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Heritage wisteria walk, Muston Park

WilloWay

The Willoughby North Probus Club Inc

This is the web version of Willoughby North Probus Club's newsletter, *WilloWay*. The full version is available to Willoughby North Probus Club members.

Executive Committee

President
Ruth Browne

Vice Presidents
Vicki Bell

Faye Marsden

Secretary
Peggy Nightingale

Treasurer
Stephen Baker

Guest Speaker Officer
Ann Louise Cameron

Newsletter Officer
Fran Miller

Membership Officer
Mary Davey

Welfare Officer
Regina Smith

Activities Officer
Adrienne Connaghan

Activities Committee

Adrienne Connaghan
Marianne Reich
Gabrielle Ross
Libby Coleman (walks)

President's message – Ruth Browne

What a wonderful month to be a Probus member!
October has arrived with spring in full swing – colourful gardens, longer days, sunshine and that lovely feeling that there is so much to look forward to. And there is another very good reason to celebrate – **October is Probus Month!**

This year, Probus Month is even more special as we celebrate **50 years of Probus in Australia** – an incredible milestone built on friendship, fellowship, fun and a wonderful zest for life.

Our recent 50th Anniversary Garden Party was a fabulous celebration of everything Probus represents. Enjoyed amongst beautiful gardens and glorious sunshine, it was wonderful to see members from clubs across our Cluster coming together to celebrate this remarkable milestone. There was plenty of laughter, friendship and wonderful conversation, and the warmth and enthusiasm of our visiting clubs were a lovely reminder of just how special the Probus family is.

But Probus isn't just about celebrating our history – it's about making the most of today and looking forward to what comes next! October is a great opportunity to get involved, try something new, join an outing, enjoy a speaker, play a game, share a morning tea or simply catch up with friends.

Every activity, every conversation and every laugh adds to the wonderful Probus experience.

A huge thank you to all our members who contribute their time, ideas, energy and enthusiasm. You are what makes Willoughby North Probus such a friendly, welcoming and vibrant club.
So let's make the most of this special Probus Month – get involved, have fun, make some memories and, most importantly, enjoy each other's company!
Happy Probus Month and a very happy October to everyone!

Ruth

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Diary Dates

Wednesday unless noted otherwise

21 October
Speaker, Bruce Miller
"High *Seas* Achievers"

28 October
Nan Tien Temple
Wollongong

4 November
Old Hornsby walk

11 November
Men's Breakfast

25 November
Bob Hawke Beer & Leisure Centre

2 December
Christmas Lunch
Club York, Sydney

December & January
No planned walks

February
Woy Woy walk

24 February
"Private Lives" – Theatre Royal

Mon 12 – Sat 17 April
Wangaratta, Beechworth & Bright – 5 nights

General information

Monthly meeting

Willoughby North Probus (WNP) Club meets at 9:45am on the third Wednesday of each month at the Uniting Church Hall, 10 Clanwilliam Street, Willoughby. If you can't attend, please send your apologies to the Secretary.

Bank details

Willoughby North Probus Club, Westpac Chatswood
BSB: xxxxxx Account: xxxxxx

For EFT payments, please add your name (and activity code if there is one) as the reference.

Welfare

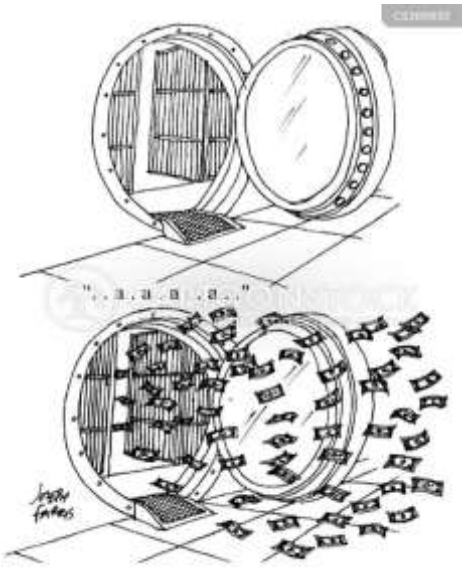
If you know of a member who is experiencing illness or bereavement or just needs help with transport to Probus Club meetings and events, please advise our Welfare Officer, Regina Smith.

Newsletter

WilloWay is our monthly newsletter giving you important WNP Club information and information about our latest activities. It's emailed to members each month and a web version is published on our website.

Treasurer's Report

Members' Financial Position at 30 September 2026		
Bank Reconciliation		
Opening Bank Balance (1-Sep		**7,513.97**
Income&Deposits for month		7,625.00
Expenditure for month		2,224.79
Closing Bank Balance at 30 September		**12,914.18**
Stephen Baker, Treasurer		



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Welcome to our new members;

Heather Tchan, Patrick Tchan & Robyne Middleton

Regular activities

Book Club



The WNP Book Club meets on the first Friday of each month at 3:30pm. Contact Jenny Burnell by email if you would like to join. The book for October is *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini.

Bridge Group



The WNP Bridge Group meets on the second and fourth Friday of each month at Ruth's home in Killara. You book your seat the week before each session. You are not obliged to attend all meetings. Email Ruth Browne for further information.

Bushwalking Group



This group meets for bushwalks once a month on a Friday and walks are between one and three hours. If you are interested in receiving emails regarding future walks, contact Lynne Lagaida.

Mahjong



We play on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm for 2 to 3 hours, while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee. Email Christine Evans if you would like to join. No experience is necessary.

Men's Breakfasts



A Men's Breakfast is scheduled on the 5th Wednesday of the month (if there is one!) and occasionally on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. We meet at Shuk, Chatswood Place, 260 Victoria Avenue at 8:30am. The entrance to the car park, which offers 3 hours of free parking, is in Oscar Street. Contact Peter Lay no later than the Monday before the scheduled breakfast if you plan to attend so we know the numbers for the table booking. The date of the next breakfast will be under "Diary Dates" on p2.

Monthly Walks



For details of our next monthly walk, see this newsletter under "Upcoming Activities". Email Libby Coleman for further information.

Pub Lunch Willoughby



This is an open invitation to members to join us at the Willoughby Hotel following each monthly general meeting. Let Mary Davey, Membership Officer, know if you will be attending when signing in at the meeting.

Scrabble



We meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month, starting at 1.30pm. Email Jenny Lusher to join or for further information.

Sundowners

We meet in Beauchamp Park, Chatswood, on the second Wednesday of each month at 3.30pm for wine and cheese. Email Regina Smith if you would like to join us.

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21 October: Monthly meeting speaker

Bruce Miller – High *Seas* Achievers

A story of the 19th Century "Tea Clippers"

Bruce Miller and his wife Fran have been members of Willoughby North Probus Club since 2022.

Bruce's career began as a primary school teacher, but then after travelling the world for twelve months, he retrained doing an Economics degree with post graduate training, that led him into several corporate head office management roles, until retirement.

Bruce spent over twenty years as a volunteer with Lifeline Northern Beaches in Balgowlah, doing regular telephone counselling shifts, as well being an officeholder on their board of management, supporting then over three hundred volunteers and six shops.

Bruce has been married to Fran for over thirty years and has a daughter living in Perth with her husband, and nearly four grandchildren.

Bruce's topic today about Tea Clipper ships, comes from a family history of honouring Captain Charles Matheson who became captain of the *Thermopylae*. The *Thermopylae* was a high achieving, but now little-known Tea Clipper ship, that the *Cutty Sark* was specifically designed and built to beat.

Captain Matheson was Bruce's mother's father's father. Bruce is the only surviving great grandchild of Captain Matheson. Bruce's mother wrote the book called *Clippers for the Record*, which is an authoritative history of Tea Clipper ships, but is particularly about the *Thermopylae* and Captain Charles Matheson.

Bruce hopes this presentation will help promote the wonderful history and achievements of these super ships, which were at the peak of sailing racing and technology, before steam ships took over.

Tea Clipper ships –
In the mid 19th Century these three masted ships were at the peak of sailing technology, racing around the world's oceans to deliver fresh tea, becoming the forerunners of modern ocean racing, before being replaced by steam ships.

They were all about -
Speed;
Profits;
Pride;
Prestige;
Prizes; &
Punting.



Ariel **and** ***Taiping*** from Glasgow, in full flight - painting by Montague Dawson

Ann Louise Cameron

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Upcoming activities

If you require transport assistance to attend our monthly meetings or to participate in any of our upcoming activities, or if you are willing to assist others with transport, please email Regina Smith.

28 October: Nan Tien Temple Wollongong

Marianne Reich



Nan Tien Temple

On Course Tours. Cost **$103 p/p**
The tour includes a vegetarian lunch and a Thai Chi class.

No shorts or thongs!
At the moment we have 21 signed up. **Places for this tour are still available. Please contact Marianne if you would like to join this tour.**

Meet at the Uniting Church, Clanwilliam Street at 8.00am for departure at 8.15am

4 November: Walk – Old Hornsby

Libby Coleman

Do you know where the original village of Hornsby was? Whom is Normanhurst named after? What is the connection. Let's walk around the area and discover something of its history. The walk will take about 1.5 hours and will finish at the RSL club for lunch.

Please meet at Chatswood station North Shore Line at 10.10 in time to catch the 10.20 train. For ease of access at Hornsby, meet at the rear (city end) of the train.

Walk is being led by Dot Theeboom.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the October meeting or contact Libby.

25 November: The Bob Hawke Beer & Leisure Centre

Ruth Browne

Join us for a fun outing to the **Bob Hawke Beer & Leisure Centre in Marrickville**, where we'll enjoy a brewery tour, lunch and good company!

We'll meet at **10.10am on the Metro platform at Chatswood Station**, hoping to arrive at Sydenham at around 10.30am. From there, it's an easy 10-minute walk on level ground to the brewery.
Our tour starts at **11.00am**, giving us an insight into how their beers are made.

After the tour, we'll head downstairs to the Lucky Prawn, the centre's Chinese restaurant, to enjoy a beer and lunch together.

There's no set time to head home, so you can take your time. Perhaps enjoy a wander around Marrickville after lunch or simply make your way back to Sydenham Station whenever you're ready. It promises to be a lovely, relaxed day out with something a little different to enjoy!

Interested in joining us? A sign-up sheet will be at the meeting. The only cost is for your lunch and beer! Find out more at Hawke's Brewing.

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2 December: Christmas Lunch



It's time to dust off those Jingle Bells, brush up on your trivia, dig out the loud Christmas Shirt and come along to our fabulous Christmas Party starting at High Noon on 2 December.

This year we are in the **Bass Suite at Club York, 95-99 York Street, Sydney**, right across the road from the bus stop for the 120 & 194 or a 5-minute walk from Town Hall Station.

There will be one glass of bubbles or orange juice or a Mimosa per person on arrival at noon, after that all beverages are at your cost.
Lunch will be a mouthwatering 3 course alternate drop Christmas Menu, followed by tea and coffee for $83 per person.

Please let Gabrielle Ross know of any special dietary requirements.

Payment of $83 per person to the Willoughby North Probus bank account no later than 30 October 2026, noting your name with the payment.
No reimbursement will be made for cancellations after 16 November, 2026.

24 February: *Private Lives*, Theatre Royal
Gabrielle Ross

Sign-up sheet at meeting. $99 p/p

Mon 12 - Sat 17 April: Wangaratta, Beechworth & Bright
Marianne Reich

Visit Bright and Beechworth in their Autumn colours, Yarrawonga and Corowa, wineries, a deer farm and take a cruise on Lake Mulwala. 5 Nights' accommodation at Hotel Wangaratta Gateway.
Cost: $1850 - plus single supplement $625.

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: 12th February into Willoughby North Probus Club account. Add name and "Autumn" to payment.

Note for all members: If you've signed up for an activity and later find that you're unable to participate, please make sure you let the activity organiser or a committee member know as soon as possible. This is particularly important when tables have been booked at restaurants.

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The month that was

16 September: Monthly meeting speaker

Evan Penn – Charity Work and Adventures in Cambodia



Evan gave us a brief history of Cambodia beginning with the Khmer Empire when Cambodia controlled large parts of Asia to the 1960s when it was considered the 'Paris of the East'.

The country changed dramatically when Pol Pot, a radical communist dictator, came to power. Under his rule an estimated 1.5 to 2 million people died from execution, starvation and forced labour. He wanted to take Cambodia back to day zero where people lived a subsistence life. Millions of urban residents were forced into the countryside to work.

In 2008 Evans father. Issy, travelled to Cambodia and found, and even though there was a lot of poverty and people begging for food, the people were smiling. Issy was a wood turner and started to teach young people how to make wooden products they could sell. Evan moved his family there in 2014 to continue his father's work. Cambodia is still a very corrupt nation, but they learnt to play the system! They started with fixing schools, and schoolwork has been one of their main focuses especially teaching children computer skills. They also work with other charities and after a tragedy, when one of their veterinary students was killed while on exchange, set up a scholarship for rural students wanting to become vets.

As a director of On Course Tours, Evan leads tours to Cambodia and is continuing his father's legacy. The two lessons he has leant in life are: it does not take a lot of money to make you happy and a little bit of help can go a long way.

Thank you, Jenny Burnell, for this synopsis.

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30 September: Probus 50th Anniversary Garden Party

50 Years of Probus Fun and Friendship!

On a perfect spring day on 30 September, sixty Probus members gathered at the Manor House at Killara to celebrate.

What an afternoon of celebration it was as seven Probus Clubs from the Cluster Group gathered in the peaceful gardens of the Manor House to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Probus in Australia. The celebration brought together members who had not met previously, food and bubbles were shared, and the Probus philosophy of laughter and friendship filled the air.

What's to follow from this afternoon of celebration? Hopefully, closer ties between Cluster Group Clubs, sharing of resources and activities, the aim being to make each of our Clubs stronger as we support each other in bringing to our communities what Probus offers in abundance.









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7 October: Coal Loader, Balls Head Drive, Waverton

Ten hardy souls braved the blustery conditions for a very worthwhile visit to the Balls Head Coal Loader and Centre for Sustainability. The group focused on the historical aspects of the Coal Loader, in this particular glass panel on site, below, (one of several) we could read the historical timeline and text from 1913 to 1992 and view archival images while simultaneously looking through the glass at today's Greenwich.





The passage is where the coal loading rail wagons went. The coal dropped down chutes above into the wagons. The wagons went out onto a pier to load the ships.



Our group is also photographed looking over the old wharf. Berry Island is in the background and, beyond that, the Viva Energy Gore Bay Terminal at Greenwich. In the foreground, there are glimpses of MV Cape Don which is the only remaining Australian lighthouse supply ship. It is currently undergoing restoration on this site.

9 October: Monthly walk, Bobbin Head

We had perfect weather for our 11.5 km walk down to Bobbin Head.





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Photographs

Coordinator Dot Theeboom

For members with an interest in photography WNP is facilitating a means for you to share your photos with other members. Each month, via WilloWay, our co-ordinator, Dot Theeboom, will nominate a photographic theme and request interested members to submit ONE photo related to this theme for display on the WNP website photography page and/or other club outlets such as at meetings. Inclusion of photos for display will be at the discretion of the co-ordinator. Please note, individuals taking photos for display by WNP will be doing so at their own risk, as this is not classified as an approved activity.

The November photography theme is "***Something Old or Something Exotic!***". Please email your photo to Dot Theeboom in time for the deadline of **Thursday 5th November 2026**. Selected photos may be viewed on the WNP website shortly afterwards.

Photos in this edition of *WilloWay* were received from Paul, Richard, Josephine, Graham, Dot and as otherwise credited.

Thank you.