



The Collective Spirit

Brought to you by the Members of George's Hall Probus Club.

Issue 73 - 1 June, 2025

President's Report

Hi everyone

Since our last meeting, 24 of us have returned from our trip to Ballina. The tour was excellent, we managed to have mostly fine weather and we all enjoyed ourselves. The trip has its own special edition of The Connective Spirit, Issue #72, check it out. Now we can start looking forward to our Lightning Ridge trip in September.

Our May meeting went off very well. Our guest speaker was Mike Munro who gave a very informative talk about his life and his discovery that his ancestors were Queensland bushrangers. A very interesting and lovely man, who chatted with everybody and signed copies of his books. Thanks again to Denise for organising Mike to speak with us. She always manages to find a varied and interesting group of speakers for us to enjoy.

Thanks also to Club Condell Park for our complimentary tickets to see the Jeff Fallon show recently. A number of our members took up the offer and enjoyed the show.



I keep saying how lucky we are to have a great club with great members. People who are always ready to enjoy themselves but also give something of themselves. Thanks to everyone who does their bit, there are too many to name.

But especial thanks to Margaret Cousins for her jams, they are always delicious and are a wonderful way to raise funds for our club. Don't forget, if you buy any jams, please return the jars.

Albert Ham was our member guest speaker this month and we all loved the tales of his father's sense of humour, growing up in the horse and buggy days. Who knew!

That's why it's so lovely that members are prepared to stand up and give a short talk about themselves or their lives. We always learn something interesting and learn more about the person. Please have a think about doing this at one of our future meetings. We would love to hear from you.

Keep smiling, Sue



From the Money Man

Our finances as at 27 May 2025 were:



Balance carried forward 1 March 2025

\$ 28,190.69

Receipts:

Attendance fees	\$ 1008.00
Membership fees	\$ 626.00
Raffle	\$ 247.00
Outings	\$ 5775.00
Trading Table	\$ 95.00
Tours- Lightning Ridge	\$ 6535.00
Theatre Shows	0
Reserve transfers	\$ 385.00

Total Receipts:

\$ 14,671.00

Expenses:

Attendance fees	- \$ 1008.00
Capitation fees Probus SP	- \$ 1,640.00
Guest speaker	- \$ 35.00
General expenses	- \$ 110.67
Raffle prizes	- \$ 140.00
Outings payments	- \$7,750.00
Reserve payments	- \$ 310.00
Tours - Ballina	- \$ 18,375.00
Tours – Lightning Ridge	- \$500.00

Total Expenses:

- \$ 29,868.67

Total funds held

\$ 12,993.02

Less Deposits for Outings	- \$ 590.00
Less Trips planned for 2025	- \$ 6,635.00
Less Reserve Account	- \$ 75.00

Club Funds available:

\$ 5,693.02

Ray Cook

Quotes of the Month.

"Today is the oldest you've ever been, and the youngest you'll ever be again."
Eleanor Roosevelt

"Aging is an extraordinary process where you become the person you always
should have been." David Bowie

Contact Details



Now that we have a new committee, I would just like to remind you of their contact details. If you have any queries, please make sure that you address them to the right person.

President	Sue Brown	9773 6614 0412 899 193	suebrown1948@gmail.com
Secretary	Gai Cavanough	0417 289 882	secretaryghpc@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ray Cook	0414 961 588	colray10@bigpond.com
Tour Co-ordinators	Jan Brown Marg Golder	0407 019 434 0408 016 828	
Membership Secretary	Barbara Doust	9602 6377	
Speaker Co-ordinator	Denise Ericsson	0417 405 331	
Welfare Officer	Andrea Best	0415 659 961	
Newsletter Co-ordinators	Dave Lupton Sue Brown Elizabeth Rea	0417 490 740 0412 899 193 0409 901 225	d.tourgossip@gmail.com suebrown1948@gmail.com eejayrea@gmail.com

If you want to make payments by direct debit, our bank account details are:

CBA: 062 276 1002 5551

Please make sure you reference your name and the reason for the payment.

Wally and Nelly Waramuk's must see movie



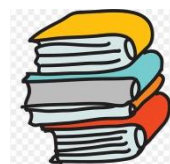
The Lost Kingdom of Kupong

All the way from Crows Nest Roof Top Open Air Garden Theatre and a Tree Top Production, Staring Omar Lup and Ludwig Brown Jr with international local actor Rock Doust to make a special appearance at intermission. Remember to get your tickets on the day but only from the coffee shop in Steven's Street William will look after you.



Zigzag Zac's Book of the Month.

The Coonawarra Trap
By Rod Russlar



Brown's Buzz, the Tour Co-ordinator's Report



Firstly, thank you to all those who assisted with the Biggest Morning Tea. Those who helped unpack cups, saucers etc., those who donated their time, food and gifts, those who came early to help set up the yard, set tables, make sandwiches.

Those who brought along and set out flowers for the tables, sold tickets, signed people in, served food and collected money. Those who stayed to help wash up and clear away and who washed and ironed the 12 white tablecloths for us.

Without this community effort this event could not occur. Because of this community effort we all raised \$2,635 on the day, and with the donation from our boys will be able to donate \$5,635 to the Cancer Council to enable them to continue with their fight against Cancer. Thank you again.

Keep Safe, Jan

Future Activities

4 June Morning tea and lunch if you like, 10.30 a.m. at Panania RSL.

11 June Lunch at "The Mill", at Milperra.

2 July Morning Tea and Lunch at Panania RSL.

25 July Christmas in July at Club Condell Park.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A **FRIDAY** AND A **CHANGE OF DATE**.

Cost **\$65**.

30 July Lunch at "**The Little Snail**" French Cuisine Restaurant. We last visited this restaurant in March 2024, and it was very well received. As a result of many requests, we have decided to revisit this venue.

Cost \$48 for a three-course meal. \$10 deposit required.

6 August Morning tea and lunch at Panania RSL.

20 August We have the Fairground Follies booked for this date; however, a number of people have expressed their concerns about how cold it will be at Bowral and that this venue is not well heated. As a result, we are trying to rearrange this booking and transfer this trip to a later date. So "*Watch this Space*" and we will let you know as soon as the bus company tells us what can be organised for this date and for our future trip to the Fairground Follies.



Please remember that there are information sheets on all our outings available at the tour desk.

THE BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Once again, a huge thank you to Jan and Bill (and family) who put on an amazing Biggest Morning Tea function on the 14 May for the Cancer Council. I think Jan has covered many of the things in her report, that were done to help in the setting up for this wonderful day together with a big thank you to Jan and Bill for once again providing their home for this event to take place – a huge task!

Thanks to everybody who came and joined in by purchasing tickets, entering into quizzes and generally having fun. You all made this day so successful.



(Mmm, a toilet seat in the backyard)

(A discussion ensues – why is it so??)





Aromatherapy (5)



Addressing our sense of adventure; of young at heart; of
Smell (I'm still trying); and any flights of whimsy that may take me/you on a 'journey'!
by Elizabeth Rea

Connections:

One of the things I enjoy about putting the Newsletter together is reading over Dave's article on 'Something to do'. Quite often I'm thinking 'I haven't been there', I haven't been there for such a long time' but no matter what the article is about, I always do a Google search to learn more about the area/place that Dave is discussing, and it was his article this month on the Como River bridge that gave me one of those 'Ah ha' moments or 'Connections'.

I was happily Googling away, learning more about the Walk over the Como Bridge and thinking the last time I had been on that line was probably in the 1970's. I was on a page called The Como Heritage and Environment Trail and there on the first page was this short sentence.

"Henry Lawson (17.6.1867- 2 9.1922), one of Australia's finest writers, spent time in Como and we have captured a snippet of his time here with a plaque in Henry Lawson Reserve in Wolger Street." Our family, on Mum's side, were related to Henry Lawson. Mum's maiden name was Albury and Henry's mother's name was Louisa Lawson nee Albury.

Travel:

Thinking about articles on travel, I thought I'd talk about my first overseas trip, with my friend Fiona, to France. We had found an eight-day Aromatherapy Course being held in Provence and it was delivered in English. So, we couldn't go to France without first going to Paris! I booked our hotel in Paris, online, called the Madrid Opera. The memories of arriving at our hotel and hoping that the man at the desk understood English! Success, and we were directed to the lift around the corner of the office.

That moment when the lift doors opened, I stepped in with my large suitcase (the lift was just wide enough), Fiona handed me my hand luggage ... and the lift doors shut on me. We both burst out laughing, I called out, "I'll send it back", and got out on our floor. Our room was about two feet wider than the length of our single beds; the 'wardrobe' was a cupboard approx. 50 cm wide, we had a very small table with two chairs and not much else. We would get dressed, put our large suitcases against the wall beside the 'wardrobe', our hand luggage on top, grab our camera bags, our handbags and we'd be out the door!

We had arrived late in the afternoon and thought we'd walk around the streets, close to our hotel, and decided we'd have a drink in one of the many bars/cafes. We walked in one of the many cafes, and went up to the bar and said, 'Bonjour' and smiled. With much pointing and smiles I asked for a scotch (Johnny Walker – because I recognised the bottle) and Coca Cola and Fiona pointed to one of the beer taps. I received a small glass full of Scotch and a small bottle of coke. It took a while to have some space to put the coke in, but we sat back, said Cheers, and enjoyed our first afternoon in Paris!!!

See you next month, Liz.

Travellers Tales

Thanks Margaret Cousins



First story

While on a six week road trip to Western Australia, with our four children, who were in their teens or nearly teens, we needed to replenish some of our funds at a CBA branch. Warren stepped into a branch somewhere near Perth, cheque in hand, and approached a teller. She inspected the cheque and left the teller booth, leaving Warren perplexed as to what may be the problem. On her return he enquired as to what was her problem with his cheque. Her response was that she had been a teller at that Chester Hill branch and the bank manager/loans officer, there had pranked her by surreptitiously removing her shoes, as she had slipped them off for comfort one Friday afternoon. He whisked them into the bank's vault, which is locked from Friday till Monday morning leaving her to go home barefoot that night.

Second story



On that same trip, at Margaret River, our lunch shop was a deli/general store where we bought pies/sausage rolls and the like. One of our number ordered a pastie. To which the lady behind the counter said "You mean a Parstie", "You must be from the east coast." I admitted we are from Sydney. She asked "where in Sydney?" as she said she herself was from Sans Souci, and was there to help as her daughter, who was in a maternity hospital at that moment.

Third story

Our youngest son moved to Alice Springs, Northern Territory. On one of our many road trips to visit him, a three day journey, stopping every couple of hours for change of drivers or refreshments. We stopped at a spot somewhere, possibly near Cooper Pedy. I busied myself making sandwiches, Warren set a little kettle on a hiking stove to boil water for a cuppa. Another car arrived from the direction we were headed and stopped. The lady slipped out of the car and entered the caravan which the car was towing. Obviously she busied herself as I did, while the two men exchanged greetings and the men's conversation went something like this:

"So where are you from?"

Warren answered, "Sydney, and where are you from?"

Stranger, "Oh, you would not know where I come from."

Warren insisted, "Where are you from?"

Stranger, "Ardlethan"

Warren, "I have lots of relatives in Ardlethan, some I've never met. Marg, what's the name of my old uncle?"

I distractedly answered "John Box"

Stranger corrected me "No Jack Box".

In the Shire with Luppo

Miranda Fair:

Miranda Fair was officially opened on 16 March 1964. A highlight of the ceremony was the arrival of a helicopter to deliver newspapers and a special fireworks display was put on that evening. The centre was built on the site of a former brick pit and was the largest fully enclosed shopping centre in NSW, holding that title until Roselands opened a year later. It included a Farmer & Co department store, a Woolworths supermarket and 18 specialty stores. It also had a child-minding centre, playground and parking for 1100 cars.



In 1969 Westfield Corporation purchased Miranda Fair and lodged plans to expand the centre with a proposal to double the centre in size and extend to the Kingsway. The expansion was completed in 1971 and Miranda Fair was renamed Westfield Shopping town and became the first regional shopping centre in Sydney to have two department stores. The centre opened a new office tower in

1972 as part of the expansion. The five-storey office tower featured a large eight-pointed, slowly revolving star on its rooftop. The star was lit at night and became a local landmark.

The success of the centre and the increasing population of the Sutherland Shire led to further plans to extend the centre. This redevelopment caused controversy as Westfield gained approval to build the three-level car park next to Miranda Public School, with a road bridge over Wandella Road. However, protests by parents and teachers of Miranda Public School were unsuccessful. The first stage of expansion was completed in 1984 and finalised in 1985. The total number of shops in the centre had doubled to 160.

In 1990 Westfield planned another expansion of the centre and purchased additional sites. Construction was completed in 1992. The new expansion included David Jones and Target, a new food court, restaurants and entertainment precinct. The entertainment precinct featured an eight screen Greater Union cinema complex and a Tilt amusement arcade centre.

In 2013, Westfield Miranda underwent another major redevelopment. The project included a new 10-screen Event cinema complex, a refurbished Myer and Big W, a new Woolworths supermarket, and an outdoor restaurant precinct. The expansion also involved the removal of the office tower and the incorporation of a landmark fig tree into the design. The centre now has more than 400 stores and almost 5,000 car parking spots.



A far cry from the original centre in 1964 (a staggering 60 years ago).

Till next time, C'ya Luppo

Not in the Shire with Susie

Bankstown Sports Club

Bankstown Sports Club is a sport and community focused not-for-profit organisation. It had its humble beginnings in a small church hall in 1958, where several local sporting groups gathered to trade ideas and provide updates on their sporting achievements.

I remember this well. I grew up in Bankstown and my dad, who was keen sportsman, was involved in the club from the very beginning.



From 243 members in its early 1958 days, the club has grown to over 60,000 members, with over 500 employees and supporting 43 sporting clubs and more than 100 community organisations.

According to the Club webpage, the club was created by the local community, for the local community.. Its mission is to 'Make A Difference' and its purpose is to support and encourage the community to be the best it can be. They have dedicated the past six decades to fostering grassroots sport, providing financial and in-kind support to local community organisations, and giving volunteers a platform to dedicate their time and skills to helping others.

The club is heavily involved in the community and contributes millions of dollars every year to local charities and organisations. It supports Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital, aged care and disability services, social services, schools and educational programs. It also supports 43 local grassroots sporting groups by subsidising the cost of registration fees, ground fees, uniforms and trophies, and by developing and maintaining sporting infrastructure in the Bankstown area.

The club is now one of the state's largest venues with a wide variety of restaurants and bars. It provides live shows, weekly entertainment, and play centres for children.



More next time, Sue

Something to do

Go for a walk over the old Como Railway Bridge

The Old Como Rail Bridge is a great spot for a walk, offering views of the Georges River and surrounding area. It's part of a larger walking and cycling path that connects Oatley and Como.

You can reach the bridge from Oatley Railway Station or via Myra Place. The path is generally easy to walk with some sections through the Paruna Reserve being more challenging due to uneven terrain.

Or, you can get off the train at Como station, walk down past where the Old Como Arts Hall, past the Silly Oval home of Como Jannali Footy club, past the Old Mucky Ducky Restaurant, past the New (old) Como Hotel, past the Old Thai Restaurant Rim Nam, then up past the old underground tunnel, under the railway line and old station to the old bridge and enjoy the view over the bridge.

Henry Lawson, one of Australia's finest writers, spent time in Como and a snippet of his time here is captured with a plaque in Henry Lawson Reserve in Wolger Street.



Members' Corner

Thanks to all our contributors

Denise's One Liners

Thanks Denise

Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you, but it takes 75 to 100 years to fully work.
It is costly wisdom that is brought by experience.

Rob's jokes of the month

Thanks Rob

What did the judge say when the skunk entered the courtroom?
"Odour in the court!!"

Only the Irish

Thanks Frances and Robert.

Johnny was stuck with his arithmetic lesson. "Grandpa", he pleaded "could you help me with this?"

"I could, but it wouldn't be right would it" his grandpa replied.

"I don't suppose it would: said Johnny "but have a shot at it anyway".



Connections

Thanks Margaret Cousins

I grew up at 7 Robert Street, Sans Souci, opposite was no 6 where Annette Appleton grew up. Both of us joined the Rockdale Scottish Association Younger Set and met other young folk. Jan Dabbs, Robert (Bob) Moar, Richard Goodfellow, James (Jim) Melville, to name but a few. As time elapsed, and I matured, the names merged, and Annette became Annette Melville, Jan Dabbs, Jan Goodfellow, and Bob married Josie.



Coincidences became apparent as Jan and Annette joined the workforce at St George County Council, and became friends with two ladies, Denise and another Jan. Both these ladies married in turn and became Mrs Ericsson and Mrs Brown.

At one point, Jim Melville worked for NSW Railways where William Brown also worked. Bill Brown has had many transformations and has also been a Customs Officer with Bob Moar.

Apart from those connections, Jan Goodfellow, Annette Melville, and myself joined the Georges River Lioness Club, where we knew another member called Marlene Burville, whose husband did the talking circuits with stories from the Shearing Sheds, Wool Classing, and Flying Heros of WWII, and more. When I retired from work, he invited me to join his Probus club, where he was President at the time, and where he donated the engraved shields with our President's names attached to the club Gong. It was here I became re acquainted with Denise and Jan whom I had met previously at my friend's homes.

Warren and I were acquainted with neighbours in the next street to ours at Picnic Point. Their children and ours were schooled at the same schools, got up to mischief together etc. Elizabeth and Ken moved away as their house became empty and our new neighbour was also familiar as she too was a classmate to our eldest. I had no knowledge of her husband, but Carol retained her childhood surname. Perhaps Brown was a surname too popular, and Wilde a much more exotic name. In conversations with our Sue, I found her to be married to Sue's son, Steve.

Sooooo many many connections!!!

May Birthdays

Judith Brooker, Dimiti Finch Dave Lupton,
Margaret Miles, Irena Nowak, Dawn Slater,
Judith Wilson, Dawn Yates



June Birthdays

Sandra Baker, Tony Burgess, Margaret Cousins,
Diane Ham

Best wishes every one, Barbara Doust

Urgent Teletext

The next morning, Sav and Pitt were up early, had a plate of avocado scones and a coffee before Gramya got up. While the rest of the group were having breakfast Sav had the truck refueled and packed with supplies, while Pitt and Gramya double checked the buckets underneath the seats and added to the big buckets, lemons cut in half, and then stored them at the back of the truck.

At 6:05 am Pitt called out go to the loo and hop in PT73. "We are leaving at 6:14, if you're on or not. We need to get over that border before 10am so we can make our stop before heading into Catalina." "By the way, keep an eye out for bandits. Just yell out - *Got company*!"

"Gee, now we are lookouts for bandits", said Big Chuck. "Just do as you're told", said Kit Kat. "Come on boys, let's just do as we're told," said Willy.

Rob, Hod and Mongo were first on PT73 followed by Dash, Willy and Kit Kat and, you guessed it, Big Chuck. "Ok, let's get this thing on the road," Sav said. Pitt, Sav and Gramya sat up front, Pitt down the back. He had already taken the glass window out of the back so he could see if any bandits came after them.

First half hour was making good time then they had to go through a narrow pass called Tallarock Rock. That's when Pitt called to Sav, "Company on the left and right." Gramya called out "and coming at us up front." "Right", said Pitt. "Everyone has a bucket of rocks and old horseshoes under your seat. Don't throw them at the horse, throw them at the bandit. Try to hit their hands or the bows".

"Here they come" called Sav. "I'll try to put them off by dodging in and out. Start throwing." Two arrows came in the window next to big Chuck, another landed in the seat next to Dash. Another came through the window and dropped onto the floor next to Willy, but it was only a half an arrow. Rob Hob said, "Get that Curley." While this was happening, everyone was throwing rocks and horseshoes at the bandit, some hitting, some missing.



After fifty minutes of this, it was not until Pitt started throwing his lemons and hitting the riders in the eyes, blinding them for a couple of minutes, that things started to change. As the raiders were backing off, Gramya said, "the border is half a mile away." "Keep throwing," said Pitt. Big Chuck said he had to go for a pee and Rob Hob said stick it in your pocket, but Pitt said, "No stopping till we get over the Siberian border and to Ashram." "Our stop!" Pitt said, "Sav, keep it to the floor." "You got it boss," he said.

In Ashram, everyone was telling stories about how they beat the bandits. Every story was different, some bigger than others, but big Chuck was very quiet. Pitt called everyone together. "Ok, we are about one hour from Catalina. Sav will drop us and our bags at Clive's. We will check in, Sav will park the truck overnight. Tomorrow Sav and I will get rid of PT73. Gramya has been on the phone to our camel herder, Efrem Zimbalist. He will meet us in four days with our camels. So this afternoon, stay in the Casbar, have a rest. We will meet at 6:30 for *munker* (dinner) and drinks.

So, one hour from Catalina. How will the trip be? How will Catalina be?

See you next month to find out, Dave

Andrea's Welfare Report

As far as we know, most people are doing fine. It was good to see Andrea and Muriel back at the meeting after their recent surgeries. Sandra Gruene is recovering from her recent knee replacement surgery.

If you know of anybody who is not well, please contact Andrea on 0415 659 961 and let her know.

Highsenburg's Quiz

Answers from last issue.

Could you find the country town's name in this jumble?

Idgoniodiw

(I bet the missing 'n' didn't fool you!)

The answer is ... **Goondiwindi**

Goondiwindi sits peacefully on the banks of the Macintyre River at the junction of five major highways. The region forms part of the Queensland–New South Wales border, and is home to the towns of Bungunya, Goondiwindi, Inglewood, Talwood, Texas, Toobeah and Yelarbon.

In the 1970's, Goondiwindi's fame came from a horse called 'Gynsynd', the Goondiwindi Grey who ran 3rd in the 1972 Melbourne Cup.



C ya next month H.

We are always looking for contributions to our newsletters.

Remember, the newsletter is for all of us, by all of us.

If you would like to contribute to our newsletter, email or phone Dave on d.tourgossip@gmail.com or 0417 490 740

Compiled and designed by Sue Brown, Dave Lupton and Elizabeth Rea.

Thanks to Club Condell Park for printing copies of our newsletter for members.

