



The Collective Spirit

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

Issue 75 - 27 July, 2025

President's Report

Hi, everybody

Its nice to be enjoying Sydney's beautiful winter weather with sunny days even if the mornings are cold.

We had a great turnout at our last meeting and we are very excited to welcome six new members over the last two months. Welcome to those people and I hope everybody makes you feel welcome.

Our guest speaker, Geoff Nadin gave an interesting talk about David Stewart-Dawson, the subject of his book "Treasure House". I found it fascinating that a simple idea of researching his home in Springwood led him down a rabbit hole that resulted in a story about a colourful but almost unknown character and his family.



I thought that I would have to miss our Christmas in July celebration because of a doctor's appointment. But luckily I was able to come, even if it was a bit late. Once again, it was a fun day. Thanks to Jan and Bill Brown, Dave Lupton and Marg Golder for all their work putting the day together. And it was nice to see so many people dressed up in the Christmas spirit.

Its also important to thank Craig and Club Condell Park for their help on the day. As usual, Craig took part in the games (he just can't help himself). And the donation of raffle prizes was greatly appreciated.

Sue



July Birthdays

Robert Best, Jan Brown, Sandra Cohen, Denise Ericsson,
Albert Ham, Pauline Lange, Sonja Lind, Margaret Mitchell,
John O'Shea, Joy Scott, Carol Tonkinson



August Birthdays

Jenny Bargh, Gai Cavanough, Cathy Dice, Ron English,
Dawn Newman, Elizabeth Rea, Maureen Thorne

Best wishes every one Barbara Doust

From the Money Man

Our finances at 23 July, 2025:



Balance carried forward 1 March 2025

\$ 28,190.69

Receipts

Attendance fees	2,088.00
Membership fees	822.00
Raffle	527.00
Outings	13,284.00
Trading Table	274.00
Tours – Lightning Ridge	49,535.00
Theatre Shows	100.00
Reserve account	1,105.00

Total Receipts

67,735.00

Expenses

Attendance fees	-2,088.00
Capitation fees Probus SP	-1,660.00
Guest speaker	-105.00
General expenses	-417.93
Raffle prizes	-170.00
Outings	-8,395.00
Tours - Ballina	-18,375.00
Reserve account	-385.00
Theatre payments	-125.00
Lightning Ridge	-31,000

Total Payments

-62,720.93

Total funds held

33,204.76

Less Deposits for Outings

-7454.00

Less Reserve Account

-720.00

Less Trips planned for 2025

-19,135.00

Club Funds available

5,895.76

Ray Cook

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

6 August	Morning tea & lunch if you like, 10.30am at Panania RSL
20 August	Bus tour to Warragamba Dam Information Centre. Lunch at the Luddenham Café (at your own expense) followed by a stop at a local lolly shop. Tour of the Western Sydney Information Centre at 3.00pm. Cost for the coach \$50 members, \$55 non members. Morning tea provided.
3 September	Morning tea and lunch if you like, 10.30am at Panania RSL.
10 September	Lunch at Picnic Point Bowling Club at your own expense.
14-20 September	Lightning Ridge Tour

Keep Safe, Jan

Something to do

Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre. Sutherland Shire Gympie.

Worth a visit. It is the first public Arts Centre of its kind in Australia and sits on 1.4 hectares (3.5 acres) of gardens. The complex includes two art galleries, a theatrette, art studios, meeting rooms, gift shop and cafe as well as the gardens. It's a great place to wander and have a coffee.

<https://hazelhurst.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/>



Wally and Nelly Waramuk's Must see movie,

All the way from Violet Town under cover, open-air drive-in garden park theatre a Highnoon production, an Earp film.

Its Six Guns at Steven Street starring Billy Wayne and Dave J Cob with free tickets given away at morning tea next to the coffee pot.

Poet's Corner

Thanks Bev Spithill

Both girls stood transfixed
As the statue began to move.
It lasted but a moment.
But miracles are hard to prove.
Was she sending them a message.
About one mightier than us.
One in whom a nation
Had put its faith and trust.
For it was on this day in sixty three,
The world a president would mourn.
And two young girls,
Would not forget this November dawn.

© Bev Spithill - 1999



Thought for the day

Life is like a bicycle. To keep your balance,
you must keep moving.

In the Shire with Luppo

Cape Baily Track and Lighthouse Kurnell

If you love the outdoors, walking amongst beautiful flora, exploring new areas and soaking up an ocean view, then the Cape Baily Track in Kurnell is a spectacular scenic walk. From the moment you park up in the Kamay Botany Bay National Park, the South Pacific Ocean from Cape Solander lookout provides a stunning backdrop at the beginning of the walk.



There is an amazing whale watching platform located here. If you do this walk between May and July, you may spot one of these majestic beauties of the sea as they migrate from Antarctica to the warmer waters of the Pacific.

Till then C'ya Luppo

Not in the Shire with Susie

Casula Parklands

In the early 1900s, Casula was a popular destination for picnics and leisure activities, with the area referred to as "the garden of the municipality". The "pleasure gardens" featured amenities like picnic tables, gazebos, boat sheds, attracting large numbers of visitors. With the post-war boom and increased demand for electricity, the site was chosen for the Liverpool Powerhouse (later known as the Casula Powerhouse) in 1950. This marked a significant shift from recreational use to industrial development. However, in the 1990s, the powerhouse was decommissioned and the site underwent redevelopment, transforming into the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre.

Liverpool City Council has now developed an exciting adventure playground along the road to the Powerhouse beside the river. It caters for people of all ages, from toddlers to adults. It includes a Ninja training circuit for adults and teenagers; an eight-metre-high Sky Walk and tunnel slide for older kids and teens; swings; an accessible carousel; flying foxes and a toddler playground. There are also separate off-leash parks for big dogs and small dogs and all the necessary facilities and shaded picnic shelters.



The Parklands are very popular and every Saturday you can join in the Casula Parklands parkrun. This is a free, fun, and friendly weekly 5k community event. You can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate – it's up to you!



More next time, Sue



Aromatherapy (7)

Addressing our sense of adventure; our 'young at heart'; our sense of Smell (working on it!!); and any flights of whimsy that may take me, or you, on a 'journey'!

by Elizabeth Rea

During the week an incident occurred which brought to my mind something similar on one of my holidays with my travel buddy, Fiona. It made me think of how appearances can be 'deceptive' when we see or meet people and perhaps 'judge' them by their clothing, tattoos, hair, etc.

We had attended an eight-day course in Zundert (in the Netherlands), and after the course we stayed in a small boutique hotel near the Amsterdam Central railway station. The day before our departure we had been walking around the city. On our way back to the hotel we were walking across the front of the railway building where there are many rail tracks that criss/cross over the walkway. Several people started hurrying towards us and I turned to Fiona to comment ... and she wasn't there!! She was sprawled on the ground having caught her foot in one of the tracks and I hadn't seen a thing. With help from those people, she was on her feet (or foot) quite quickly!

I helped her hobble back to our hotel which fortunately wasn't too far away. In our room, Fiona took off her shoe so we could look at the 'damage'. Her ankle had swollen quite quickly in that short time, and we could see the bruising starting to appear. We pulled out our first aid oils and started planning a treatment. We had planned to do our packing, have an early dinner, to be ready to depart in the morning. But first, we both thought 'ice'!

I went down to the front desk to ask for some ice, but being a small boutique hotel, there was no dining room, no fridges, no ice but I had noticed there was a small pub next door.



I had some change in my pocket and headed to the pub. It was only small and had two narrow front doors – those heavy ones you have to really push to enter. They needed a bit of muscle, and I walked into a dimly lit room. A few tables were down each side and a large dog sitting in the middle of the floor (think Mastiff size) just placidly looking at me. I'm not afraid of dogs but moved into the room and stopped. I noticed a couple of guys sitting at the tables, dressed in black leather with silver studs and chains, the man behind the bar uttered a few words and the dog got up and walked back to the bar. A few more words and a young lady came out and asked me in English if she could help me. I explained what had happened and that I needed some ice – she promptly turned around and filled a large plastic cup with ice; refused any money and told me to come back if I needed any more. (It was quite a surreal experience – not a pub that I would have walked into normally, especially on my own but I was met with kindness and received help. No problem!)



Back in our room, I related my adventures to Fiona, and we proceeded to apply some compresses to her very swollen ankle. Our journey home had some slower moments than usual and a trip to her doctor when she arrived home resulted in a 'moon' boot. Too many great memories to let that worry her.





Winslow Wig's Who said that?



Getting old is like climbing a mountain. You get a little out of breath, but the view is better.

Answer at the end of the newsletter

Members' Corner

Thanks to all our contributors

Denise's One Liners

Thanks Denise

Don't forget to update the dress codes for riding camels. Spike Malign

Rob's jokes of the week

Thanks Rob

How to you make an egg roll? You push it ... sorry!!!

What do you call a laughing motorcycle? A yamahaha.

Only the Irish - Quick Quiz

Thanks Frances and Robert.

Answers at the end of the Newsletter

1. I have eighty-eight keys but cannot open a single door. What am I?
2. In a standard deck of playing cards which king is the only one without a moustache?
3. What can be served but not eaten?
4. What was the original name for a crossword puzzle?
5. Which vehicle can be spelled the same backwards and forwards?
6. Who was Mickey Mouse named after?
7. What goes up and never comes down?
8. You answered me even though I never asked a question. What am I?

Secrets to a long and happy marriage

Thank you Carol

An old woman was sipping on a glass of wine, while sitting on the patio with her husband, and she says, "I love you so much. I don't know how I could ever live without you." ... Her husband asks, "Is that you, or the wine talking?" She replies, "It's me ... talking to the wine."



A Good Wife Always Knows Her Place

An extract from 1955 Housekeeping Monthly (much abbreviated but you'll get the idea.)

Thanks Sandra Gruene

- Have dinner ready. Plan ahead to have a delicious meal ready. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him.
- Prepare yourself. Take 15 minutes to rest so you'll be refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your make up and be fresh looking. He has just been with a lot of work-weary people.
- Be more interesting for him. His boring day may need a lift and one of your duties is to provide it.
- Clear away the clutter and run a dust cloth over the tables.
- Prepare the children. Wash their face and hands and if necessary, change their clothes.
- Children are little treasures and he would like to see them playing the part. Try to encourage the children to be quiet.
- You may have important things to tell him but the moment he arrives is not the time. Let him talk first. Remember, his topics of conversation are more important than yours.
- Don't complain if he's late home for dinner or even stays out all night. Count this as minor compared to what he might have gone through that day.
- Make him comfortable. Arrange a pillow for him and take off his shoes. Speak in a low soothing and pleasant voice.
- Don't question his judgement or integrity. Remember he is the master of the house and will always exercise his will with fairness and truthfulness. You have no right to question him.



AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST!!

- A good wife always knows her place.

Cookery Corner

Lemon Slice

Thanks Dawn Slater

1 cup self raising flour
1 cup coconut
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar

2 eggs
125g butter
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk



Mix dry ingredients. Add eggs and milk and then melted butter.

Cook in moderate oven 20-25 minutes in 16x26 cm tin.

Ice with lemon icing and sprinkle with coconut.

Quote from Albert Einstein:

"We all know that light travels faster than sound. That's why certain people appear bright until you hear them speak."



Christmas in July

Club Condell Park

On Friday, 25 July, we had our annual Christmas in July at Club Condell Park. Once again, there was laughter, great raffles, fun and games and a wonderful lunch provided by the Club and great service by Craig and the staff.





Traveller's Tales

An Adventure in Athens

Thanks Jan Brown

Several years ago, Bill and I went on a tour of Europe ending in Athens in Greece. Our travel agent, a Greek lady, suggested we stay at a little family run hotel in Athens that was a favourite with her Greek family. It was a very small, quaint hotel, with a small, almost open lift to the first floor, where our room was situated. The only modern thing about the hotel was that we were given a card, not a key, to open our room.

As it was almost 3pm and we were exhausted after a very long day of travel and sightseeing, we decided to have a quick snooze on top of the bed, placing the door card on the bedside table. We awoke at about 5pm and went to leave for the evening – no card could be found. We spent about 45 minutes, pulling beds apart, moving bedside tables, checking baggage, our pockets etc – no card. Eventually, Bill went down to reception and very sheepishly explained and was given a new card.

After an evening out we returned and retired to bed. At about 3am I decided to go to the bathroom. As I put my feet on the floor, I realised the floor was wet. I turned the light on to see water all over one side of the room and out under the door into the corridor. My first thought was that we had left a tap on – but no – no visual point of entry for the water.

Bill again went down to reception, which was serviced by a very young man, who looked around the room, could not ascertain the cause and, as there was no other room available, covered the floor in our room and the floor in the corridor outside with all the white towels from the hotel linen cupboard.

Next morning we arose early, went out to purchase breakfast and then returned to sit in the foyer waiting for our 8.30 a.m. shuttle to the airport. The lady at the front desk asked what time our shuttle was due. "Well," she said, "If I were you, I would go out and have a coffee. Daylight saving changed this morning. It is only 7.30am."

Urgent Teletext

As the group gathered in the downstairs bar, Clive came over to greet them and offer first drinks on him, "a Bondi Roads all round".

While they were waiting for Pitt, Sav and Gramay to arrive, Clive was telling them that Sammy Sparrow would be on his piano shortly. "If you have any favorite songs, he will play them for you." Kit Kat said, maybe Willy and Dasha could join him.

As Pitt and Sav turned up, Sammy started playing with (As Time goes Past me). Pitt said, as soon as Gramay turns up I have some news and hopefully Gramay will have someone to meet you.



While they were waiting, Big Chuck asked, "What's for dinner?" Everyone just looked at him, then Mongo said, "I have been watching the fella behind the bar making our drinks. Do you know what is in a Bondi Road?" "It's gin, rum, vodka with blue bow lemonade with a slice of grapefruit. We will sleep well tonight then", said Dasha. Willy said, "I should have asked for a half" as Sammy started the next song (you must forget this).



As Pitt and Sav were waiting for their drinks to arrive (tequila on the rocks), Gramay arrived with the guest. Sav ordered 2 more tequilas and Pitt said to everyone, "We need to listen up."

"This is a good friend of ours, Chef Inspector of Police, Clod Rains. He has been good enough to show you around the city tomorrow as you all need to be aware of the places not to go, so inspector would you like to say a few words."

"Thanks Pitty and Gramay, welcome to Catalina. It is a cosmopolitan city with pickpockets, beggars, and thieves in some places. Catalina has some 20,000 people who live here, then on top of that you have the travelers, the business people in town for the day or overnight. So, stay out of the Hutchiburg area. I will show you tomorrow the best and safe place where you can spend two days and still not see it all. It is called Pitchygob area with the Grand Flee Bazaar and Hatburg markets. I'll take you there tomorrow. If you get a taxi anywhere, set the fare before you get in. Anyway, I have to be back in my office in 15 minutes so till 10am tomorrow. (Polk means (keep safe,)) Clod then had a 5 minute talk to Pitt and Gramay, then left.

As Gramay's Vodka sunrise turned up, Pitt said one more thing before dinner, the day after tomorrow you get your camel riding clothes that Gramay has arranged. Should be a funny morning. Anyway (Munka) dinner is ready as Sammy started playing (a kiss is not a kiss in Casablanca.)



What is waiting for the group? See you next month to find out.

So, till next time, C'ya Dave.



Zigzag Zac's Book of the Month.

The Boathouse
By Bob Dinggy



Who Done It?

Thanks Albert Ham

When my prayers were properly said
Who tucked me in me widdle bed
And spanked me till my arse was red
Me Mudder

Who took me from me cosy cot
And put me on the ice cold pot
And made me pee if I could not
Me Mudder

And when the morning light would come
And in me crib I dribbled some
Who wiped me tiny widdle bum
Me Mudder

Who would me hair so neatly part
And hug me gently to her heart
Who sometimes squeezed me till me fart
Me Mudder

Who looked at me with eyebrows knit
And nearly have a king size fit
When in me Sunday pants me shit
Me Mudder

When at night her bed did squeak
Me raised me head to have a peek
Who yelled at me to go to sleep
Me Farver.



Andrea's Welfare Report

Elizabeth Crocker has a bad ulcer on her leg and is recovering, but it is very painful. Beatrice and Darrell Drew are both doing okay. Beatrice is very excited – 60 days out of hospital.

Dawn Yates has had a fall and is in Alwyn Hospital with a broken pelvis.

Sandra Baker is recovering with four broken ribs after a fall.

Muriel Richards in hospital with severe asthma and possible RSV.

Barbara Winterbottom is doing okay after a stint in hospital.

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

Highsenburg's Quiz

So, did you work out the jumbled letters?

(qerruocatiapam)

It's **Port Macquarie** on the north coast of NSW. A town at the mouth of the Hastings River in New South Wales. It's known for its beaches, wildlife and penal colony past. St. Thomas' Anglican Church was built by convicts in the 19th century.



A coastal walk from the town centre to the 19th-century Tacking Point Lighthouse offers views over waters home to whales and dolphins.

Answers

'Who said that':

Ingrid Bergman



Answers to the Quick Quiz – how did you go?

ANSWERS

1. A Piano
2. King of hearts
3. Tennis ball
4. Word Cross
5. Racecar
6. Mickey Rooney
7. Your age
8. Telephone



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, Elizabeth Rea and Dave Lupton

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