



The Probuss Club of Frenchs Forest Inc.

<https://www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/frenchsforest>

P.O. Box 559, Frenchs Forest 1640

N e w s L E T T E R

Number 486

March 2026



Please note the Annual Reports from the President, Treasurer, Program Director and Social Director are attached to this newsletter.

Presidents Report

With our AGM happening this month many of our committee members are standing again and for this I thank them. However, we have a vacancy for Vice President. We need one of our members to put their hand up!!! This will be my last year as President and a Vice President is essential to hopefully step up to President next year.

Sue Clement is stepping down from the committee after many years of service to our club and we give her a HUGE thanks to her for all she has done for our club over the years.

Following our AGM we have our changeover lunch which many of you will be joining us. . Look forward to seeing you all there.

Kaye

Inductions: Sue Hughes will be inducted at our March meeting.

Inducted: Denise Short was inducted at our February meeting. Denise, welcome to our club and may you enjoy all the fun, friendship and many activities.

Entertainment:

On Wednesday 18th February 2026 a group of Frenchs Forest Probians attended a matinee performance at the Theatre Royal of Pretty Woman. It was a fabulous show which everyone enjoyed enormously.

Prior to the show the majority enjoyed a light lunch in the food court under the Theatre Royal.

I have been able to book 25 tickets to attend a matinee performance at the Glen Street Theatre for an Evening of Roger's & Hammerstein.

Date: Thursday 21st May 2026

Time: 2pm

Cost: \$60.00 per person

Payment due: Thursday 16th April 2026 please make payment to Treasurer Gwen Hunt.

Treasurers Report: by Gwen Hunt.

Funds Available –

At February 28 2026 \$5,107.34

Payments for Membership Renewals and Outings may now be made **by EFT.**

Please make sure your Name and what the payment is for, are in the Description.

The bank details are:

The Probus Club of Frenchs Forest Inc

Westpac Bank

BSB 032123 Account number 750916

You are still able to pay by Cash or Cheque,

Sue Clement

sueclement2346@gmail.com

Gwen Hunt

gwenda.hunt@gmail.com

It is imperative to advise Gwen Hunt (Treasurer) and cc Sue Clement when paying for an outing by EFT.

Welfare Directors Report:

Please do get in touch with Bernadette Chapman or Wendy Speakman if you know of any member who is unwell, or in hospital etc. When ringing Bernadette or Wendy, for anyone who is unwell, please leave your name and phone number as Bernadette does not answer to any calls she does not know, due to too many scams now a days.

Yvonne Viney is recovering from her hip op.

Program Director's Report: By Ariela Honour.

March 26th **Cindy Davis**, Topic "Istanbul a City of two Continents".

Social Director's Report – by Sue Clement

Past Events

January 22nd 2026 – Free 'Picnic' lunch after our meeting at the Bahai temple, Mona Vale Road. 10.30am - Sue

Our first meeting of the New Year took place in the picnic area behind the Bahai Temple. We enjoyed a short presentation and tour of the Temple before our meeting. After which we had a picnic lunch of Chicken, salads and dessert compliments of the Frenchs Forest Probus Club 😊

Dates for your Diary

March 26th – Change over lunch after the AGM at the Belrose Hotel – Sue

We will once again have our change over lunch following the AGM and our regular March meeting.

Mains: Barramundi with chips & Salad OR Chicken Parmigiana with chips and salad

Dessert: Sticky Date Pudding OR Apple & Rhubarb Crumble

Cost \$45.00 per head – payable by February 26th

April 9th – OCT - Pine Ridge Miniature Donkey Farm & Bowral. – Margie



Visit the picturesque Southern Highlands region and enjoy a delightful day surrounded by the charm of the countryside, friendly animals and beautiful towns. Our day begins at Pine Ridge Miniature Donkey Farm where you will have the chance to feed and interact with the adorable donkeys, providing an unforgettable hands-on experience for all. Our guides will share fascinating stories and facts about these gentle intelligent creatures while you enjoy a delightful morning tea surrounded by the peaceful scenery. Tour lasts about 2 hours. We then head for Moss Vale Services Club for lunch. If time permits, we will then go to Bowral where you can wander at leisure, enjoy the shops or coffee at one

of the local cafes.

Cost \$118 for minimum 30 or \$136 for minimum 20 includes, morning tea, guide tour at Pine Ridge and one-course lunch at Moss Vale.

Pick-up from Hews Parade Sports ground 8.30am – return 5.30pm.

Please pay by March 26th 2026.

May 7th Wyong Race Day – Sue

Enjoy a day out at Wyong Race track. The package includes a 2-course lunch, grand stand seating and a race book. This is usually a fun day out where we can enjoy a flutter on the horses of our choice and hopefully get a winner of two!! We will once again car pool to get there, please advise if you need a lift. Gates open at 11.00am.

Cost \$80.00 each payable by March 26th - we are required to pay the full amount 30 days prior to race day hence the need for payment in March.

NB. When paying for outings, please see EFT details. If paying by CHEQUE– made out to ‘The Probus Club of Frenchs Forest Inc. – or CASH please have the correct money; either method, cheque or cash, to be in an envelope with your name and the name of the outing(s) on the front. Thank you.



April Birthdays

4 Dianne Ivey
4 Marian Denton
7 Beryl Barter
10 Garth Tanswell
19 Gweneth Tanswell
21 Gill Gorrick
24 June Booker
27 Kay Mc Garrity

February Lucky Door Prizes: was won by: **Margie Springett.**

E-Mail address for future Probus Newsletter Delivery

Please give your email particulars for Newsletter delivery to Bruce Pearce:

bruce.pearce.74@gmail.

Your editor has been faithfully doing the Newsletter for about 7 years now and would like, very much, to have a break.

I am sure there are quite a few people able to type a few words each month and email to our members.

Most of the content comes from the various minutes each month, plus reports from different committee members.

I will still keep the membership registers up to date.

Upcoming Meeting Dates 2026:

General meeting: Thursday 26th March 2026 at 10.30am. Belrose Hotel.

Committee Meeting: Thursday 2nd April at 10.00am. Belrose Hotel.

President's Annual Report.

It is with great pleasure I present the Annual report for Frenchs Forest Probus Club.

This year has been one of welcoming new members, wonderful outings and interesting speakers. Without the tireless work of all of our committee members, our club would not be the great club we have today. I thank them all for their support in my first year as President.

I especially would like to thank Sue Clement who is stepping down this year. Sue was an original member of Frenchs Forest Probus Club and has been a member of the committee since its inauguration. We thank her for her continued support.

We have moved our venue from Forestville Rugby Club to Belrose Hotel this year. The hotel has installed a new sound system and we now begin our meetings with our Guest Speaker. After a short break we finish with our meeting. Many of our members stay and have lunch following this.

We have sadly farewelled a few of our members and have welcomed many new ones. Our membership currently stands at approximately 70.

I look forward to another successful year for Frenchs Forest Probus Club

Kaye Lines

President

TREASURERS ANNUAL REPORT

As the editor is unable to attach this report, there will be a printed copy on the Presidents desk to peruse.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2025-2026

Once again, we have had some wonderful speakers during 2025. They have donated their time to come to our Probus Club, and give their very entertaining and informative talks.

We thank them very much for their passion and enthusiasm and for making our meetings so memorable. Our speakers were:-

March 27th – Jennifer Hubbard “The Writer as a spy”

April 24th - Ron Besdanský “History of Manly & North Shore Trams”

May 22nd - Rita Shaw “A Rhino Lady in Africa”

June 26th - Andrew Miles “Justice of the Peace”

July 24th - Mitchell Hiam “Retirement and Aged Care”

August 28th - Denis Moore “The Gallipoli Campaign”

September 25th - Jo-Anne Berthelsen “From the Ridiculous to the
Sublime : True Travel Tales”

October 23rd – Hans Kunnen “September 11, New York Experience”

November 27th - Toni Simons “Demystifying Dementia & Group Homes”
Tamar Krebs (Videri Australia)

February 26^{th 2026} – Fred Watson “Asteroids on Steroids”

Ariela & Graeme Honour

Program Directors Frenchs Forest Probus Club

SOCIAL DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT 2025 – 2026

As can be seen we have had another eventful year with some regular events and an interesting variety of new ones. Many thanks as always to Margie and Gill for sharing the organising of events.

March 27th - AGM Change-over Lunch Belrose Hotel 12.30pm – Sue This was once again very tasty though unfortunately for some not as hot as they would prefer. This is one of the setbacks of trying to plate up so many meals at once! Of interest is the cost, in **2025 it was \$52 each, in 2026 it is \$45.00!!** Not often prices go down these days!

April 17th - Wyong Race Day – 11.00 am – Sue We loved the table set up in the members lounge, very different from previous years – this time we had round tables and chairs all covered in white

cloths as for a wedding! Excellent viewing over the track as our tables were in front of the big windows. The 2-course meal was delicious. Some ladies had lots of winners, I was not one of them!! Whatever it was a fun day and we all came home happy.

May 15th - Naval Tour 2– Japanese mini-sub attack on Sydney Harbour – Gill This was another great trip. The volunteer tour guides are amazing with their wealth of knowledge. The accompanying slide show helped us to relive the memorable time the Sydney Harbour came under attack during the WWII. Once again, the morning tea was very delicious! Shame we had a repeat of the weather, another dull grey day but thankfully not quite as much rain.

June 12th - GPO Heritage Tour – Fullerton Hotel, Martin Place -11.45am – Gill

We spent the first part of the tour outside the GPO looking at the architecture, in particular the sculptures. How many times have we walked past a building without really seeing it? It was really interesting to hear the story behind each carving and to learn most were done in situ. The whole tour was fascinating and well worth the cost. Lunch at PJ O'Briens was also good, large tasty meals served quite promptly considering how many of us there were.

July 17th - Xmas in July – The Chalet, Medlow Bath – Margie Another coach breakdown delayed our start! Fortunately, Glenorie Coaches came to our rescue and we finally got away 1 ½ hours late. It was so worth the wait, The Chalet was delightful and our very genial host helped us to enjoy the day, as did the free wine supplied by On Course Tours to compensate us for the delay. We all enjoyed our meal and the carol singing between courses - a really fun day out.

August 21st - Doyles Winter Special – Watsons Bay – Gill It was a wet and miserable day as 26 intrepid Probians set out for lunch at Doyles at Watsons Bay. Most travelled by ferry others by car. The seafood chowder and fish and chips were served along with a glass of wine/beer. Everybody seemed to enjoy the meal. The service was good and the Maître D did his best to accommodate us. A very pleasant day in spite of the dreadful weather.

August 31st – September 5th N.E. Silo Art Tour (Back to Linga Longa) – Sue What a great trip this was, so much fun. Our driver, Ken, looked after us so well, had a sense of humour and lots of information about the places we visited. The silo art was amazing, so too the murals in Benalla and other towns. The migrant museum, Depot (car collection), whiskey factory etc. etc. all very interesting to visit and learn about. The delicious morning teas, lunches and dinners -so much food I'm sure we would all have put weight on!

October 16th - Lucas Heights Discovery Centre – Margie An interesting and enjoyable day. Thankfully the coach performed well as did our driver John Trip! As for the tour of the research facilities at Lucas Heights, the guide who took the group I was in certainly knew and loved his subject but went on too long and into too much depth for me. Consequently, he made us late for our lunch at Bundeena RSL which meant the staff there had to rush around to get us all fed in time to meet the ferry across to Cronulla. We did make it in plenty of time and enjoyed the rest of the afternoon making our way back to Belrose.

November 13th - Hawkesbury River train trip, Lunch at Anglers Rest – Gill This was our \$2.50 outing and proved very popular. A train trip to Hawkesbury River followed by lunch at the Anglers Rest (own choice of meal and expense). We caught the train from Chatswood changed at Hornsby and arrived at Hawkesbury River where we walked the short distance to the hotel in time for our lunch which was delicious

December 4th – Christmas Lunch @ Cromer Golf Club. – Margie The change of venue worked out well, with everyone enjoying the lunch and the setting so much we will be returning for December 2026.

January 22nd 2026 – Free ‘Picnic’ lunch after our meeting at the Bahai temple, Mona Vale Road. 10.30am – Sue Our first meeting of the New Year took place in the picnic area behind the Bahai Temple. We enjoyed a short presentation and tour of the Temple before our meeting. After which we had a picnic lunch of Chicken, salads and dessert compliments of the Frenchs Forest Probus Club 😊

February 12th – Sydney Eye & lunch at Cellini’s in the QVB – Gill Shame that the sun didn’t shine but at least it didn’t rain and we were able to enjoy the views from the Centrepont Tower. We also very much enjoyed our lunch after at Cellini’s.

In addition to the outings organised by the social committee we have also enjoyed the introduction of Theatre outings organised by Di Ivey as listed below.

Theatre bookings by Di Ivey

24th May 2025. A Chorus Line at the Concourse Chatswood

3rd July 2025 Carousel in Concert at the Glen Street Theatre

20th September 2025 Grandparents Club Part 2.

9th November 2025 Music of the Night Glen Street Theatre

14th November 2025 ABBA Glen Street Theatre

15th December 2025 Beggers Christmas Glen Street Theatre

Many thanks to Di for further enhancing our social calendar.

And so, to **March 26th 2026 & Lunch after the AGM** – which will mark my final day as Social Director after 15 years in the role and 20 years on the Probus committee! I have really enjoyed my time on the committee serving with so many different members over the years. I have no doubt I will miss being involved in the organisation of our club though I know it is in very good hands and will continue to thrive. I am sure Gill will fill my role admirably with the help of Margie and Jill and I wish them all well.

Sue Clement

Social Director 2011 - 2026

Nominated Executive Committee 2026-2027 to be elected
at our March AGM

President: Kaye Lines

Vice President:

Immediate Past President Bruce Pearce

Secretary: Di Ivey

Assistant Secretary: Barry Springett

Treasurer: Gwen Hunt.

Assistant Treasurer: Liz Ellery.

Program Directors: Ariela & Graeme Honour

Social Director: Gill Gorrick

Assistant Social Directors: Margie Springett, Jillian Furnell

Welfare: Bernadette Chapman

Assistant Welfare: Wendy Speakman

Theatre Parties Di Ivey & Kaye Lines

Editor: Bruce Pearce

Assistant Editor: Gill Gorrick

Meet & Greet: Bev Chivers,

Assistant Meet and Greet Judy Lucas,

Committee Appointments:

Public Officer: John Drew

Auditor: Graeme Honour

