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Orchids - Blooming Beautifully

WilloWay

The Willoughby North Probus Club Inc

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

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Regina Smith

Activities Officer
Adrienne Connaghan

Activities Committee

Adrienne Connaghan
Marianne Reich
Gabrielle Ross
Libby Coleman (walks)

President's message – Ruth Browne

There is something truly magical about September. It's as if the whole world takes a long, deep breath and decides to wake up again.

The air feels lighter, the mornings seem to smile at us, and our gardens — even the ones that have been stubbornly sleepy all winter — suddenly remember what colour looks like. I always find myself pausing at this time of year, just to take it all in.

One of the quiet joys of spring is the night sky. As the season shifts, the stars visible in our Southern Hemisphere skies gradually change their positions and prominence throughout the evening. Achernar, Fomalhaut and Deneb Kaitos can be seen as part of what is sometimes called the Southern Spring Triangle — a gentle reminder that even the stars move through familiar cycles. There's something comforting about that — the idea that the universe keeps turning, offering us fresh beginnings whether we ask for them or not.

And then there are the spring winds. They swirl through our streets and gardens with a kind of playful determination, carrying seeds, pollen and the promise of new growth. They scatter the remnants of winter and make space for all the beauty that's about to arrive. As September draws to a close, magnolias open their generous blooms and the first hints of jacaranda colour begin to appear, with their glorious purple display soon to follow. Everything feels just a little more hopeful.

Spring encourages us to soften, to open up, and to welcome whatever new joys might be waiting. It reminds us to look up, breathe deeply, and let ourselves feel that lovely sense of optimism that comes with warmer days.

September whispers that change can be gentle, beautiful and full of possibility — and I think that's a message worth holding close.

I hope you find time to share the beauty of this lovely season with your family and friends; to enjoy a laugh, make a memory, pause to appreciate the beauty around you, and perhaps even discover something new to look forward to.

Ruth

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Diary Dates

Wednesday unless noted otherwise

16 September
Speaker, Evan Penn
Charity Work & Adventures in Cambodia

23 September
Chinese lunch at "Miss Yue"

30 September
50th Anniversary Garden Party, Killara

30 September
Men's Breakfast
Shuk Café Chatswood

7 October
Walk, Waverton

28 October
Nan Tien Temple
Wollongong

Sat 14 November
Christmas mosaic class
Kariong

25 November
Maritime Museum

2 December
Christmas Lunch
Club York, Sydney.

24 February 2027
"Private Lives" – Theatre Royal

Mon 12 – Sat 17 April, 2027
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, by email.

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

Stephen Baker, Treasurer

Simplified Financial Position at 31 August 2026	
	$
Opening Bank Balance (1 Aug):	**5,663.47**
Income & Deposits for month	2,227.00
Expenditure for month	376.50
Closing Bank Balance at 31 August:	**7,513.97**



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Welcome to our new member:

Gary Glover

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 September is *London Falling* by Patrick Radden Keefe.

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



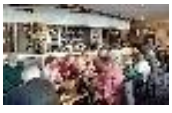
A Men's Breakfast is scheduled on the 5th Wednesday of the month (if there is one!) and occasionally on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. We meet at Shuk, Chatswood Place, 260 Victoria Avenue at 8:30am. The entrance to the car park, which offers 3 hours of free parking, is in Oscar Street. Contact Peter 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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16 September: Monthly meeting speaker

Evan Penn – Charity Work and Adventures in Cambodia



Evan lives between Clovelly, Sydney and his farm in Bellingen, NSW, but spends many months abroad – especially in Cambodia. He is married and a father of two adult children. His daughter, Indigo, is the Managing Director of On Course Tours.

Evan is a lifelong entrepreneur, having built numerous businesses in the technology and packaging sectors. He remains an active Director at On Course Tours but devotes much of his time to the non-profit sector, driven by his passion to ensure children and teenagers receive access to quality education.

Charity Work



In 1975, Cambodia entered a horrific chapter in its history with the rise of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge regime. An estimated two million people were killed or died of starvation. The country was left in ruins and, as a third world nation, has been slowly rebuilding ever since. With a population of 18 million, Cambodia relies heavily on foreign assistance and donor aid.

Evan and his family have a deep and meaningful connection with Cambodia. Back in 2010 his father, Issy, moved to Cambodia to establish numerous schools and charitable projects in Siem Reap. Issy dedicated himself to uplifting communities through education, vocational training and direct support.

A few years ago, Evan, his wife and children moved to Cambodia for an extended period to support these causes. With his firsthand experience, Evan understands how the not-for-profit sector operates in Cambodia and how to deliver tangible results even with limited resources.

Evan and his team work with the local university's Veterinary school to sponsor students from rural areas through their 5-year Vet degrees. This way they take their skills back to their rural areas to look after both their farm animals and domestic pets. In the photos you will see Evan and his wife, Natalie, handing out books to primary students and the scholarship recipients for Vet training.

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 (or phone 0417 513 115).

23 September: Chinese lunch at "Miss Yue"

Gabrielle Ross

Epping Club, banquet in a private room. A quick Metro ride to Epping from Chatswood and a very easy walk to the club. Meet at the restaurant at 12 noon. Excellent food. For a banquet the cost is $68 p/p and if we have a large table, that is the only way it is done. Otherwise, individual dishes are similar prices to other restaurants.
Bookings are now closed.

7 October: Coal Loader, Balls Head Drive, Waverton (10.30 am)

Libby Coleman

The Coal Loader on Waverton Peninsula operated as an industrial coal bunkering and export depot from the early 1920s to 1992. It has since been transformed into public parkland, featuring an amazing view of the harbour, historic industrial elements, a sustainability centre and community gardens. We will explore the historic site and perhaps venture into one of the coal loader tunnels and then wander 5 or so minutes up the road to the Bay Brew Café or the Grumpy Baker for some refreshments. We will meet at the entrance to the Coal Loader, 2 Balls Head Drive, Waverton at 10.30. Parking is available along Balls Head Drive and Balls Head Road. Waverton Station is about a 10 minute walk from the Coal Loader. A sign-up sheet will be available at the September meeting or contact Libby.

28 October: Nan Tien Temple Wollongong

Adrienne Connaghan

On Course Tours. Cost **$103 p/p**
The tour includes a vegetarian lunch and a Thai Chi class.
PAYMENT DUE: 16th October into Willoughby North Probus Club account. Add name and "Temple" to payment.
No shorts or thongs!
At the moment we have 21 signed up.
Meet at the Uniting Church, Clanwilliam Street at 8.00am for departure at 8.15am



Nan Tien Temple

Sat 14 November: Christmas mosaic class

Jan Bouweng

Mosaic Christmas Wreath - Cost **$90**
The Arts Barn, 2 Dandaloo Street, Kariong
3 hours - drinks and snacks included.



At least 6 people are needed for this event to go ahead. No previous experience is necessary as all equipment is supplied and guidance is given for making your wreath. Enjoy creating your Christmas plate. Drinks & nibbles included.
Sign-up sheet at next meeting.

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25 November: Maritime Museum

Adrienne Connaghan

Meet at museum at 10.00am. Individuals choose their own tour or the museum can be explored independently without a tour. Lunch can be enjoyed at 12.00 at the café or surrounding venues for those interested. Access to the museum is available by light rail from Central, ferry from Circular Quay or a walk across Pyrmont Bridge.
Sign-up sheet will be at the September meeting.

2 December: Christmas Lunch

This year Christmas Lunch will be held at Club York, 95-99 York St, Sydney, in the Bass Suite. The cost will be **$83 p/p**. It is a very easy walk from the QVB.
Sign-up sheet at next meeting.

If you have booked for this lunch, please pay your $83 into the Willoughby North Probus Club account by Friday 30th October noting your name.

24 February: "Private Lives", Theatre Royal

Gabrielle Ross

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

Mon 12 - Sat 17 April 2027: 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.
Deposit. $200. PAYMENT DUE: 25th September 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:

19 August: Monthly meeting speaker

Tanya Taylor, Mayor of Willoughby. Willoughby Symphony Orchestra



Tanya was proud to outline how successful the Council has been in managing 'in house' The Concourse's diverse events which remain popular and well supported. Very few Councils have managed to have similar success.

These include The Willoughby Symphony Orchestra's annual Concert Series including the Choir and Family Concerts. These are under the guidance of well-known Professor Doctor Nicholas Milton AM, Artistic Director and Chief Conductor.

The meeting was then introduced to a fantastic quartet of volunteers from the Orchestra. They played pieces by Mozart, Vivaldi, Brahms, Elgar, Saint-Saens and John Williams.

The enthusiasm and generosity of these volunteers was gratefully appreciated by us all and incentivised us to start booking for 2027.

Thank you, Sue Connery, for this synopsis.

2 September: Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Gardens

Only just into spring, but on a day when the temperature reached an unusual 27 degrees, fourteen members took a leisurely 1.5 hour walk along the sealed trails in the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Gardens. The gardens are spread over 123 hectares of urban bushland in St Ives. The group passed the judging of the annual sculpture competition and previewed the display of many of the 57 sustainable art themed sculptures along the walking tracks. The sculptures can be viewed until 5 October. Alongside the tracks many of the spring flowers were already well into bloom: boronias, hakeas, acacias, grevilleas, and other local flora. Afterwards the group cooled down and lunched at the Tasting Deck in Terrey Hills.





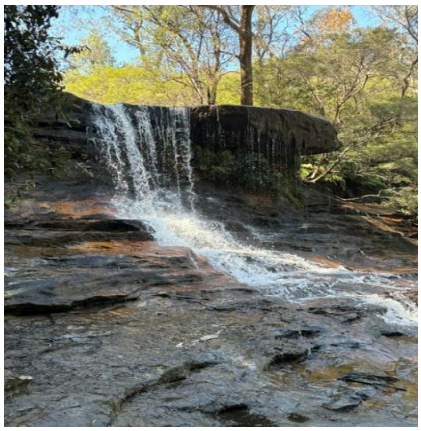




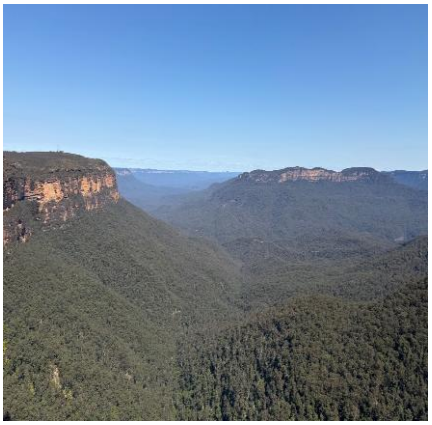
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4 September: Bushwalk to Wentworth Falls

On a sparkling September day, 3 Willoughby North bushwalkers boarded the morning train from Central to Wentworth Falls. On arrival, and after some reviving coffee and cake, we joined the Darwin's Walk track to Wentworth Falls. After checking out the falls and some spectacular views of the Blue Mountains along the trail, the group made their way to Conservation Hut for lunch. This was followed by a sprint to the railway station to arrive at the same time as the train that would return us to Sydney in the late afternoon.







Member 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 October photography theme is "***Spikey and Prickly!***". Please email your photo to Dot Theeboom in time for the deadline of **Thursday 15 October 2026**. Selected photos may be viewed on the WNP website shortly afterwards.

Photos in this edition of *WilloWay* were received from Stephen, Deborah, Josephine, Dot, Vicki and as otherwise credited.

Thank you.