



ENGADINE-YARROWARRAH PROBUS CLUB INC.

Founded 25 July 1976

Newsletter October 2026

<https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/engadineyarrowarra>

PRESIDENT Maureen Barrell 0409 718336 EYPC.president@gmail.com

President's message :



Welcome to October. It certainly feels like spring now with the changeover to daylight saving, although we do still seem to be getting the odd days of changeable weather. Can't quite put the cold weather gear away completely yet.

Thank you Joy for running the meeting last month while I was in Hobart, experiencing very cold weather, but still having a lovely time with family. Even with being away for 10 days I still managed to fit in the Gourmet Wanderers lunch at Caringbah Bowling Club the Opal Trip to Kiama, which included a very quick scramble up the hill to see the blow hole. I believe Joy is putting a photo in the newsletter as proof that we did it.



We have a picnic organised for Thursday 26 October to celebrate both Probus month and the 50 year anniversary of Probus Clubs in Australia. Details further in the newsletter and a registration sheet will be at the meeting next Monday.

Thank you to those members who regularly support the range of activities organised by the activity coordinators. There is always plenty on offer, and now that the weather has warmed up, if you don't normally do so, put your name down for something and come along and join us.

There are a few members who have been unwell during recent weeks. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to you and we hope to see you back amongst us soon.

See you at the meeting next week.

Next meeting: Monday 12th October, 2026 10 am Gympsea Trade Union Club The Kingsway

TREASURER Rod Richardson 0424 342288 EYPC.treasurer@gmail.com



Payments Due

ACTIVITY	FEE (M / V)	CODE	DUE DATE
Steel Magnolias	\$25 / \$30	Steel	31 October 26
Seniors Christmas Concert	\$21/\$26	CConcert	16 th October 26

Payment for Club Activities

1. EFT - Pay Anyone – Commonwealth Bank **BSB 062164 Account No.1057 4595**
2. At a Commonwealth Bank
Use special Deposit Slip (available at meeting)
Ensure that the bank deposit is in the club's **BUSINESS ACCOUNT**

Note EFT Payments - ENSURE that your NAME is included in details EYPC will no longer accept cash payments

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MEMBER	DATE	MEMBER	DATE
Greg Deane	16 th October	Jan Swan	18 th October
Stephen Swadling	18 th October	Anne Corben	21 st October
Jenny Swadling	24 th October	Lauren Pickering	26 th October
Pauline Herring	26 th October	Jenny Best	27 th October
John Murphy	28 th October	Ros Campbell	29 th October



To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Probus we are having a picnic at Cooper St Park.

Come and join us on **Thursday 29th October at 11am**. We will be practising the fun, friendship and fellowship that Probus was founded on. Mark it in your diary. I hope to see everyone there. Bring your own everything- picnic or BBQ food, drinks, chairs etc.

MEMBERSHIP Kerry Baldwin 0417 060 412 eypc.membership@gmail.com



Our meeting is next Monday please let me know if you are unable to attend.

At our last Committee meeting it was discussed how it would be good to improve our knowledge of each other. We are going to add photos of members and ask you to add their name. No test, just a fun way to improve our memory!

If you do not wish to have your name and photo in the Newsletter please send an email to membership or eypcnewsletter100@gmail.com

WHO's WHO? How well do you know our members? Do you know who these members are?



Check to see if you are right!
Kerry Sheppard
Cathy Williams
Allan Cousins

WELFARE Jenny Best 0414539894 Janis Clifton (asst) 0407404612



The footy season is over, (I hope your team won!!), the days are warming up, let's all take advantage of indoor and outdoor activities, such as walking, aqua, chair yoga, dancing, gardening, discussion groups and of course Probus activities etc, to keep our minds and bodies young and healthy !!

We extend our well wishes to Barry H. John D. and Cheryl R. offering our friendship and support. Great to hear Laurel C. is doing well after her misadventure.

Well wishes to any of our Probus friends who may not be feeling their usual cheery selves.

It would be appreciated if you let us know if you hear of anyone who is unwell or needs assistance as we may be able to offer our fellowship and friendship.

Probus friends, keep safe and well. 🦋🐼🐼🐼🦋

COFFEE/TEA MORNING Janet Wright 0405190447 johnwandjanetw@hotmail.com



Coffee Morning

Join us for a friendly chat over coffee.

Wednesday 7th October at 10:30am at Phoenix

Wednesday 4th November at Espresso Wall St Café Lantana Rd

GUEST SPEAKER Jill Fitzpatrick 0404383388 eypc.speakers@gmail.com



At our last meeting, the new household waste system **FOGO** was explained by Sutherland Shire Council representatives. The presentation was clear, concise and informative, and several of our members took the opportunity following the talk to ask questions. Now we all know what to do with our rubbish!

This month, Koko Casey will be presenting her life story and her new book entitled *STAY*, which chronicles her near death experience in a plane crash, and the events that followed when she was recovering.

I have been endeavouring to follow up on several requests for speakers on some specific topics. Thank you for all of your input and support, and I hope to bring some of these requests to fruition next year. See you all on Monday,

SECRETARY Margaret Duncan EYPC.secretary@gmail.com 0405220754

Due to a miscommunication with the cruise company, the date for the cruise has been changed.

It will now be held on **Monday, 15th February**, 11.00 to 2.30pm leaving from Casino Wharf, Pyrmont travel by train to Central and then the light rail to Pyrmont Bay where it's a short walk across the road near the Maritime Museum. The cost will be \$75, 2 course buffet lunch with a 3.5 hour harbour cruise.

Tea and coffee provided together with entertainment. Drinks at your own cost as there is a bar on board.

There will be a registration sheet at the October meeting that you can add your name if still interested.

LOCAL THEATRE Sue O'Brien 0422431355 eypc.localtheatre@gmail.com



Miranda Musical gave 18 of us a dramatic and very enjoyable afternoon watching their production of WEST SIDE STORY at the Sutherland Arts Centre. Wonderful singing and dancing set in New York City's West Side in the 1950s. In the midst of the deep-seated rivalry between the Puerto Rican gang, the Sharks and the white gang, the Jets, Maria and Tony discover that ancient grudges are no match for true love. We found the show so engaging and emotional, a fantastic local production.

It's hard to believe but the following theatre events are our last EYPC events for 2026 and to be enjoyed by our members and visitors.

WIZARD OF OZ - Engadine Musical Society's performance is to be held on Saturday 17 October 2026 at 1.30pm. Tickets are to be distributed by me at the October meeting.

STEEL MAGNOLIAS - the Guild Theatre's play to be performed on Saturday 14 November at 2pm. Tickets are to be distributed at the November meeting.

2026 SENIORS CHRISTMAS CONCERT - to be held at the Sutherland Arts Centre on Thursday 26th November at 1.30pm. the Activity Sheet will be put out at our October meeting. 14 names went down on the Interest Sheet at the September meeting, so please look out for the new Activity Sheet, as I need you to transfer your names onto this sheet, if you wish to attend. Thank you.

GOURMET WANDERERS Ros Cousins 0410683860 Angela McNairn 0422980202 eypc.gourmet@gmail.com



Our November Gourmet Wanderers lunch will be at Oatley Hotel, Oatley Avenue at Oatley on **Thursday, 26th November**. Lunch is booked for midday. This venue is a short walk across a park from Oatley train station so we are suggesting catching a train there rather than driving maybe a better option.

Train leaves Heathcote station at 11:29am and arrives at Sutherland Station at 11:39am. This train does not stop at Oatley so we need to change at Sutherland and catch the 11:49 am train arriving Oatley at 11:58 am. This is cutting our arrival time a little fine but I will call the hotel so they are aware of our arrival time.

Our Gourmet Wanderers Christmas lunch is booked for **Monday, 14th December** at Como Hotel. Maximum of 100 guests so get your name down on the registration sheet so you don't miss out. There are 72 names on our list already. \$70 for members and \$75 for non-members, this should be a fun day with games and prizes to be won. Payment for the Christmas lunch will be due by the November general meeting, 9 November and the code word is XMAS.

Not sure how many members will be around in January so we have just organised a close by lunch at The Arbour, Heathcote **Wednesday 13th January** at midday.

Please note beside your name on the registration sheet if you have any dietary requirements. More details to follow. Bon appétit, Angela and Ros

TOURS Sheryl Mifsud 0403782214 camaly@bigpond.com



Wangaratta Beechworth & Bright

4th April 2027 for 5 nights

All deposits have been paid by 14 members travelling on this tour

Final balance due 30 days before i.e. 4th March 2027.

Member will receive individual invoice from Coach Holidays & Tours prior to this date

Bendigo, Ballarat & Echuca

19th September 2027 for 4 nights

Probus Price \$2067 per person twin share

\$2,487 solo traveller

(This includes return flights to Melbourne)

If you had your name on Expression of Interest sheet and are definitely interested in doing this tour please place your name on registration sheet that will be on back table, to secure your place on tour.

Deposit of \$150 to be due 30th November 2026, payable to EYPC bank account.

The Sapphire Coast

31st October 2027 For 5 nights In conjunction with Helensburgh Probus Probus Price \$1845 per person twin share

\$2285 per person twin share

If you had your name on Expression of Interest sheet and are definitely interested in doing this tour please place your name on registration sheet that will be on back table, to secure your place on tour.

Date for Deposit of \$150 to be paid to be advised at later date.

Overseas Tours

There will be an Expression of Interest spreadsheet on back table, should members be interested in doing overseas tours with Probus. Committee is trying to gauge if there is a demand by our members for these tours.

OPAL TRIPPERS Denise Wiltshire 0400880587 eypc.opaltrippers@gmail.com



OPAL TRIP DOUBLE BAY WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2026

Train leaves Heathcote at 9-59 Engadine 10-02 Loftus 10-06, Sutherland 10-09. We change trains at Town Hall to travel to Circular Quay. After a toilet stop we will catch the ferry to Double Bay. It's an easy flat walk to the shopping centre; about 10 minutes. We will enjoy lunch at the Royal Oak Hotel. Discover another hidden corner of Sydney whilst enjoying another ferry trip.

CRONULLA R.S.L. MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2026

Train departs Heathcote at 10-59, Engadine 11-02, Loftus 11-06, arriving at Sutherland at 11-09. We will change trains at Sutherland for the Cronulla train. Cronulla train departs at 11-23 arriving at Cronulla at 11-38. It is an easy 10 minute to the R.S.L. club. I'm aware that some members will choose to drive due to mobility issues. If driving I would advise you to get to the club no later than 11 am as the club parking area opposite is often full by 11-30. Usually in summer the boom gate will be closed; if you are not a member you will have to pay by card (\$25 or \$30). Keep your receipt and you can be reimbursed by spending that amount on drinks and food. Amazing views, good food, right on our doorstep. If your mobility is limited this is your chance to join the happy Opal Trippers.

DISCUSSION GROUP Garriock Duncan 0415978054 giduncan48@hotmail.com



Discussion Group Report.

Topic: AI - its Impact on Society.

When it comes to AI, there are only two players on the field - China and the US. Both countries are determined to win this digital arms race. Currently, there is no real attempt to solve the divide, even though voices in both countries are expressing concern over the potential development of self-replicating machines, negating the need for any human involvement.

Our discussion concentrated on the social impact of the technology. We ordinary people have no opportunity to partake in developments, except via government. The lure of 'the pot of gold' is very persuasive and already the Federal Government shows signs of prevarication. We will not really be given a choice - it will be made on our behalf.

Locally, we should not expect any significant changes, unless someone decides to build a data centre at Barden Ridge. There is a belief that the planet has inexhaustible resources. Two are particularly relevant- water and power. Power may not be a problem but water already is.

The impact on us - the Boomers - should not be too overwhelming as we have largely left the workforce and hopefully the same for our children. I am most concerned for our grandchildren. In the past, these significant industrial changes have largely affected the labouring classes. This one will also impact the artistic and white collar workers. AI may invent thousands of new jobs but it hasn't yet and probably won't do so in the near future.

The next topic: **Money and Politics. Wednesday 21st October 10am**

GARDEN CLUB Lesley Penny 0422973081 pennylesley@hotmail.com



The Grand Mount Tomah Trek by Ian Eddy

Up early. Ridiculously early. The sort of early normally reserved for dairy farmers, newspaper delivery drivers and people making poor life choices. I'm not a fowl, and I have no particular desire to witness sunrise firsthand. Nevertheless, breakfast was consumed, Mavis and I wandered down to the Engadine Park bus stop, where a

50-seater coach was waiting to transport a busload of enthusiastic gardeners to

Australian Botanic Garden Mount Tomah.

Apparently, plants cannot be appreciated unless one departs at a time when sensible people are still arguing with the alarm clock.

Then the driver half an hour into the journey announced it would take two hours.



Two hours! By my calculations, we could have caught a taxi to Sydney Airport and been in Melbourne, coffee in hand before this bus reaches its destination. Still, no point complaining. We adopted the official Probus travel policy: smile politely and pretend it was part of the adventure.

Thankfully, John was sitting at the back of the bus, providing live entertainment. His running commentary was considerably more engaging than the scenery and probably added at least half a star to the overall trip rating.

First time there, and I was curious to compare it with the famous Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island, Canada. On paper they are both botanic gardens, but that's about where the similarity ends.

Butchart Gardens is an ornamental display garden, meticulously manicured and designed to impress at every turn. At around 55 acres, it's an easy stroll and feels more like walking through a living work of art.



The Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, on the other hand, covers a mere 69 acres and is unapologetically Australian. Instead of showcasing what gardeners can create, it showcases what Australian plants do naturally. No flower beds arranged by colour, no armies of gardeners trimming hedges into submission, just the Australian bush doing what it has been doing for thousands of years. I believe the visible wildlife in the gardens would agree.



By the end of the day, I realised comparing the two was rather unfair. Butchart Gardens celebrates what gardeners can do when given unlimited time and a large budget. Mount Tomah celebrates what nature managed to achieve without either.

There's not enough space in the newsletter to talk about everything the botanic garden had to offer on the day, so to look at a few stand outs.

I came across a stand of Wollemi Pines barely ten metres from where we had stopped for morning tea. Rather amusingly, the first Wollemi Pine I ever saw wasn't in Australia at all, but growing quietly among the palms and subtropical plantings of Jardin de la Petite Afrique park in Monaco.

Of course, I had to ask one of the gardeners about this stand at Mount Tomah. The story goes that when the Botanic Garden received a truckload of young Wollemi Pines, most were earmarked for planting along the Wollemi Walk of Discovery. The trees arrived in bags, were unloaded from the truck, and a few were simply left where they landed. Those "temporary" occupants eventually became the stand I was looking at.

It seemed a rather casual way to treat one of the world's rarest trees. With fewer than one hundred mature specimens remaining in the wild, I had imagined velvet ropes, security fences and perhaps an armed guard. Instead, they apparently arrived by truck and were treated much like a load of council shrubs. Progress, I suppose.

What really caught the eye of a few of us green thumbs were Heathcote National Park, where you celebrate finding a plant camera. These shrubs appeared determined to settle the brilliant crimson blooms, some carrying so many flowers display was so spectacular it almost seemed unfair on every

Another thing that caught my attention was the sheer Honeeaters seemed to be everywhere, darting from flower anything producing nectar. They clambered through the pausing long enough to pose for a photograph before patch of colour seemed to have at least one honeyeater

The birds appeared to have reached an arrangement with and the honeyeaters conduct the quality assurance inspections.

The next port of call was Wildwood Garden, just ten minutes down the road. More importantly, it was lunchtime. Visions of roast lunches, country pies and generous servings danced through the heads of the travelling EYPC Pruners. Well, through mine anyway. After the Cardboard Barra Incident, surely lunch could only improve from here. Famous last words.

We entered, found our seats, and waited expectantly.

Out came the lunch.

Mixed sandwiches. What!

Not a roast. Not a pie. Not even a suspicious-looking quiche.

Mixed sandwiches. A fresh selection that satisfied the palate.

Those sandwiches. That's got to be the secret to keeping the EYPC fees down. Somewhere in the background, I could almost hear the Treasurer whispering, "We're still under budget."



the magnificent stands of Waratahs. This wasn't with a single flower on it and immediately reach for the matter once and for all. Every plant was loaded with they looked as though they had been painted red. The Waratah I've ever admired in the wild.

number of various honeyeaters. New Holland to flower and squabbling over ownership rights to golden Proteas as if they owned the place, barely launching off to inspect the next flowering shrub. Every working it over with great enthusiasm.

the Botanic Gardens: the gardeners grow the flowers,



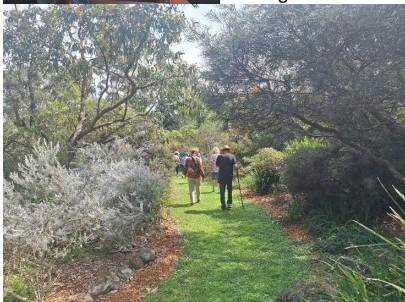
Boongala Native Garden and Rainforest report: Lesley Penny



Boongala Native Garden and Rainforest proved to be well worth the long drive to reach them.

What was once just open grassland has been transformed into a beautiful well treed forest of native trees, shrubs and plants including a huge collection of native orchids and every native plant you can think of, some being quite rare. The family that created it have lived on the property for seven generations. We were introduced to various bush foods and herbs as we walked through the forest and also given a didgeridoo demonstration. Native animals cut from old, corrugated iron were placed throughout and many structures were constructed

from the old farm buildings. Many native bees' nests which had been saved from woodcutters etc. were placed in the forest also. Our guide, Malcolm, was a fountain of knowledge on everything native to Australia and was very willing to share this knowledge. We rushed off at the completion of the tour to have lunch nearby at 'The Hills Grove'. Great food but questionable service as I was the last to order but got my meal first. OK for me but others had quite a wait. Another much larger group had thrown them into a tizz.



Final outing for 2026 will be a Christmas get together in the garden of Janet Wright. She professes to be a non gardener.