the 12 and Under Australian championships with Ken Rosewell. According to Bill, he did 'reasonably well' in tennis so Slazenger offered him a job as a tennis player and he played some tournaments overseas including at Wimbledon. 'I was never in the top bracket like Rosewell and Hoad, but in the next bracket. I did OK'. Slazenger only wanted the 'very elite, not the next layer down'. Bill was an amateur but 'we were getting paid under the table. We were called "shamateurs". His fee was $US200 a week.

When he came home Bill decided as he was not right 'up there' he would not continue as a professional but instead took a coaching position. Then the opportunity arose to buy land in Willarong Road, Caringbah where he and his father built tennis courts and started his tennis school. Bill joined the NSW Tennis Association, did their exams and qualified as a coach. His father and uncle also coached for him but they employed other coaches as well, especially for school sport.

Bill had this complex for about 50 years and later sold it. But Gilmour Tennis is still thriving and they are now leasing courts from Sutherland Council. Bill did well out of the sale and wanted to do something for the Shire that had supported him so well. He built the dialysis unit for Sutherland Hospital, donated $1,500,000, now called the Bill Gilmour Unit. He also established the Gilmour Foundation which helps charities, including buying buses for the Police Citizens Youth Club and for Civic Industries (which caters for people with disabilities) and the Men of League charity.

Bill has volunteered at many tennis events as well has his service as a Director of Tennis NSW and was a member of numerous Boards. He also served as a Tennis NSW Councillor, as President of the NSW Tennis Professionals' Association Limited and as President of Tennis Coaches Australia. Bill (and his wife Fay) have made a substantial volunteer contribution to the Australian Tennis Museum, giving valuable time and considerable expertise for many years. As President of the NSW Tennis Professionals' Association for 35 years, Bill mentored and guided more than many of the tennis coaches in NSW who in turn developed tennis players, from grassroots players to players who made their mark on the world professional circuit.

Bill was also the President of Tennis Coaches Australia for 18 years, greatly influencing the development of coaching skills and expertise for Australia's tennis coaches during that entire time. Bill was the referee for the NSW Open for 35 years, a world record. During that time Bill not only did an outstanding job refereeing the high-profile NSW Open, dealing expertly with players, he also developed, guided, and was a confidant to the next generation of referees, with many Tennis NSW assistant referees being trained and guided by Bill.

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

So Al Hibbitter and Mongo headed on down Luksenburg Street while the others set off with Sav and Vladmiea which left Pitt and Gramay going to the train station. Once across the Bungobee bridge, they were in the old part of the city. The first cafe they came to was one called Uncle Vodstocks Café. They went inside, a young girl was serving and greeted them with the local greeting "Narchos".

Al asked her if the owner was in and how long he had been in the café. She said "no, Alifonz comes in after midday and he has owned the cafe for about six years". Al asked how old he was and the girl replied about 40. Al said thanks and ordered two coffees. Al asked Mongo if that sounded like his uncle. No, he said, his uncle would be around 70 by now and had been here for more than 25 years as far as he knows. So they had the coffee then left a tip for the young girl and headed to the next café, two blocks away.



As they were walking, Al said "would you know your uncle by sight?" Mongo said he had a vague memory of him but if he still has his big eyebrows he would definitely know him. The next cafe came up in front of them. The name of it was Zac Zeno's finest coffee north of the Mongoose Mountains. Al lead the way. Narchos he said to the man behind the counter. Narchos was the reply. Two of your best coffees please and a little information. Take a seat and I'll bring your coffee. Are you the owner Sir Al asked? Yes I am said the man. Mongo said "nope, not my uncle".

Zac brought the coffees out. "How can I help with your inquiry" he asked with a Mongoose accent. "Ho, we just wanted to know how long your cafe has been here?" "It was my father's and his father's for so many years". "You have a fine cafe and the coffee is fantastic" Al said. "Thank you" said Zac "is that all" as he walked off.



Well, down the hatch said Al, and to the next cafe,. They walked out of Zac's, turned left, walked a small block and there it was, the last café, painted in red and white. The front door was open with three tables and chairs outside and the name Poppa Joe's Café, best coffee this side of Mongoose.

Well is this Mongos uncle's café? Find out next month. See ya Dave



Wally and Nelly Waramuk's must see movie,

All the way from downtown Cooma Snowy Open Air

.

All the way from Willmount Bay under ground playhouse it's a Bloombag production a Nanny-goat film starring Bill Understand and Dave Overall in the first release crime movie of the month .

The Underground of Steven's Street Gang.

Tickets on sale yesterday.

Andrea's Welfare Report

It was good to see Margaret Shirlow at our meeting this month following her shoulder surgery. We wish her (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

dhteahad



Well did you un-jumble this town? It is Hat Head. Hat Head is a coastal town on the Mid North Coast of NSW, near South West Rocks, 459 kilometres north of Sydney, and in the Hat Head National Park. At the time of the 2021 census, Hat Head had a population of 365 people

Hat Head is a natural paradise, with 12km of uninterrupted beachfront and the crystal clear Korogoro Creek. With a variety of walking tracks to choose from, excellent fishing and whale watching Hat Head is a nature-based escape like no other, staying at Hat Head is a real opportunity to get back to nature.

C U next month, H.



Zig Zag Zac' Book of the Month

The Traffic Jam
by Major Holdup



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
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