



TUGGERANONG PROBUS CLUB Inc.

NEWSLETTER No. 392 – 23 MARCH 2026

Meets at Southern Cross Club,
Pitman Street, Greenway
at 10.00 am, 4th Monday of the month

President: Sharron Blackmore - 0421 373 617
Secretary: Leonie Hancott – 0400 449 839
Membership: Rowena Davey – 0447 888 856
Welfare: Kerry Buik – 0421 737 282
Outings: Bron Heinrich – 0409 895 085

Newsletter Editor: Anne - 0400 772 424

Bank details: Tuggeranong Probus Club Inc - BSB: 633 000 Acct No. 194 077 772

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 23 March – 10.00 am General Meeting and Annual General Meeting



Tuesday 24 March – 10.00 am Trivia at the Mawson Club

25-30 March – Melbourne Short Break Escape

7-12 April 2026 – Murray/Darling with 5 nights in Narrandera.

Monday 20 April – due to ANZAC Day public holiday – meeting details TBC

Tuesday 21 April – Lunch at German Club in Narrabundah – arrive at 11.30 am to be sure of a parking spot

Monday 25 May – 10.00 am General Meeting

Friday 29 May – Lunch at CIT Institute of Technology, Woden

Wednesday 24 June – Parliament House. Tour “Footsteps of Federation” (\$28), lunch in Queens Terrace Café and/or attend Question Time.

Monday 29 June – 10.00 am General Meeting

Monday 27 July – 10.00 am General Meeting

Thursday 30 July – Christmas in July at Montrose House in Canowindra. Coach, 3-course lunch, non-alcoholic punch, tea/coffee and light entertainment
Cost \$100. Numbers limited so book early.

10-24 August 2026 – Sabah, North Borneo

=====
***If you cannot attend a meeting please text your apology to Rowena,
our Membership Officer, on 0447 888 856***

BIRTHDAYS

April is a popular month with the following members celebrating birthdays: Terrence Boudeville, Elaine Box, Wilma Cole, Erin Cronin, Alice Hughes, Bob Hughes, Bob Myers and Joan Stuckey. Happy Birthday to all.



FROM THE TREASURER

A request that members make any payments via online transfer whenever possible – don't forget to include your name and what you are paying for.

Bank details: Tuggeranong Probus Club Inc - BSB: 633 000 Acct No. 194 077 772

If paying by cash it must be the exact amount and, in an envelope, labelled with member's name and what the payment is for, e.g. membership fee, outing, etc.

**ANNUAL CLUB FEE of \$30 TO BE PAID
BY MARCH MEETING (23 MARCH).**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have received nominations for every position on the Management Committee. These include three newer club members, so thank you for 'stepping up'.

Some officers already have assistants. These are appointments, not elected positions. Management Committee members will choose others to assist them.



Please note I am no longer collecting toilet roll inserts or foil & plastic pill blisters. Full foil (100%) blisters ARE still being collected.

There have been some changes to items collected: mobile phones, household batteries, prescription glasses, pens, corks, metal bottle caps, keys and other metal objects, alfoil/aluminium, e-waste (mobile cables, etc.), light bulbs.

A sorting day was held at Nasonie's home recently and I thank her for making a space available. My thanks also the Marcia, Bron and Elaine who on this occasion helped us complete the task in double quick time.

There have been some changes to the method of collecting the various items by Lids4Kids. There will be a charge now when we drop off our items, to help defray costs of the operation of the charity. I will investigate just how this might affect us and I will let you know the outcome next month. In the meantime, I will continue to collect the items as above.

Anne

THINGS YOU PRBABLY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ICELAND

- ✚ Iceland has no mosquitoes at all due to its cold climate.
- ✚ No railways exist in Iceland; travel depends on cars, buses and planes.
- ✚ Iceland is one of the most volcanically active regions on Earth.
- ✚ Iceland's national sport is handball, not football.
- ✚ Iceland's capital, Reykjavik, runs entirely on renewable energy.



CHAT ABOUT BOOKS

THE LITTLE WARTIME LIBRARY by Kaye Thompson

As with many of the books I enjoy *The Little Wartime Library* fits into the historical fiction genre. For me this novel did not disappoint.

The story is set in London during World War II when the devastation and dislocation of life was at its height during the London Blitz. It was a time when the underground stations and tunnels became places of refuge, as well as dwellings for many Londoners. Bethnal Green Library was destroyed in the blitz. Clara, a children’s Librarian salvages books from its ruins and with her friend Ruby they set up *The Little Wartime Library* in the underground station nearby for ‘ALL’.

It’s the ‘All’ which brings out the prejudices of the upper class as Clara deals with the bureaucracy, some of whom believed books should only be the domain of the middle and upper classes. This forms one of the significant storylines throughout the novel.

Juxtaposed to this are the many human stories which are woven throughout the book. Such examples are associated with the children’s story time and the adult Ladies Book Club. The impact of the library on the children and adults was significant during this wartime period, where children were taught to read, solace of company for all was forthcoming, as well as the delights of the hidden escapism provided within the covers of books.



As a result, I found the novel storyline became addictive reading, as it passed from Clara to Ruby’s alternate narrations of what is happening in the unfolding episodes of the various underground residents’ lives and the politics of the administrative hierarchy.

As the story is based on an historical happening, I took much delight in reading the appendix, as well as once again visiting Google to gain further insights. A most enjoyable and easy read of substance.

Lorri

=====

Note on the review on the following page.

When in Hobart last October on a Probus tour I struck up a conversation with the proprietor of the old jam factory building, now a gallery. Members of Chat About Books had recently read *The Jam Factory* as was this gentleman was then doing. We talked about books we enjoyed, and he gave me *The Whisky Widow* which he had just finished. I knew this could be popular with our group and I have yet to keep it long enough to read it myself!! I am sure I will enjoy it when it finally makes its way back to me.

I wonder whether any of you have been tempted to buy or borrow any of the books we have reviewed. I have several on my shelf waiting to be read – ladies they will be returned to their owners in due course!

Anne

CHAT ABOUT BOOKS *continued*

THE WHISKY WIDOW by Karen Brooks

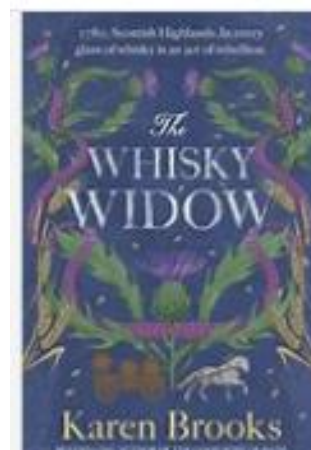
For all who enjoy 'a wee dram'.

This is a deeply researched story set in Scotland in the late 1700s. Greer MacAlister finds herself widowed with a young mute daughter in Edinburgh, the city she had grown up and married in. Why did she need to leave? Her efforts in distant Montrose to claim money left by her husband are cruelly thwarted and she is now desperate to find work. After a chance meeting, and determined to survive, she travels from the Lowlands to the Highlands and finds herself in a small, remote, whisky smuggling village.

Locals are wary of her, some openly hostile but she falls under the wing of the widowed "Mr Gordon" who is struggling with the loss of his wife, his brood of children and the responsibility he feels to keep the villagers working and eventually thriving.

This is the story of a resilient woman determined to take responsibility for and control of her own and her child's destiny in spite of often overwhelmingly difficult circumstances. She is creative and resourceful as she confronts one challenge after another. At times even the weather, or maybe especially the weather, seems to be against the village and very difficult decisions must be made.

Her situation as housekeeper in Mr Gordon's household is slowly accepted by the community and she gradually gains friendships among some of the villagers and Mr Gordon's extended family. Her daughter, Fen, is able to befriend some of the children as they attend school and a sensitive teacher accepts her use of 'finger speaking'. Steadily more and more of the locals accept this manner of speaking and even begin to learn it.



The distilling of whisky, the hiding of the stills and the subterfuge to avoid the excise men runs through the story strongly and the descriptions of these activities are realistic and moving. Likewise, the themes built around Fen's finger talking are explored through a range of events and her skill becomes important to the survival of many villagers.

The changing relationship between Mr Gordon and Greer is thoughtfully and believably developed bringing hints of possibility as it slowly blossoms.

The geography of the Scottish Highlands is a constant background to the story, evocatively described such that it is like another character in an already richly drawn cast. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and though I'm not used to 'a wee dram' myself I may well become a convert!

Leonie

=====

PUNCTUATION IS SO IMPORTANT

I'm giving up drinking for a month. Sorry that came out wrong.
I'm giving up. Drinking for a month.

LUNCH AT RAIDERS CLUB GUNGAHLIN

When thunder and lightning filled the sky on Wednesday, I realised how fortunate we were with Thursday's weather. Although the morning seemed gloomy and rain was possible, we were well prepared.

Nineteen of us left from the Wanniasa shops, taking a bus into the city before riding the light rail all the way to its final stop. For some, it was their first time on the light rail, and others hadn't been on a bus in ages, making it an adventure. Once we reached the end of the line, we walked a short distance to the Raiders Club for lunch.

When we arrived at our table, we laughed at the reservation name—it had been booked as "Takanong Sacraling Clubs," thanks to an AI misunderstanding when I made the booking. Despite that, we were all impressed by how quickly we were served and by the quality of the food.

When we left the club, the sky was a brilliant blue and stayed that way throughout our journey back to Wanniasa. The entire day was filled with lively conversation, which even caught the attention of a young lad on the bus ride home. Fascinated by our large, energetic group, he asked what we had been up to. I like to think we showed him that older adults can be active and enjoy life, not just sit around doing very little all day.

Bron



IF YOU ARE AWARE OF YOUR MEMORY PROBLEMS, YOU DO NOT HAVE ALZHEIMERS"

So says Professor Bruno Dubois, Director of the Institute of Memory and Alzheimer's Disease in Paris... "Those who suffer from a memory illness such as Alzheimer's are not aware of what is happening. Half the people 60 years and older have some symptoms that are due to age rather than disease. The most common cases are: forgetting the name of a person, going to a room in the house and not remembering why you went there, a blank memory for a word, a movie title, actor or actress, or searching for where we left our glasses or keys. After 60 years, most people have such a difficulty which indicates that it is not a disease, but rather a characteristic due of the passage of years.

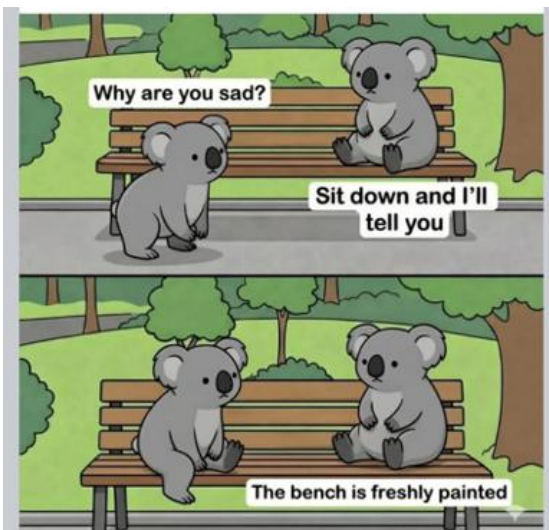


Inductions of Alma Stephenson & Rebbecca Acharya

=====

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING TO PONDER

- Growing old is when going bra-less pulls all the wrinkles out of your face.
- If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun – Katherine Hepburn
- When our memories outweigh our dreams, we have grown old – Bill Clinton
- If lawyers are disbarred and clergyman defrocked, then it follows that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, models deposed and drycleaners depressed?
- Do Bushels Tea employees take a “coffee break”?
- Vegetarian is an old Indian word for bad hunter.
- A day without a smile is like a day without sunshine.
- Why is it that, no matter what colour bubble bath you use, the bubbles are always white?



I think we are named after computer passwords