



The Newsletter of the Combined Probus Club of West Pennant Hills

Club Website: www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/wphc

MEMBERS MUST READ

Members must consider their capabilities before undertaking any activities with the Club. This includes housekeeping duties and organised activities such as clubs, groups, trips or walks. It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that they are physically capable of undertaking any particular activity. In particular, please advise the Welfare Officer (Lyn Marsden) if your medical condition precludes you from helping in the hall set-up and kitchen rosters. The responsibility for compliance sits with attendees.



President's Message

I am honoured to have been asked to take on the President role for the following year.

Firstly, I congratulate Janet Hayes on the great job she has done as President over the last twelve months – well done Janet.

I don't see this as an isolated role; it's in conjunction with our Management Committee and all members of our Club in general. There is also what I call PSPL (Probus South Pacific Limited) who we operate under. They supply services to all Probus clubs in Australia. So there is a lot of support available and needed to run our Club. Not to mention some legal matters as well.

The overall aim of Probus is neatly covered by the phrase "fun, friendship and fellowship in retirement". After 40 or 50 years as parents and adults with their stresses and tensions, we tend to lose contact with just having fun. That's the path I would like to focus on, as our Club President.

Another point I should make relates to members wanting information on any aspect of our Club. Please don't hesitate to ask someone on the Management Committee - we will help.

We recently asked if members could assist us with the services we provide. This is a normal thing as some members do a role for a period but then feel the need to take a break. So we need replacement people to assist from time to time. Just a by-comment, around 25% of our membership carry out functions involved in running the Club.

Finally, I don't see any major changes to how we proceed over the next twelve months but will always seek improvements to enhance your membership.

Colin Lissner

Editor's Notes

An inaugural message from our in-coming President, Colin Lissner, leads this month's Newsletter.

April is packed with activities. The Garden Group is travelling north to learn about mushrooms, view a Japanese Garden and art – plus the all-important coffee and lunch breaks. This month Lawrie Hayes's walk begins with an always wonderful stroll across Sydney's iconic Bridge.

Leo Dent's Good Viewing offers some lazy entertainment.

This month's meeting will be enlivened by Ross Prestipino's entertaining 'grilling' of a Club member and an espionage-inspired Speaker.

Susie Bannatyne

New Activities

Anne's Puzzle

A bus driver was heading down a busy street in the city. He went past three stop signs without stopping, went the wrong way down a one-way street and answered a message on his phone. But the bus driver didn't break any traffic laws. How?

Solution on page 12

Anne Prescott

Garden Group

Tour of Margins Mushrooms, Woy Woy



New Date: Thursday 23 April 2026.

Time: 9am at WPH Valley Community Hall.

Cost: \$40 each (\$20 for the tour and \$20 bus hire).

Coffee: There will be a light morning tea included at Margins Mushrooms after the tour.

Lunch: We will go on to The Edogawa Commemorative Garden (a peaceful Japanese Garden) in East Gosford, next to the Gosford Regional Art Gallery, followed by lunch at its Top Point Cafe. <https://www.toppointcafe.com.au/menus>. If you prefer, you can bring your own lunch to have in the Garden.

Address – 36 Webb Street, East Gosford.

<https://gosfordregionalgallery.com/page/gardens#>

There are still 2 seats available on the bus. Please put your name on the Expression of Interest form at the April meeting to secure your place for a very pleasant day out.

Enquiries: Ros Ward 0407 891 117 or gandrward@bigpond.com

Ros Ward and Marion Dent

The Grill

Suzanne Lord was Ross Prestipino's subject at the March meeting. Suzanne thrilled us all with tales of her youthful exploits!

Who is the male subject for April?

Editor

Good Viewing

Thanks to those who submitted shows to watch this month. If you have anything you want to share, please send to leothedent@gmail.com.

Title	Genre	Service	Episodes	Viewer
I Swear	Movie	Cinema		Leo Dent
I Swear follows the true story of Tourette Syndrome campaigner John Davidson's journey with Tourette's through his troubled teens and early adulthood, having been diagnosed at 15 years old in 1980s Britain - a time when the condition was little known and entirely misunderstood. Initially alienated from his peers and his family, Davidson perseveres in his attempt to live a 'normal' life against the odds, finding some unlikely champions along the way.				
Midwinter Break	Movie	Cinema		Susie Bannatyne
This is a new British drama adapted from Bernard MacLaverty's award-winning novel starring Academy Award®-nominees Lesley Manville and Ciarán Hinds. It is a compelling story about lost faith, commitment, and the enduring power of love, as a longtime couple takes a life-changing trip to Amsterdam. I was especially moved by Lesley Manville's performance - and the memory-inducing views of Amsterdam.				

Leo Dent

Guest Speakers

April: Jennifer Hubbard – *Writers who were Spies*

May: Sue Butler – *Rebel without a Clause*

June: Roslyn Lee – *Savings for Seniors*

Ross Prestipino

Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up + Knitting!



Our ladies' Coffee & Catchup morning will be held as usual at Wills Café, the ARV, Castle Hill – Wednesday 15 April 2026 at 10am. Do come along and have a chat.

There'll be a sheet on the table at our next meeting but I'm happy to hear from you either by phone or email - janethayes@bigpond.com - 0405 197 991.

Janet Hayes

Our knitting group is anxious to commence winter knitting. Perhaps members who are non-knitters may like to donate wool: it must be 8 ply acrylic; any colour. I'd love to hear from you. Julie Elborn (0409 461 997) or Maris Wild (0412 170 756) are also happy to take your calls.

Enjoy Autumn. Blessings.

Mavis Todd

9680 7019

Men's Coffee Group



Men's coffee, cake and general world problem solving session

When: Friday 24 April at 10am

Where: Wills Café at the ARV

Don't forget about your chance to solve any number of the local and international problems by joining us over a cup of coffee and maybe a tasty cake or two.

Please email me lawriehayes@bigpond.com so I can confirm reservation numbers.

Lawrie Hayes

Outings and Trips Away

Hawkesbury Race Day

Thursday 21 May 2026. The package for the day includes admission to Course, reserved seating in the Clarendon Brassiere (2 course lunch with tea or coffee), Race Book, reserved seating in the Grandstand and car parking. Cost \$68 per person.

- Meet at Hawkesbury Race Club Main Entrance, 1 Racecourse Road, Clarendon 2756 at 11am.
- 28 members have registered for this event. Should other members wish to attend, add your names to the booking sheet at the April meeting.
- Please pay \$68 per person to the Treasurer by the meeting on 7 April.

Bob Crabb

0408 189 340

Proud Mary Tour from 25 May 2026

All monies paid. Final details re flights etc will be available shortly.

Murder Most Foul

The next Murder Most Foul excursion is planned for 23 June and will take in the history of Kings Cross.

The excursion will feature: what happened to Juanita Nielsen; what were the Green Bans about; how did NSW politicians and the Police Commission feature during these times.

To date, the visits to Surry Hills and Darlinghurst have been very enlightening. History aside, enjoy the architecture and redevelopment of these suburbs.

The Kings Cross tour is a gentle walk with lots of stops and I'm sure you will enjoy it.

Yulefest Lunch

Thank you to the 40 members who have expressed interest in the Christmas in July outing – a good response.

I have several options for the event and these will be tabled at the April meeting.

Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers and Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Arts Centre tour, 21 September 2026

9 members have paid their deposits.

Geoff Childs

April Walk

Milsons Point to Woolloomooloo

- Date:** Tuesday 14 April 2026.
- Distance:** About 4.5km.
- Walking Time:** Approximately 1.5 to 2 hours.
- Grading:** Easy. Street and park walking with some stairs and ramps.
- Travel Options:** I will be catching the 9.36am train from Beecroft which arrives at Milsons Point at 10.28am.
- Meeting Place:** We will meet for coffee at the eastern side of Milsons Point Station at the BTB Café just outside the exit onto Ennis Road.

The walk:

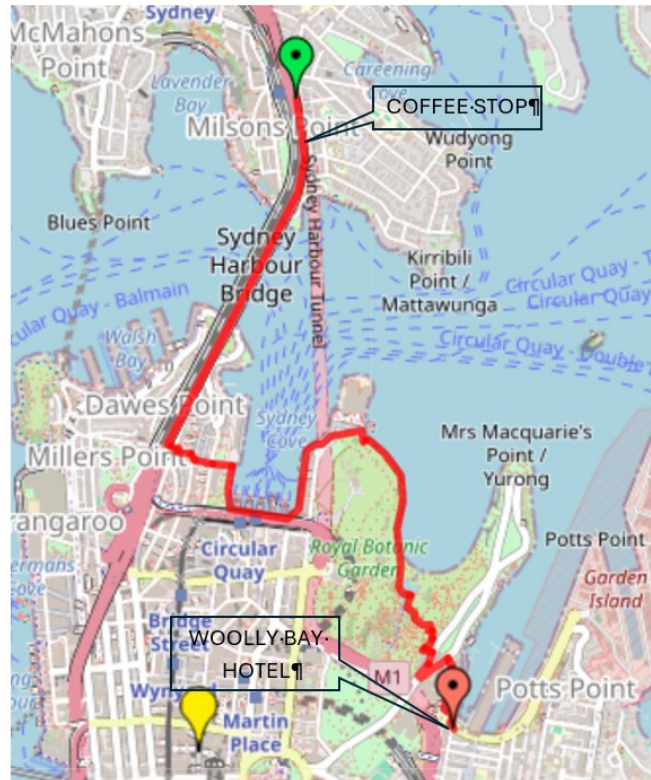
After coffee we walk to the Bridge deck via the stairs or lift. Walk to the south side of the Bridge until you reach the lift that takes you down to Cumberland Street. Cross over and then down the stairs into Argyle Street. Walk down the hill onto the quay foreshore and around to the Opera House forecourt. Walk through the gates into the Botanic Gardens and find your way up the hill to the succulent garden near Mrs Macquarie's Road. Exit onto Mrs Macquarie's Road and then down the stairs to Pier 1 at Woolloomooloo. Cross over Cowper Wharf Road to the Woolly Bay Hotel for lunch.

After lunch catch the 311 bus to Park Street and then onto the Metro at Gadigal Station.

Map on page 8.

Members must consider their capabilities before undertaking any activities with the Club. This includes housekeeping duties and organised activities such as clubs, groups, trips or walks. It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that they are physically capable of undertaking any particular activity. DON'T FORGET TO BRING SOME WATER WITH YOU ON THE WALKS.

Lawrie Hayes



General Club Notices

Probus Meeting Roster

Month	Hall	Kitchen
April	David Taylor	Janet Hayes
	Bob Crabb	Meg Mills
	Bob Dickerson	
May	Ross Prestipino	Vivienne Truelove
	James Wu	Margaret Hamaty
	Andrew Clarke	
June	Mike Macdouall	Di Cox-Taylor
	Russ Riddell	Olga Scaramuzzi
	Will Seaton	

If you are unable to attend on the allocated day please arrange for a replacement.

Mike Macdouall

Welfare Report

Hello everyone. For the time being the Welfare Report will be shared with myself and Lyn Marsden. If you hear of someone who is unwell please let us know.

The weather will begin to cool down a little from now, so keep well and safe from the winter chills.

Janet Hayes janethayes@bigpond.com
0405 197 991

Lyn Marsden lynmarsden.lm@gmail.com
0407 469 888

Reports of Ongoing Activities

Second Friday Book Group



The March meeting was an unstructured general discussion of books we've read and remain with us. Some old favourites (*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver, *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See); some recommendations (*Five Sons and a Hundred Muri of Rice* by Sharyn Steel and Zoe Dryden); some new discoveries (*Mad Mabel* by Sally Hepworth and *Book of Lives; A Memoir of Sorts* by Margaret Atwood). We also reflected on the risk in returning to a cherished book - especially a childhood one - only to find that it doesn't delight any more.

Fran Kirby

Mah Jong Monday



For our first session we had 12 players, which meant 4 tables of enthusiastic play. The winners on the day were Maris Wild and Meg Mills, with almost equal scores.

Numbers were down for our second session for various reasons. We had 6 players, two tables of 3 which makes for faster play. Pat Jackson was outstanding with 19,500 points and Lyn Horne second with 14,000 points.

All scores count but its early days yet for the winner of the Dragon! 🐉

Meg Mills

0414 639 654.

Men's Coffee Group March Report

Report on March coffee and problem-solving session.

There were just 10 of us having coffee and a general BS session. Good to see Eric Woodhead there and getting an update on his and Colleen's wellbeing.

We bumped into Alexander and Alexandra Vassilieff, who were members of our Club for many years. They are keeping well and are now residents of the ARV.

Don't forget that the next Men's Coffee Group morning is on Friday 24 April at 10am, Wills Café, ARV.

Regards

Lawrie Hayes

lawriehayes@bigpond.com

0417 210 108

Outing Report

Murder Most Foul Darlinghurst Excursion

15 Members enjoyed the Murder Most Foul (MMF) excursion around Darlinghurst on Tuesday 24 March.

The day started with meeting at the Hideaway Cafe, Museum Station, where members enjoyed coffee, cake or brunch prior to the commencement of the excursion.

We then embarked on a leisurely 2 hour walk which took us through Hyde Park, Darlinghurst and concluded at Taylors Square where we enjoyed lunch at Kinselas Hotel.



Left to right – Jim Bannatyne, Mike Kirby, Murray Bensley, Lorraine Fallon, Terry Stinson, Susie Bannatyne, Marion Dent, Leo Dent, Janet Hayes, Karen Childs, Maria Gobbo, Lawrie Hayes, Christine Taylor, Geoff Childs, Stuart Taylor. Statue of 'Joy' in the background. (Photo Elliot Lindsay, Tour Leader)

You may note in the photo an attractive stoney-faced lady to the left of Lawrie - this is Joy, a lady of the night in the 1960's.

A great day and we look forward to the next tour (Kings Cross) in June.

Geoff Childs

March Walk Report

Redfern Station to The Cannery



Here are the walkers (left to right) Karen Childs, Lorraine Fallon, Marion Dent, Suzanne Lord, Lawrie Hayes, Kiran Sharma, Janet Hayes, Sue Craig, Christine Taylor, Anne Prescott, Jim Bannatyne, Susie Bannatyne, Murray Bensley, Stuart Taylor, Yogesh Sharma. (Photo Geoff Childs)

I believe that everyone enjoyed our March walk from Redfern Station to the Cannery in Rosebery.

I think that most were pleasantly surprised at the number of large and small parks that are intertwined between the old and new housing developments.

The only thing that we may have missed out on was a tasting at the Archie Rose distillery located at the other end of the building. Lunch was enjoyed at the Fifth Earl eatery with quite a variety of selections enjoyed.

Maybe we could do a let's do lunch there some time with a tasting at Archie Rose and the craft beer at <https://frenchiesbistroandbrewery.com.au/news-events>

A Brief History of the venue

The Cannery in Rosebery, located at 61 Mentmore Avenue, is a historic 1913 warehouse complex that served as the primary New South Wales factory for the iconic Australian brand, Rosella Preserving and Manufacturing Company Ltd. It produced soups, sauces, and jams, later becoming an Aristocrat poker machine factory before being transformed into a trendy dining and lifestyle precinct roughly a decade ago.

The next walk is a composite of several previous walks across the coat hanger, around the Quay. Near the Opera House, a garden experience in the Botanic Gardens with lunch in a Woolloomooloo pub.

Lawrie Hayes

lawriehayes@bigpond.com

0417 210 108

Anne's Puzzle Solution

He was walking, not driving. This riddle adds irrelevant information to deceive the reader. You expect that, since he's a bus driver, he's currently driving the bus - but it never actually says that!

Appendix A - Contacts and Activity Locations/Times

Management Committee

President	Colin Lissner	
Vice President	Anne Prescott	
Secretary	Marjorie Seaton	
Treasurer	Jim Bannatyne	

General Committee

Auditor	Will Seaton	
Guest Speakers	Ross Prestipino	
Membership	Fran Kirby	
Newsletter Editor	Susie Bannatyne	
Public Officer	Christine Taylor	
Special Events	Patricia Ellison	
Trips and Outings Coordinator	Geoff Childs	
Website	Leo Dent	
Welfare	Lyn Marsden	

Activity Leaders

2nd Friday Book Group	Fran Kirby	
\$2.50 Group	Marion Dent	

Bridge Group	Andrew Clarke	
Foyer Books	Wal Dover	
Foyer Spectacles	Ian Western	
Garden Group	Ros Ward	
Hall and Kitchen Roster	Mike Macdouall	
Kitchen, Morning Tea	Suzanne Lord Patricia Smith	
Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up Group	Mavis Todd	
Mah Jong - Monday	Meg Mills	
Mah Jong - Thursday	Judith & Mike Reidy	
Men's Coffee Group	Lawrie Hayes	
Stamps	Lyn Hope	
Walking Group	Lawrie Hayes	

Location/Start Time of Activities

Activity	Location	Time
Probus Meeting	WPH Community Centre	9.45 first Tuesday
2nd Friday Book Group	Members' homes	10.00am second Friday
\$2.50 Group	Varies	Varies but generally on fourth Thursday

Book Exchange	WPH Community Centre	09.30 before Probus Meeting
Bridge Group	Dural Country Club	13.30pm first and third Wednesday
Garden Group	Varies	Varies but generally on the second Thursday
Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up	Wills Cafe, ARV	10am third Wednesday
Mah Jong -Monday	Dural Country Club	13.15pm second and fourth Monday
Mah Jong- Thursday	Reidy home	10.15am first and third Thursdays
Men's Coffee Group	Usually Will's Cafe, ARV	10am last Friday
Spectacles Exchange	WPH Community Centre	09.30am before Meeting
Stamp Donation	WPH Community Centre	Please hand to Lyn Hope at the Meeting
Walking Group	Varies	Second Tuesday most months

Appendix B – Payment Details – Treasurer Jim Bannatyne

Members and those on the waiting list have three payment methods for membership (\$55 per annum) and activities:

- 1) Electronic Funds Transfer to
 The Combined Probus Club of WPH - BSB 112-879
 Account Number 478 850 160
 Please remember to put your name and description (eg Membership) on the EFT;
- 2) paying at the meeting by cash or cheque. Please fill in the Registration and Receipts Form before coming to the meeting. (Print from the last page of this appendix);
- 3) mailing a cheque and Registration and Receipts Form (below) to
 The Treasurer, 15 Blue Gum Drive, Glenhaven NSW 2156.

Jim Bannatyne

0429 408 953

jim.bannatyne@hotmail.com

Registration		Receipt	
Function		Function	
Date of Function		Date of Function	
Name(s)		Name(s)	
Cost per Head	\$		
Number Attending		Received	\$
Method of Payment	Cash / Change (Circle one)	Received by	
This Payment	\$	Date of Receipt	

Appendix D – Calendar of Activities for April 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	3	1 Bridge	2 Mah Jong	3
6	7 Probus Meeting Lunch at the The Vicar	8	9	10 Second Friday Book Group
13 Mah Jong	14 Walk	15 Bridge Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up	16 Mah Jong	17
20	21	22	23 Outing to Margins Mushrooms	24 Men's Coffee Group
27 Mah Jong	28	29	30	

Note: For more details, see the activity reports, Appendix A for contact details/locations/times about specific activities and Appendix B for payment details.