



PROBUS CLUB OF DOUBLE BAY INC.

NEWS BULLETIN: AUGUST 2025

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President Gail Hill
Treasurer John Cooke
Secretary Lynn Sitsky
Mail: PO Box 272, Edgecliff, 2027

Meeting Place: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia
New Beach Road, Rushcutters Bay
Day: Third Monday each month except December
Time: 10.00am to 12 midday
Social Coffee meeting: 1st Monday of each month
10am Mia Café Edgecliff Centre
<http://www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/doublebay>

Meeting 18th August:

Guest Speaker:

GENETICS- THE FUTURE IS NOW,

JENNIFER PHILPS BSc. Hons, Dip Ed

Community Relations Manager

CHILDREN'S MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Jennifer started a teaching career in Glasgow in 1965 after majoring in genetics at Glasgow University.

After her marriage, to a veterinarian, Jennifer and her husband set off to Uganda on the Overseas

Development Program where she taught in a remote village on the Sudan border. These were turbulent times in Uganda, so they ventured into the safer climate of South Africa where they stayed for 20 years raising three daughters. Jennifer taught in many parts of South Africa and immigrated to Australia in 1987 and continued her teaching career at Barker College.

In 1992, she had a sea change, leaving teaching to join a bio-medical company which fortuitously led her, a year later, to join Children's Medical Research Institute as Community Relations Manager. The intention was to continue for a few years but 33 years later she still has "the best job in the world" giving her the ability to renew her avid interest in genetics and medical research.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Theatre

Ladies of the Night – Live at Lunch, with Jane Rutter and the Opera Studio Soloists, Chatswood Concert Hall, September 10, cost \$46.

How to Plot a Hit, by Melanie Tate and starring Georgie Parker, at the Ensemble Theatre, October 1st at 11.00am, \$85.

Outings

August Thursday 21st the outing is organised for Town Hall House at 456 Kent St, Sydney where we will see the model of our city. Meet at 10.45 for 11am start. Followed by Chinese lunch.

FOR YOUR DIARY – SAVE THE DATE - DETAILS TO BE ADVISED

September Friday 19th Chau Chak Wing Museum in the grounds of Sydney University free entry. Lunch in the museum cafe.

October Friday 24th Government House tour. Lunch in a cafe afterwards

November Friday 21st Riverboat Postman from Brooklyn. Includes morning tea & ploughman's lunch (gluten free available if ordered in advance).

December Our Probus Club Christmas lunch at the Women's Club in Sydney.

Other activities

Trivia at CYC 2nd Wednesday each month. Contact Doreen.

Sydney Croquet Club, the 2nd Sunday of the month. Contact Robyn.

Abbreviated Minutes of the General Meeting held 21st July 2025

Opening: President Gail opened the meeting and welcomed member and guests.

Visitors: Paul Webb, Jan Hartman, Rose Lee, Barbara and Peter Rooke, Susan Bank, Louella Aliweida, Michael Aaron, Susan Horrobin, Kim Smith.

Apologies: Tana Brinkmann, Boman and Vahbeez Kalapesi, Margaret Wilcox, Julie King, Lynn Parker, Naomi Mendelson, Helene Gonski, Megan Passmore, Euphemia Sidell

Inductees: Two new members were inducted; Judy Lee, a company director with interests in sailing, maritime history, astronomy and tai chi; and, David Bridger, who arrived in Australia on the £10 scheme. He worked as a marketing manager in publishing, and his interests are current affairs and politics.

Secretary: The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and there was no business arising.

Treasurer: The bank balance stands at \$4,422; this includes tickets paid for the Polish Club lunch. Predicted payments to CYCA until the end of the financial year, \$2,150. Predicted balance at EOFY, \$1,192 but we have paid a \$500 deposit to the Women's Club for Christmas lunch. If we use that for the lunch, the predicted surplus is \$1,692 approx. Ken has made a donation and taken the previous laptop.

Membership: Doreen reported we have 72 members and 9 on the waiting list. Applicants need to fill in an application form and she asked visitors who are thinking of applying to give her their email address so she can email one to them. Visitors are required to come to no less than 2 meetings, preferably 3.

Welfare: Frances welcomed back Jan Ashton and Sue Ferrier who have been on the sick list. Others who are currently unwell are Alf Smith, Naomi Mendelson and Euphemia Sidell.

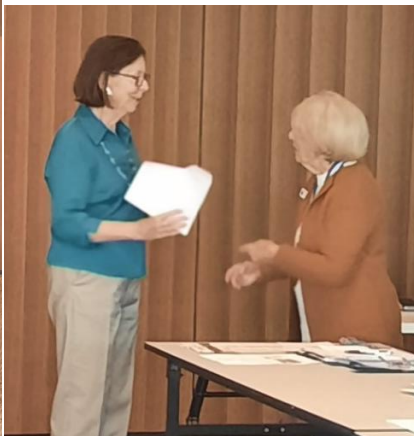
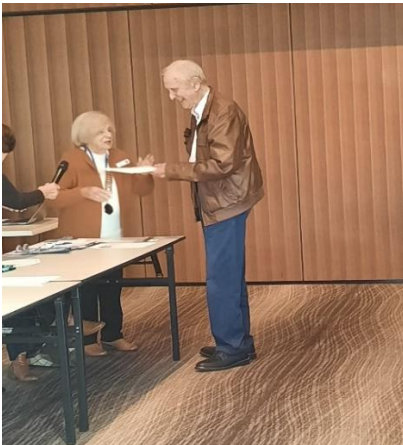
Speakers: Carole is up to date with speakers.

Entertainment: Gail has two performances coming up. *Live at Lunch: Ladies of the Night*, with Jane Rutter: *How to Plot a Hit*, by Melanie Tate and starring Georgie Parker, at the Ensemble Theatre,

Outings: There are currently 18 people on the list for the Polish Club lunch organised by Danuta. Bus pickup times are 10.55am, Rose Bay Golf Club, and 11.15am, New McClean Street, Edgecliff.

An outing to Town Hall House to view the City of Sydney model will be on Thursday, 21st August, 10.50 for 11.00am, followed by a Chinese lunch, venue to be announced. There will be a meeting of Eastern Suburbs Probus Clubs at Easts, Bondi Junction, Wednesday, 6th August at 6.00pm to discuss the possibility of sharing day tours with On Course Tours. Doreen and Robyn volunteered to attend.

Coffee break at 10.35.



President Gail Hill greets
new inductees David
Bridger and Judy Lee

PROBUS MEETINGS 2026

January 19; February 16; March 16; April 20; May 18; June 15; July 20; August 17; September 21;
October 19; November 16

Guest Speaker: As the designated speaker for today, Marlene Mathews, is ill, our member, **Anne Cooke** very generously volunteered to give a talk on her role as Archivist for St Vincent's Hospital. On the Centenary of St Vincent's Hospital in 2006, Anne was commissioned to get the records sorted for a publication of its history since inception. She stayed on another 18 years and has written two books, with a third imminent.

Mary Aikenhead, was born in 1787 in Cork, Ireland of a Protestant father and Catholic mother. She was always interested in services to the sick and poor. She became a convert to Catholicism and trained at the Institute of the Blessed Virgin in York. On her return to Ireland in 1815 she founded the non-closed order of The Sisters of Charity. Using dowry money from entrants to the order, she established a school and hospital in Dublin.

At the request of Bishop Polding, she sent 5 members of her order to Sydney in 1838. After one week in Sydney they went to Parramatta to teach life skills at the Female Factory. When transportation stopped in 1848, they moved back to Sydney where, without income, they were reliant on public support. The Government of the day granted them land on Victoria Street but it was too narrow to build a hospital. In 1857 they were assisted in purchasing 'Tarmons', home of Sir Charles Nicholson, in Potts Point, as a residence and hospital for the poor, the first St Vincent's Hospital. They were reliant on the well-to-do for donations. After acquiring additional land adjacent to the land grant they commenced building a large modern hospital which opened in 1870 and over the following fifty years it was extensively extended, the wards were Nightingale wards, arranged in outside rows with space between the beds and cross ventilation

At first the hospital was completely staffed by nuns, who were trained by the more experienced Sisters. When a nurse training school was opened in 1882 the first student was Louise Morley Training of lay staff was seen as a part of the Sisters mission. On graduating lay nursing graduates mostly went to other hospitals and or to the country. Originally the medical staff worked in an honorary capacity with the first resident house surgeon appointed in 1882. The previous nurses' home is now the Garvan Institute of Medical Research. In 1890 a Hospice was opened. Some private patients were taken in to raise money, then in 1976, a new Private Hospital was opened. Operations were dangerous until sterilisation and in 1963 an Intensive Care Unit was opened. Dr Harry Windsor performed the first heart transplant operation in 1968, and the hospital was the first to establish a cardiac transplant program, with Dr Victor Chang performing the first success transplant in 1984. The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute was officially opened in 1996 by Princess Diana. Fund raising continues to be a major function of the hospital. Anyone interested in reading more can see below:

Open wide the doors: Sacred Heart Hospice, 1890-2013, by Anne Cooke. Sydney, Halstead Press, 2022.

Compassionate care: one hundred years of St Vincent's Private Hospital, by Anne Cooke. Darlinghurst, NSW, Medici Graphics, 2009.

St Vincent's Hospital, 1857-2007, by Anne-Marie Whitaker. Sydney, Kingsclear Books, 2007.

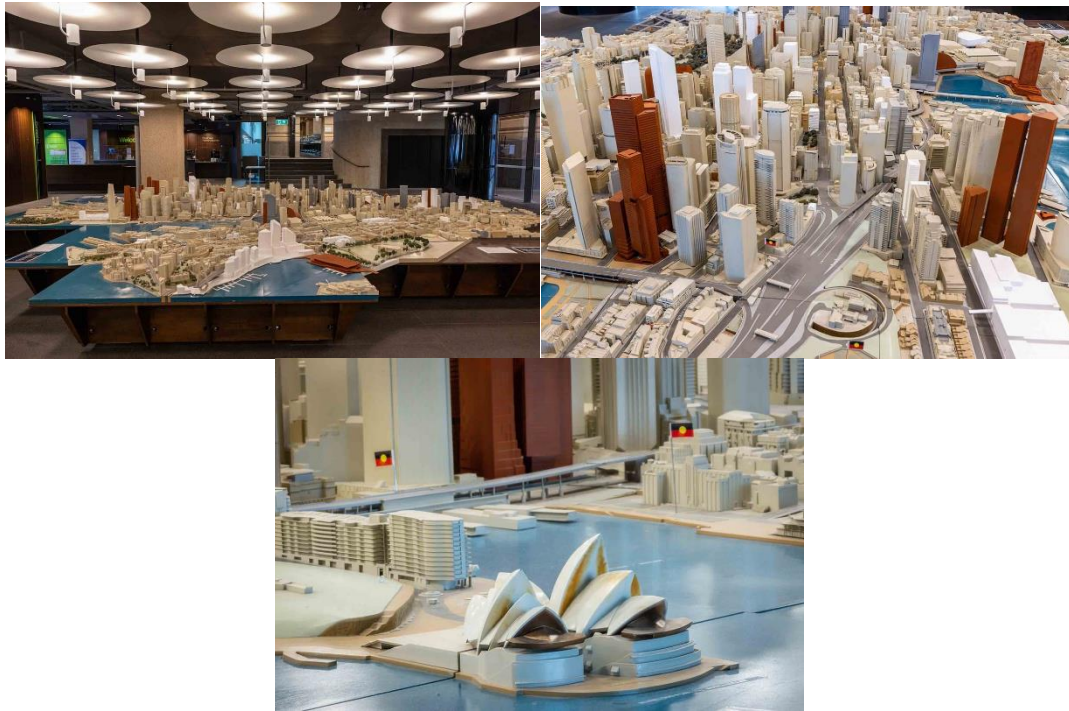
The Thinkers: A History of the physicians and development of scientific medicine at St Vincent's Hospital 1857-1997 by Prof. John Hickie 2000

The Doers: A Surgical history of St Vincent's Hospital 1857-2007 by Dr Max Coleman 2018



Probus members enjoying lunch at the Polish Club arranged by Danuta.

TOWN HALL HOUSE - CITY MODEL of the CITY OF SYDNEY



Date: 10:45am for 11:00am, Thursday, 21st August 2025.

Departure Times: Meet inside at 10:45am at Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street Sydney.

Itinerary: Join us for a visit to Town Hall House - City of Sydney model. The City of Sydney is the only council in Australia that maintains and exhibits a working scale model of its local area. The 1:500 scale model of the city on Level 2 of Town Hall House was built in 2 stages over 30 years. The city model was designed to be easily updated with proposed developments to allow for accurate comparisons. A colour code identifies existing buildings, proposed buildings and buildings under construction. As the model grew, it went on public display and became popular with visitors. Today it contains around 4,000 buildings. Following the visit will be lunch in Chinatown.

Cost: Model visit is free.
Lunch in Chinatown at your own expense

Enquiries about outing to Robyn Weiher, 0416 464 606