



PROBUS CLUB OF DOUBLE BAY INC.

NEWS BULLETIN: MAY 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.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/doublebay>

Chair: Gail Hill

Speaker: Dr Luke Banes

Subject: The Science Of Black Holes.

Luke A. Barnes is a senior lecturer in physics at Western Sydney University, with a Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Cambridge. The focus of his research has been the cosmic evolution of matter, and he has published papers in the field of galaxy formation and evolution, and on the fine-tuning of the universe for life.

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Abbreviated Minutes of the General Meeting held 14 April 2025

Opening: President Gail opened the meeting and welcomed members and 5 guests.

Apologies: Andy and Michele Palmer, Margaret Wilcox, Lynn Parker, Julie King, Judy Kalnins, Jack and Wendy Cheetham, Mandy Dodds, Carolyn Killian, Jen Hendriksen, Kay Ashton, Sue Ferrier

Induction of new members: Doreen introduced 2 new members. Isabelle Klompke, who has a background in fashion; and, Danuta Aaron, who was a fabric artist.

Secretary: The minutes of the previous meeting were passed and there was no business arising.

Treasurer: John announced that all memberships have been paid, and the bank balance stands at \$6,000. Capitation fees of \$1300 will need to be paid to Probus South Pacific and there will be our usual donation to the CYCA.

Membership: Doreen announced that we have 70 members (54 women, 16 men. There have been 12 resignations, mainly due to frailty, and she mentioned Don Higson specifically, who had been a very long-time member and had served as our Public Officer over that time. There are 12 on a waiting list, 8 of whom have not been visiting but say they want to stay on the list.

Speakers: Carole has speakers for the next 6 months.

Entertainment: Gail has given out tickets to The Producers at the Hayes Theatre. The next show will be The Half Life of Marie Curie at the Ensemble Theatre, Friday 20th June at 11.00, cost \$78. A replay of Cats at the Theatre Royal, 30th July will cost \$141.

Outings: Robyn announced the train trip to Woy Woy and Fisherman's Wharf lunch was a success. The bus trip to Mount Wilson on April 30th is fully booked. On May 22nd there will be an Art Galleries Walk, Paddington, meeting at 10am at the Bakery opposite the Sushi shop with lunch at Café Mia at own expense after. There is the possibility of joining Rose Bay Probus for an outing to Cabramatta in May. Details to be announced.

CYCA Liaison: Megan was informed by new management that we were not to go up to our meeting room until 10.00am but to wait in the Freya Room downstairs. She pointed out that this would pose a problem for us, meaning a late start to the meeting. After discussion with Marina, we will be allowed to go up at 9.30, but not before. If you come earlier, please wait in the Freya Room and not the foyer.

Welfare: Frances sent out 8 cards after our last meeting.

We broke for Morning Coffee at 10.30

Guest Speaker: Peter Thorpe Artificial Intelligence for Seniors

President Gail introduced our speaker Peter Thorpe who founded his own website design company and internet marketing business which he ran for 20 years. Since retiring he has taken a keen interest in technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI) and has written a book about it called *Artificial Intelligence for Seniors*. So many seniors are anxious about AI but it is not complicated once you know how to use it.

AI is created by computer systems capable of carrying out tasks that usually demand human intelligence, such as learning, problem solving, and decision making with the ability to understand and respond to human language. Peter gave some very early examples of AI such as that used by Apollo 11, Deep Blue, and Siri and without necessarily being aware of it we are already using it in sites such as Google Maps, Virtual Assistants, Chatbots, Autocorrect. Sites like Netflix, Amazon and Facebook use AI.

He then spoke more specifically about ChatGPT, currently the most widely used AI, being the fastest take-up of technology in history, 100 million users in 2 months, and it is free. He gave many practical uses of ChatGPT with examples that could have positive effects on our lives. However, there are some limitations that are due to the lack of true understanding, a moral compass, and common sense, which means occasional incorrect, unethical or racist responses (called 'hallucinating'). We must also be aware that whatever you put into ChatGPT goes into its memory, hence the need to be careful with personal and sensitive material. The impact on job markets is complex; it will replace many jobs but create others. Theoretically, it could pose a threat to mankind if it became smarter than humans.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Art galleries walk, Paddington Thursday, 22nd May

Meet at 10am at the Edgecliff Centre at the Bakery, opposite the Sushi shop.

About 30 min walking some steps. Lunch at own expense Café Mia

Theatre

The Half Life of Marie Curie at the Ensemble Theatre, Friday 20th June at 11.00, cost \$78.

A replay of Cats at the Theatre Royal, 30th July cost \$141.