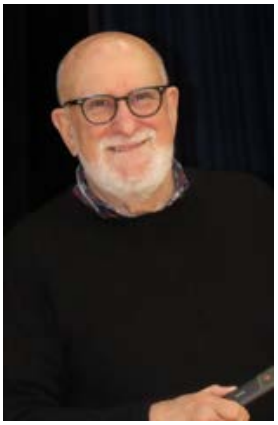
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September 2026 **NEWSLETTER** Vol.14 No. 9

Do you remember..?





…the Banksia man ? … or, cracker nights, bonfires, billy carts and shanghaies ?

Warren Fahey AM treated us to a catalogue of memories that took most of us back more that half a century.

He distinguished between our childhood play and that of an indigenous child. We played for fun and for the magic that we invented—the aboriginal child played games related to hunting or gathering.



Even their string games were focused on real life.

Warren reminded us that vocabularies are falling. In 1910 a 9 year old had a vocab of 6 to 8,000 words. Today that same age group has only about 2800 words.

His books were well received and sold well, so many thanks Warren.



Our September meeting



We welcomed President Olivia back after she saw the Northern Hemisphere eclipse, Tom Jones and her aunt's 100th birthday. We also gave special welcomes to the Coles, Houses and Woods following absences for different reasons.

In the September Birthday Honours Ed Carrick celebrated his birthday at our meeting for an undisclosed number of years !! Well done Ed.

There were 160 members signed in, 19 apologies and no visitors at our September meeting.

Treasurer Paul thanked Jeff Guy for filling in and reported that our finances continue to be well under control.

Thank you again to Silvana and the team—another excellent morning tea.

And thank you again to the set up and put away teams.

Save the Date: Monday 7th December for our Christmas Lunch at PHGC

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Burnside Homes Museum

(our second trip)





On Friday 21st August the second group of Probus members visited the former Burnside Homes site at North Parramatta.

Founded in 1911 from a grant by Sir James Burns, the Burnside Presbyterian Orphan Homes operated as a self-sustaining residential facility for orphaned, destitute or vulnerable children.

Up to the 1950's it operated on a cottage system rather than large dormitories, gradually reducing the number of children per cottage, until all residential care was replaced by fostering.



At its height there were 14 cottages, plus a school, hospital, gymnasium, swimming pool and a working dairy farm.

The Burnside Museum is located in Blairgowrie House and details the history of the homes, with admission registers, records and interactive displays where "Burnie Kids" tell their own stories.

The tour certainly opened our eyes to how institutionalised care changed over the years.

What is left of the site (a large part has been sold off) now houses modern community services, a library and a kindergarten.

Anne Chinner



Ladies Morning Coffee

Our September Ladies Morning Coffee group was well attended by 21 chatty ladies who enjoyed a warm and beautiful spring day.

We welcomed back Glynis Wearne and Gwendy Moon to our group and hope that you both enjoy yourselves.



Jennifer Lyons made a surprise appearance after being away in Adelaide for the past week. She had only just arrived back late the night before and hadn't even unpacked her bags, but still managed to come!

Thank you all for your wonderful company and I look forward to seeing you all at our October morning tea at Frankies on 12th.

Marie Inglis

Lunch Group

11th September 2026



We visited, probably, our favourite venue, Trevi Lakeside at Norwest and as usual the food and service were excellent.



Even when one of our members arrived very late, he was greeted with a smile and provided with his requested menu items.

Lots of interesting stories were told and lots of mingling between the two tables was observed.

We also missed our usual leaders Terry and Jean who were unable to attend.

Looking forward to October when we will be trying a new venue at Ryde.



Kevin & Marie Inglis

Nepean Trivia Cruise



After a short bus trip to Jamistown, we boarded the River Boat Bar, where we were treated to a delicious morning tea of sandwiches and scones.

Next came the entertaining Trivia Quiz, won by the River Rats team.



1st, 2nd and 3rd were all awarded medals.

After the cruise, we all headed to local cafes for lunch or just a coffee. On the bus home we also enjoyed the traditional treat of lollies.

Sadly, this is the last bus trip outing run by Chris and Judy. On behalf of everyone who has enjoyed these trips, we would like to say how much we have appreciated the time and effort you have both put into these events over the past 10 years.

Kevin & Marie Inglis

Sydney Fish Markets - Second Tour



Did you know that the Sydney Fish Markets is the 3rd largest Fish Market in the world! (after Tokyo and Mexico City).

Seven members attended the second tour of the Sydney Fish Markets. Our tour guide Dan was very knowledgeable and gave us a great insight into the workings of the Fish Markets.

First was an in-depth history from its humble beginnings in Woolloomooloo in 1871, to Haymarket in 1914, Old Fish Markets Pyrmont in 1966, to the purpose-built modern fish markets, 400m away, opening in Jan 2026. The original cost estimate was $250m but ended up costing $836m!



Next to the wharves is where the commercial fishing vessels unload their catches. Some going as far out as 40km.

The middle floor is the retail area selling many varieties of fresh seafood even some live! And yes, we also got the photo of Dan with the HUGE crab worth $2000… not surprised it was still there at that price! Note the price of sashimi tuna in the photo!!



Last stop was the grandstand style auction room where 50 tonnes of seafood per day is sold by Dutch clock auction. Google it….it is very interesting! More than 100 buyers bid for around 100 different species of seafood.

Lunch…fish and chips of course! Or any type of seafood for that matter!

A very interesting and worthwhile tour. If you are into seafood, this is the place to be!

Cheryl Landon-Jones

Probus Walking Group

Kellyville Plaza to North Kellyville



It was a cool morning with a light breeze as 10 Probus members met at Donut King Kellyville prior to setting out along Smalls Creek, named after early settlers.

For the most part the 5.6 Km walk followed the creek with occasional crossing of roads and around Kellyville High School.

The natural bush and bird life was enhanced on a couple of occasions with nearby houses providing pleasant gardens.

One good neighbour in Vantage Crescent Kellyville has planted a garden along the creek side of the road for some 300 metres, mainly succulents and special garden features, some of which can be seen each side of the photo.

A rest break briefly at Maccas North Kellyville before continuing the second half of the walk, with Beaumont Hills to our left and North Kellyville across the creek to the north.

The final approach to the shops alongside an un-named tributary gave a glimpse of the ponds and parks provided.

Lunch at Leaf Café was excellent and a bus ride back taking 8 minutes compared to our 1.5 hours of walking.

Brian Rose

Movies Group



"& Sons" is a family drama centred around Andrew Dyer (Bill Nighy), who has become an alcoholic recluse. The films only strength in my opinion is its acting. Bill Nighy gives a compelling mixture of arrogance and regret. To me the film was laborious, and I did not like Andrew Dyer.

Diane Hobden

MEN'S GROUP



Tuesday 11th August

Our discussion topic was **"Should the Federal Government sell off historic defence sites, eg Victoria Barracks, Lancer Barracks, RAAF Point Cook, to raise funds"** Clearly our members did not agree with the proposed sale. It was unanimous that major sites with significant historical background should be saved and embraced. Empty sites or facilities no longer in use could be sold BUT not those that mean so much to our returned servicemen who fought for our country and offer a place of reflection and memories.



Tuesday 25th August Member Profile

RICHARD PRIDEAUX (part 1 - prior to Beryl)

Richard Priteaux's story is one of family, community and a long career spent serving the people of regional New South Wales. Richard's family connection with Australia dates back to **1852**, when his great-grandfather arrived in Australia. His father was born in 1908, and Richard was born in 1945, the fifth of six children. He was born in the family home at **Molong**, where his early years were shaped by the close-knit nature of country life.

For his secondary education, Richard travelled to **Orange** to attend high school. After leaving school, he began what would become a twenty-year career with the **Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (CBC)**. Richard held management positions at CBC branches in **Bombala, Goulburn, Oaklands and Cooma**, gaining experience in banking while also becoming an important part of the communities in which he worked. His career was recognised with **Life Membership of the CBC**, a fitting acknowledgement of his many years of service.

Among Richard's memories, one of the most interesting was his experience introducing **decimal currency to Oaklands**. For a regional community, it was a remarkable change. One day, people were conducting their business in pounds, shillings and pence; the next, they were dealing with dollars and cents. Richard witnessed first-hand the challenge of helping local businesses and residents adapt to a completely new system of currency. He particularly remembers **Day's Transport**, a local business that purchased its first road tanker in pounds. When the company bought its next tanker, the transaction was made in dollars. It was a simple example of a much bigger change taking place across Australia. Today, the company operates a fleet of approximately **35 B-double trailers**. Richard's memories of his banking years provide a fascinating glimpse into a period when regional Australia was changing rapidly. His career was about much more than numbers and ledgers. It was about people, businesses, communities and helping them navigate times of significant change.



John Cowpe

Griffith

(by train, coach and foot)



40 very keen members gathered at Central Station ready to catch the midday Explorer to Griffith. Many of us booked our luggage through which was much easier than lugging it onto the train with us. What a beautiful journey it was with the fields so green and filled with either Canola or spring lambs and wind turbines. We arrived at about 8.30pm and it was only a short walk to our hotels.

Every day we were away we had the most amazing Spring weather which certainly helped create great memories of a beautiful part of our State. We were in two buses of 20 each for the first two days and the following is an outline of what we did.



Tour of Southern Cotton Gin Tour at Whitton. It is a private enterprise that provides, and supports, cotton ginning services to cotton growers in the Southern Valleys. They aim for a sustainable practice while retaining quality products to support the growers. Our host was to be applauded for providing so much background and information on the process of the cotton. It was fascinating to see the many different operations that are required.

Lunch followed at the Malt House. The Malt House was built by local farming families and links to the Gin Cotton facility. In true entrepreneurial style they have diversified to include an eatery, shop and well managed grounds including a water feature and lakeside villas. It was so unbelievably peaceful and relaxing there.

Tour of Kidman Way Citrus packing facility at Hanwood. This is a well established family business (run by a Trimboli Family) for growing and supplying oranges and mandarins. Surrounded by the orange trees, we were given a tour of the state of the art packing facility which include: sorting for size and quality, washing and grading and of course, packing into trays and enveloped in film wrapping for transportation. The equipment makes it look easy but it is still long hours for the packers. The final stage, of course, is delivery to the retail supermarkets which include Woolworths and Aldi. A really interesting and informative tour.



A nice drive took us to the Murray Cod Fish Farm. It is owned by a South African man who bought the farm from a local some 7 years ago. It was originally an orange farm but after a suggestion by another local he transformed some of the property to a Fish Farm. A second dam was built bigger than the first with the idea of having an income all year around. The owner, along with the previous owner (who was our guide for the day), explained how they look after the fish and the water, the later being very important.
It takes around 4 years for a fish to be ready for harvest and harvesting is done manually. An experience worth the visit and I believe enjoyed by all. During the day spent with our guide, Brett, we were given quite a lesson in agriculture and particularly irrigation, so enlightening.

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Griffith (cont'd)



We also visited two wineries. First was the Berton Vineyards where cheese, fruit, crackers and other nibbles were provided with numerous wines to be tasted. The second winery was Yarran Wines, which was my favourite. The guide explained each wine we tasted in detail and then served pizza. We sat on high chairs and enjoyed the beautiful view over the vineyards.

Due to a slight itinerary change Group A had the benefit of also going to Darlington Point, where they saw the mighty Murrumbidgee River (water level low) and the old Punt Hotel, plus many murals from country artists.



On the Saturday we went in all directions with some catching a shuttle bus to Picollo Farm where there was an Italian Festival taking place including music, singing, dancing and cooking demos to name but a few activities. A few walked/hitched up to the Italian Museum which sounded good also. Others took the chance to visit the shops or just catch up on some rest.

The first night we had dinner at Zecca almost next door to the Gem Hotel (home for 38 of us). It was a five course Italian feast that few of us managed to complete, with plenty of wine and very loud chatter. Our second night was a free night with some dining at The Exies Club, some at an Italian Eatery and a few others were just too full from the day's lunches. Our third night was our Farewell Dinner which we enjoyed at the Bull & Bell Restaurant (private room) in the Gem Hotel. I believe the steak was 'to die for' and the other dishes were pretty good too.





While we were away we celebrated Steve Miller's birthday and Richard Prideaux's also, so lots of singing and joy for the boys took place.

Sunday morning 7am saw us escape via the back door of the Gem to the railway station for our early departure home. I think it was 1 degree when we left, but it seemed warmer as there was no wind. The first part of the trip we were shrouded in fog but it cleared to yet another gorgeous day. We arrived back at Central, weary but content, after a great 5 days away with fantastic company and loads of fun.

Cynthia Richings, Marg Gillies, Di Carroll, John Cowpe

The Female Factory



On a rather warm day 35 of our members met up in the beautiful grounds of the Cumberland Hospital.



Our guide, Kerima-Gae, was dressed for the part and boy did she know her stuff. The Parramatta Female Factory is one of Australia's most significant women's convict sites. Kerima spoke to us about how it is a place to learn about the foundations of colonial society and the women whose lives helped shape Australia.



She also spoke passionately about the architecture of the sandstone buildings and painted a picture for us of what those buildings would have been like in their original state.



We can only imagine the difficult lives those poor women endured in a harsh colonial Parramatta. Once again, we came away with more knowledge than we had before the tour. Most of us stayed and lunched at the Havenstone Cafe, also housed in a convict built sandstone building which finished off the tour just nicely.

Dianne Carroll

One Liners

(to fill in the space)

- Did you know that Iceland is only one sea away from Ireland?
- Does refusing to go to the gym count as resistance training?
- My poor knowledge of Greek mythology has always been my Achilles elbow.
- As I get older and I remember all the people I've lost along the way, maybe a career as a tour guide wasn't for me.

An Addendum

To the Men's Group



At one of our meetings, we all had to bring a wedding photo.

Who can you identify ?













