



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 (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.

President's Message



November is upon us and the year is closing in quickly. The warm weather is welcome, and our garden in springtime is always very pretty, thanks in no small part to Lawrie's hard work. In no time, though, the days will heat up and we'll be looking to find ways to stay cool.

A few days ago I decided to contact some of our former Probus club members really just to say hello. I had very happy responses from Steve and Anne Young, and Annette and Ray Hosking and both couples told me how they enjoy receiving our newsletter each month and keeping abreast of what the club is doing. Newer members to our club may not have met them but I know many of you reading this now will know and remember them.

Earlier this week a group of us joined a walking tour organised by Geoff Childs - a guided tour of the back streets in the Surry Hills area. Lots of history and intrigue - stories told by a very knowledgeable guide. An interesting day, thank you Geoff. Thanks also to Marion Dent and Ros Ward for the visits to Old Government House and Red Cow Farm. We rely so much on our Group Leaders for planning these days for us.

A word about our end of year dinner party – Patricia Ellison and her helpers are putting a great deal of effort to make it a special evening – Wednesday 26 November at Wills Café, at ARV, so keep the date free.

New initiatives for our club this year are the coffee mornings for the ladies and the men, and they seem to be very popular.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 4 November, as always, coincides with Melbourne Cup Day. We will hold our meeting as usual but it will be brief, no morning tea, no speaker. There will be sweeps for the Melbourne Cup though, so bring some small change if you would like to take part. After the meeting closes a group of us will go to Wills Café for coffee and cake – please join us and let Lawrie know so we have numbers for a reservation.

Stay well everyone – see you in November.

Janet Hayes

Editor's Notes

Another active month for Club members.

Most people join in order to meet new people and enjoy the benefits of socialising. This enjoyment of meeting and talking not only applies to contact between Club members but to the interaction it leads to with the wider public.

On a Garden Club visit to Mount Tomah earlier in the year, I had a fascinating chat with one of the gardeners. This was a youngish woman who had trained in a Northern Territory Botanic Garden and who had worked in similar places in all over Australia.

During the recent Murder Most Foul walk, I got chatting to a lovely chap (and his dog) who told me all about the plane tree seed pods which littered the streets. Another had a personal story to tell about one of the buildings we were looking at – formerly the home of bootmakers to the rich and famous (Kerry Packer and the Beatles).

So, (I know I don't need any encouragement) keep chatting!

Warning – Editor's sales pitch! If you have an interesting interaction tale, please consider sharing it with our Club via the Newsletter.

We should all thank President Janet for her hard work in producing the beautiful invitation to our End of Year Party – on page 4.

I hope you all enjoy this month's issue.

Susie Bannatyne

Special Event

End of Year Party

Wednesday 26 November 2025 at Wills Cafe, ARV, Castle Hill.



New Activities

Getting to Know You Q&A

Who will be this month's subject for Ross Prestipino's Q&A? Apart from surmising that the gender will be male, I have no idea.

At the October meeting Club Secretary, Anne Prescott, was the subject. I asked Anne which were the easiest and hardest questions to answer. The easiest was her first car, a mini, which, her husband said, she made look big! Unlike last month's subject, Leo Dent, Anne battled to think of a favourite movie.

Full marks to Anne for batting for us chocolate lovers!

Susie Bannatyne

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	Author
House of Guinness	Doco	Netflix	3	Maureen Farago
The series is about the family behind the Guinness brewing company in 19th-century Ireland and New York. The story follows the consequences of the death of Benjamin Guinness, the man responsible for the extraordinary success of the Guinness brewery, and the fates of his four adult children: Arthur, Edward, Anne and Benjamin.				
All Creatures Great and Small	Drama	BritBox	39	Leo Dent
A television series set in 1930s and 1940s Northern England, based upon a series of books about a Yorkshire veterinary surgeon written by Alf Wight under the pen name of James Herriot. The new series began in 2020 is a remake of the BBC series that ran for 90 episodes from 1978 to 1990 and is just as good as the original. Feel good entertainment.				
Blue Lights Series 3	Crime Drama	SBS	6	Susie Bannatyne
Police drama set in Belfast. The team deal with divided communities, criminal gangs and struggle to know who to trust. I have watched three episodes so far and although I'm enjoying it, the programme lacks the zing of the first two seasons.				
Downton Abbey	Period Tale	At a cinema near you	About 2 hours	Susie Bannatyne
Ladies - this is all about the frocks! We all know the basics and this final film doesn't disappoint. Great soundtrack, acting, settings and costumes (and fabulous period jewellery). It pulls at the heartstrings and I enjoyed all the weepy moments. Not a crime or police car in sight!				

Leo Dent

Guest Speakers

November - None – Melbourne Cup Day

December - Neville Turbit - The Story of Bass and Flinders

January - Paul Kearney - Early 60s Rock and Roll History

(see <https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/wphc> for more details)

Ross Prestipino

Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up



Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 10am in Wills Cafe, ARV, Castle Hill.

There will be an Attendance Sheet on the table at the next meeting. However, this is a short one due to Melbourne Cup Day activities and if ladies will not be there, please ring Julia on 0409 461 997 if you would like to attend the next LC&CU gathering.

All knitting enquiries please to Maris Wild on 0412 170 756.

Julia Elborn and Mavis Todd

Maths Puzzle

+++++
- X
- **How many counting numbers greater than 100 and less than 1000** X
- **are palindromes?** X
- X

÷÷÷÷÷
A palindrome is a number that reads the same forwards and backwards such as 252.

Solution on page 14

Anne Prescott

Membership



A very warm welcome to our new members, Christine Taylor, Maree and Neil Spranger. We look forward to sharing good times with you.

Fran Kirby

Men's Coffee Group



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

WHEN: Last Friday of the month – 28 November at 10am

WHERE: Will's Café at the ARV

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

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

Lawrie Hayes

Outings and Trips Away

The Zig Zag railway tour is scheduled for departure on 7 November 2025 from the Club rooms at 7.30am.

The Proud Mary cruise is sailing on 24 May 2026 and final registration for the cruise is Tuesday 4 November 2025.

I will present a list of tours and outings for 2026 at the December meeting.

Geoff Childs

November Walk

Birchgrove to Balmain via Ballast Point

Date: Tuesday 11 November 2025.

Distance: About 4.5km.

Walking Time: Approximately 1.5 hours.

Grading: Easy. Street and park walking with some stairs and ramps.

NOTE! The walk from Thames Street Wharf to the pub is a bit steep. Maybe an uber up the hill for some!

Time: I will be on the 08:47am train from Beecroft to West Ryde.

Travel Options: Metro users change at Epping for West Ryde at 09:12am. The 500X bus from West Ryde leaves at 09:06am. Get off the bus at the stop just after Darling Street.

Map: Please see Appendix C.

The Walk:

Coffee will be at the "Old Rosebud". After coffee we will catch the 433, 442, 445 or 441 bus to the start of our walk. The stop we get off at is opposite Elliott Street.

Once off the bus walk to Young Street and turn left. Continue into Elkington Park to the lookout at the end of the pathway. From there we will make our way past the Dawn Fraser Baths and along the foreshore to Glassop Street. At Birchgrove Road turn left and walk to Cove Street, turn left and then right into Ferdinand Street. Walk around Birchgrove Park to the water's edge. Walk along the water's edge and join Wharf Road and into the Ballast Point area to look at the old Caltex Grease works and remediation. From here make your way down to the water and around the bay into Mort Bay Park to the Thames Street Ferry terminal. From here we walk up Thames Street and McDonald Street to Darling Street. Turn right and join us at the Cricketers Arm Pub for lunch. The bus stop home is over Darling Street at Gladstone Park. Change at Victoria Road back to West Ryde and home.

PS. Check out the links below for more history.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mort%27s_Dock Morts Dock

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballast_Point_\(New_South_Wales\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballast_Point_(New_South_Wales)) Ballast point

Enjoy the walk.

Lawrie Hayes

General Club Notices

Probus Meeting Roster

Month	Hall	Kitchen
November	David Taylor	
	Bob Dickerson	
	James Wu	
December	Bob Crabb	Maureen Farago
	Mike Macdouall	Anne Prestipino
	Ross Prestipino	
January	Russ Riddell	Sandra Sun
	Will Seaton	Florina Vanderwaals
	Mike Macdouall	

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

Mike Macdouall

Welfare Report

I'm very happy to report that Colleen Woodhead is out of hospital and is in rehab. Our love, thoughts and best wishes are with you Colleen and hope you're feeling stronger very soon.

Russ Riddell underwent knee replacement surgery recently. I've spoken to Russ and he's recovering well and is currently doing rehabilitation. Sending best wishes to Russ and hope you're up and about very soon.

The Melbourne Cup is coming up and I hope you all pick a winner. It's an exciting day and even more so if you win some money. So good luck, stay safe and cheers. 🍷 🏆

Marie Macdouall

0434 819 862

Reports of Ongoing Activities

Garden Group

Last Thursday an enthusiastic group set off by bus to Sutton Forest to visit Red Cow Farm Gardens. The weather was perfect, no rain but cooler than when we left home.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the Spring displays.

**OTHER PHOTOS HAVE
BEEN REMOVED
FROM THE WEBSITE
VERSION OF THIS
NEWSLETTER DUE TO
DOCUMENT SIZE.**



We built up an appetite for a nice lunch at the Exeter General Store.

Special thanks to the volunteer bus driver and Ros Ward for organising the day.

Marion Dent

[Editor's note: Ros would like to thank Marion for her significant contribution to this outing.]

Mah Jong Monday



Meg Mills is on holiday but will return to her Mah Jong Monday hosting duties next month.



Mah Jong Thursday

Life intervened in various ways this month so there is no report. We hope next month is more productive.

Judith & Mike Reidy

Outings and Trips Away

Murder Most Foul Tour took place on 21 October 2025

Our group of 9 headed to the Shakespeare Hotel in Surry Hills where we enjoyed lunch.

Our host Elliot met us at the pub and provided us with a preamble of the tour. We then undertook a 2-hour tour of Surrey Hills, the tour being most enlightening and informative.

Fortunately, as Elliot runs several Sydney CBD tours, we will be booking other tours in early 2026. At \$35pp it is very good value.

Mystery Tour

Earlier this year several committee members attended a Probus South Pacific open day. The day was co-sponsored by On Course Tours who we have used over the past few

years. An offer on the open day was to attend a mystery tour; this tour was held on 23 October and was a trip to Manly.

The driver, Peter, provided a commentary as he drove to Manly where we enjoyed morning tea with Probus members from other clubs,

We met Max who is a local tour guide. Max walked us around Little Manly Beach, smaller parks and ultimately to the Quarantine station. He was very generous with his knowledge and the group enjoyed his commentary.

We then drove to North Head and took in the sights and then onto St Patrick's Seminary which is an outstanding feat of construction and engineering.

Then onto the Manly ferry terminal and then lunch at the Manly Club where, by pure chance. we bumped into Janet and Lawrie Hayes.

At the club we received a presentation from On Course, this included the program for 2026. A great initiative On Course has undertaken is to create a Probus central forum whereby we. the clubs, can nominate to attend an outing and should we be unable to fill the bus other clubs can take up the opportunity to join us.

A very enjoyable day and a great networking event.

Geoff Childs

Second Friday Book Group



The Time Of The Child by **Niall Williams**

We spent the month in a village in rural Ireland in 1962 with *The Time Of The Child* by *Niall Williams*. This novel is one of several by Williams set in the village of Faha, a little like the sequence of novels set in Shirley Falls, Maine by Elizabeth Strout (e.g, Olive Kitteridge).

Doctor Jack Troy was born and raised in the little town of Faha, but his responsibilities for the sick and his care for the dying mean he has always been set apart from his community. He's a very self-contained man. His wife has died and his eldest daughter, Ronnie, has grown up in her father's shadow and remains there as his housekeeper and practice manager, having missed one chance at love (her father thinks).

As the town readies itself for Christmas, an abandoned newborn baby is found at the fair and left in their care. Ronnie becomes obsessed with the child, keeping it in secret and the doctor comes up with an extraordinary scheme to enable her to keep it.

Williams' language in describing the setting of the village is exquisite, often requiring rereading to truly relish its richness. Descriptions of the characters are superb - a stout woman - "she was easier to jump over than walk around"; the postmistress - "the tweed suit she was wearing had a tensioned button below the amplitude of her bosom.(which) looked ready for firing"; the drunk in the pub opposite the church, "who got Mass only by ricochet".

There;s a lot of social commentary - how to care for an elderly priest with dementia, families living in poverty with drunken husbands, the "'knitting together" of the women, and much about the inherent cohesion of a small community despite the judgemental religious mores of the time.

The language is absolutely beautiful, the descriptions of landscape and characters masterful, but there was a lot of it without any action or plot advancement in the middle section of the book. The baby arrives quite late in the novel. All the characters were vividly described and sympathetically portrayed.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed reading it. One member who relished the language nevertheless was upset by the lack of concern by the doctor and Ronnie about the welfare of the newly-delivered mother of the child.

Well worth a leisurely read to savour the language and sink into rural Ireland in 1962.

Fran Kirby

October Walk

A great day along the upper reaches of the Parramatta River with lunch and company at the Family Inn up the hill.

I didn't take the 3 photos below, they are from the web site mentioned below.

**OTHER PHOTOS HAVE
BEEN REMOVED
FROM THE WEBSITE
VERSION OF THIS
NEWSLETTER DUE TO
DOCUMENT SIZE.**

If you are interested check out the Wikipedia site for more information on the photos above. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newington_Armory

And here we are in all our glory on a beautiful day near one of the very old 3 tonne SWL cranes that were used to load and unload the barges coming from and to the harbour.



Keep walking!

Lawrie Hayes

Solution to Maths Puzzle

Make a list and look for a pattern.

101, 111, 121, 131, 141, 151, 161, 171, 181, 191

202, 212, 222, 232, 242, 252, 262, 272, 282, 292

Notice that there are ten 3-digit numbers for each different digit in the hundreds column.

Since there are 9 possible digits in the hundreds column, there are $9 \times 10 = 90$ three-digit palindromes.

Appendix A - Contacts and Activity Locations/Times

Management Committee

President	Janet Hayes	
Vice President	Colin Lissner	
Secretary	Anne Prescott	
Treasurer	Jim Bannatyne	

General Committee

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

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, 14 Veronica Place, Cherrybrook, NSW 2126.

Jim Bannatyne

0429 408953

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 C – November Walk Map

Birchgrove to Balmain via Ballast Point



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.**

Appendix D – Calendar of Activities for November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4 Probus Meeting	5 Bridge	6 Mah Jong	7 Zig Zag Railway tour
10 Mah Jong	11 Walk	12	13	14 Second Friday Book Group
17	18	19 Bridge Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up	20 Mah Jong	21
24 Mah Jong	25	26 End of Year Party	27	28 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.