



# **The Newsletter of the Combined Probus Club of West Pennant Hills**

**Club Website: [www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/wphc](http://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 (Marie Macdouall) if your medical condition precludes you from helping in the hall set-up and kitchen rosters. The responsibility for compliance sits with attendees.

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## President's Message

Well, the end of my Presidential year is coming to a close. Our Probus club will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 3 March where current committee members for 2025 will stand down and a new committee welcomed in.

The AGM will be brief and is conducted prior to the regular meeting. Your new President, Colin Lissner, will take the chair in April, and April will be a regular meeting. There will be no changeover lunch as in the past though we will, of course, have our 'after-meeting lunch' - I am thinking The Vicar.

I hope you all kept comfortable through the very hot days we've had recently. Lawrie has been busy keeping the gardens watered, and my little bonsai have needed extra care.

Our home air conditioner decided it was time to permanently shut down and we've had to wait some time for a new installation – thank goodness for ceiling fans! And a jump in the swimming pool on one particularly hot, hot day was wonderful. I have enjoyed the enforced inside time though and with a good book I am pretty happy.

That's it from me for now. I hope you see you all at the AGM where we can congratulate and welcome a new committee.

Janet Hayes

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## Editor's Notes

A farewell message from our out-going President, Janet Hayes, after what I'm sure we all agree was a very successful year. On a personal note, I'd like to acknowledge Janet's wonderful proof-reading skills on each issue of the Newsletter.

While the Garden Group March outing has been rescheduled for April, all the usual activities are in full swing this month.

There is an interesting list of up-coming speakers from Ross Prestipino (page 5) and an exciting menu of Outings and Trips Away (pages 6 and 7), organised by Geoff Childs and Bob Crabb. Lawrie's walk (pages 7 and 8) is rated "Easy/Medium and sounds like a wonderful day out. I'd describe Anne's Puzzle this month as a trick question! Thank you, Anne, for the monthly challenges.

Susie Bannatyne

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## New Activities

### Anne's Puzzle

A new clothing store has a unique method of pricing items. A vest costs \$20, a tie costs \$15, a blouse costs \$30, and underwear costs \$45. How much would pants cost?

Solution on page 13

Anne Prescott

## Garden Group

### Tour of Margins Mushrooms, Woy Woy



Attention! As the bus is not available on 12 March, we have had to reschedule the tour of Margins Mushrooms, Woy Woy.

**New Date:** Thursday 23 April 2026, depending on interest. We need 20 people to book the bus.

**Time:** 9am at WPH Valley Community Hall.

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

**Lunch:** We hope to go on to The Edogawa Commemorative Garden (a peaceful Japanese Garden) in East Gosford, next to the Gosford Regional Art Gallery, for a look followed by lunch at Top Point Cafe.

Address – 36 Webb Street, East Gosford.

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

**Enquiries:** Ros Ward 0407 891 117 or [gandrward@bigpond.com](mailto:gandrward@bigpond.com)

Please put your name on the Expression of Interest form at the March meeting to secure your place for a very pleasant day out.

Ros Ward and Marion Dent

## The Grill

Geoff Childs was Ross Prestipino's subject at the February meeting. I wasn't there but by all accounts those present were very entertained.

Ross promises *an interesting person* to be grilled at the March meeting.

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](mailto:leothedent@gmail.com).

Title	Genre	Service	Episodes	Author
<b>The Great Escaper</b>	Movie	SBS	1	Leo Dent
<i>The Great Escaper</i> is a 2023 British biographical comedy-drama film starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson. It is based on the true story of 90-year-old British WWII Royal Navy veteran, Bernard Jordan, who "broke out" of his nursing home to attend the 70th anniversary D-Day commemorations in France in June 2014.				
<b>Art Detectives</b>	Drama	iView	6	Susie Bannatyne
Art-loving DI Mick Palmer and straight-talking DC Shazia Malik lead the Heritage Crime Unit, solving murders linked to art and antiques - from forged paintings to Viking gold - in this gripping new crime series.				

<b>Trespasses</b>	Drama	SBS	4	Susie Bannatyne
Against her better judgement, Catholic schoolteacher Cushla, becomes involved with an older Protestant married man. Michael is a barrister who often defends IRA suspects and is friends with cultured Bohemians who enrage and intrigue Cushla.				
<b>Dog Park</b>	Comedy	iView	6	Susie Bannayne
In the grip of a mid-life crisis, Roland meets the eternal optimist Samantha (Celia Pacquola) and her life-loving group of dog-parkers. Crime-free feel good show for animal lovers!				

Leo Dent

### Guest Speakers

**March:** Graham Sims – *The Legend of Tarzan*

**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



**When:** Wednesday 18 March at 10am

**Where:** Wills Cafe, ARV, Castle Hill

Please advise either of us if you would like to attend.

Best wishes.

Julia Elborn and Mavis Todd

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## Men's Coffee Group



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

When: Friday 27 March 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](mailto:lawriehayes@bigpond.com) so I can confirm reservation numbers.

Lawrie Hayes

## Outings and Trips Away

**Proud Mary Tour** in May 2026. Balance of tour cost payable by 22 February 2026.

**Murder Most Foul**, Darlinghurst Historical Walking Tour

Tuesday 24 March 2026

Meet at Central at 9.30am – time for a coffee.

Tour commences at 10am

Lunch at Kinselas Hotel – optional

Cost \$40 per person

12 members have signalled their interest, many places available.

### **Yulefest Lunch**

I'm looking for expressions of interest for a Yulefest Lunch to be held either in the Blue Mountains or the Southern Highlands sometime in July 2026.

The visit can be for a single day or an overnight stay – whatever is the popular choice. Please indicate your availability and choice re the length of visit on the Expressions of Interest sheet at the March meeting.

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**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

### **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.

Add your name to the interest sheet at the March meeting

Pay \$68 per person to the Treasurer by 7th April.

Bob Crabb

0408 189 340

## **March Walk**

### **Redfern Station to The Cannery**

**Date:** Tuesday 10 March 2026

**Distance:** About 4.5 km

**Walking Time:** Approximately 1.5 to 2 hours

**Grading:** Easy/Medium. Paved paths and street walking.

**Time:** Meet at 10.30 am outside Redfern Station on the corner of Lawson and Gibbons Streets: that is, as you leave the station you turn right.

**Travel Options:** Train from your local station to Redfern Station. Return from Central Station to your start point.

Note! There is always plenty of parking in Hannah Street, Beecroft with a short walk down the hill to Beecroft Station where the trains run approximately every fifteen minutes direct to Redfern Station. Get on the front of the train as the exit at Redfern Station is at the city end of the platform.

### **The walk:**

From our meeting point above we will cross Gibbons Street into Redfern Street. As we walk through Redfern we will arrive at Redfern Park. From there we cross the Park and go into Surrey Street. Turn right into Raglan Street and left into Pitt Street. Continue along Pitt Street past Waterloo Park, cross McEvoy Street and back into Pitt Street. Waterloo Park is still on our left. Turn left at Allen Street, cross Elizabeth Street and into Short Street until you meet Bourke Street. Turn right and then left into Kingsborough Way, turn right at Merton Road and then left into Tilford Street. Turn right at Joynton

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Avenue, cross Epsom Rd and into Mentmore Avenue. The Cannery will be on the corner of Mentmore and Hayes Streets.

Check out your eating options on <https://canneryrosebery.com.au/>

We will most likely be eating at The Fifth Earl (entry off Morley Avenue). Or, if you wish you can browse and maybe even check out The Archie Rose Gin Distillery.

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Hope you enjoy the walk.

Lawrie Hayes



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## General Club Notices

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### Probus Meeting Roster

Month	Hall	Kitchen
March	Lawrie Hayes	Maris Wild
	Macdouall	Veronica Wiseman
	Neville Ward	
April	David Taylor	Sandra Sun
	Bob Crabb	Meg Mills
	Bob Dickerson	

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

Mike Macdouall

### Welfare Report

The good news is that Marie Macdouall's surgery went well. She is at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse where she will receive first class care and I know that every one of us is wishing Marie well.

Pam Riddell is recovering from heart surgery. Only a short time ago Russ had undergone knee replacement - we hope that, together, they both make a full recovery.

At our ladies' coffee morning on Wednesday, Mavis and Julia passed around two lovely cards which we were able to sign and send on to Marie and Pam.

Marie has truly been a wonderful Welfare Officer and we love her 'little ditties'. A hard act to follow . . . however, Lyn Marsden has very kindly agreed to take on the role of Welfare Officer and I know she will do a great job. Remember to let her know if any of our friends are not well.

Janet Hayes [janetthayes@bigpond.com](mailto:janetthayes@bigpond.com)  
0405 197 991

Lyn Marsden [lynmarsden.lm@gmail.com](mailto:lynmarsden.lm@gmail.com)  
0407 469 888

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## Reports of Ongoing Activities

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### Second Friday Book Group



***Wilt***  
**by**  
**Tom Sharpe**

It was good to have most of the gang back together again after our Christmas hiatus, to discuss *Wilt* by Tom Sharpe.

Henry Wilt, tied to a daft job and a domineering wife, has just been passed over for promotion yet again. Ahead of him, teaching at the Polytechnic, stretch years of trying to thump literature into the heads of plasterers, joiners, butchers and the like. And things are no better at home where his massive wife, Eva, is given to boundless and unpredictable fits of enthusiasm - for transcendental meditation, yoga or the trampoline.

But if Wilt can do nothing about his job, he realises he can do something about his wife - and as each day passes, his fantasies grow more murderous and more real.

This is true farce, and two of our members enjoyed the humour and the absurdity of the truly extraordinary predicaments Wilt creates, with laugh out loud moments. It was written in 1976 and is the first of a Wilt series, but most of us found it very much a book of that time, so the attitudes it lampooned and the situations it described had not worn well. One member wasn't sympathetic to him wanting to solve his dissatisfaction with his life by looking for ways to kill his wife - even if it was treated in a madcap way.

As usual though, mixed reviews led to lively and wide-ranging discussion.

Fran Kirby

### Ladies' Coffee and Catch-up February Report

Our February morning tea, as always sociable and personable, was enjoyed at Wills Cafe on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup>.

A warm welcome was given to Colleen Woodhead, Margaret Brown, Glenys Clarke and Vivienne Truelove.

It was a seriously thoughtful morning as each of us attending were aware that our dear members Marie Macdouall and Pam Riddell were hospitalised. Big thank you to Julia Elborn for her thoughtfulness in purchasing large 'Get Well' cards to enable each of us to write our own messages of love and encouragement. The cards were then forwarded

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to our dear friends - Marie, facing long surgery at O'Brien Lifehouse and Pam recovering from heart surgery. Please keep them close and in your prayers.

Best wishes.

Julia Elborn and Mavis Todd

## Mah Jong Monday



For our first session of the year we had 11 players.

We welcomed new player, Valerie Field, who had the highest score on her table, well done Valerie, a very good start.

The highest scores on the other tables were Meg Mills and Barbara Shannon, who just pipped Lyn Horne to the post by 200pts.

A good start to the year for the race to win the dragon!

Meg Mills

0414 639 654



## Mah Jong Thursday

Nothing to report this month due to various issues.

Judith & Mike Reidy

## Outing Report

### *Retired Laughing*

12 members and friends enjoyed some lively entertainment on Tuesday 17 February at the Glen Street Theatre, Belrose.

The show was witty and some good slapstick comedy was enjoyed by our group.



Thanks everyone for attending.

Geoff Childs

## February Walk Report Rozelle to Drummoyne Sailing Club

I hope that those of you who joined us on the February walk enjoyed your day. The weather was kind to us, albeit a bit warm for some.

It is not so easy to find level and reasonable distance walks that start and finish close to public transport with good coffee to start and enjoyable lunch to finish. I believe that we satisfied most of those, with the exception of the stairs to the Iron Cove Bridge deck from the water foreshore.

The area is full of a variety of our history. I encourage you to explore the links below and learn a bit about our early power generation and sadly about an institution that assisted a section of our society that found themselves in need of mental health care.

Callan Park Gates

<https://www.publicworks.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney/callan-park-gates#:~:text=The%20Callan%20Park%20gates%20were%20originally%20constructed,to%20the%20community%20in%20late%20May%202022.>

Callan Park Hospital For The Insane

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Callan\\_Park\\_Hospital\\_for\\_the\\_Insane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Callan_Park_Hospital_for_the_Insane)

Balmain Power Station

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balmain\\_Power\\_Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balmain_Power_Station)

Elliott Bros Chemical works

The Elliott brothers, George, Frederick and James, originally from Scotland, had settled in Sydney in the 1840s. George, the eldest brother, was a medical practitioner in the suburb of Balmain. Frederick opened a pharmacy in the city. In 1859, the brothers

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purchased Youngman and Co., a wholesale chemist and druggist business in Pitt Street, Sydney. In 1865, they established the Balmain Chemical Works, later known as the Elliott Bros Chemical Works.



Photo of Plaque near Balman “A” Power Station Pump House

Last but not least, here are the walkers in front of one of the iconic sandstone buildings built in the 1800s.



Lawrie Hayes

### Anne's Puzzle Solution

Answer: \$25. The pricing method charges \$5 for each letter needed to spell the item.

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## Appendix A - Contacts and Activity Locations/Times

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### Management Committee

<b>President</b>	Janet Hayes	
<b>Vice President</b>	Colin Lissner	
<b>Secretary</b>	Anne Prescott	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jim Bannatyne	

### General Committee

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

### Activity Leaders

<b>2nd Friday Book Group</b>	Fran Kirby	
<b>\$2.50 Group</b>	Marion Dent	

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

### Location/Start Time of Activities

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

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

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## **Appendix B – Payment Details – Treasurer Jim Bannatyne**

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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, 14 Veronica Place, Cherrybrook, NSW 2126.

Jim Bannatyne

0429 408953

[jim.bannatyne@hotmail.com](mailto: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 March 2026

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3 Probus Meeting <b>Lunch at the The Vicar</b>	4 Bridge	5 Mah Jong	6
9 Mah Jong	10 Walk	11	12	13 Second Friday Book Group
16	17	18 Bridge Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up	19 Mah Jong	20
23 Mah Jong	24 <b>Murder Most Foul, Darlinghurst Tour</b>	25	26	27 Men's Coffee Group

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