



GLEDSDWOOD GAZETTE

PROBUS CLUB OF GLEDSDWOOD HILLS INC

GENERAL MEETING:

Country Club Gledswood Hills – 91 The Hermitage Way, Gledswood Hills NSW 2557. Meetings held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 10.30am.

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

As we approach the end of 2025, it is a privilege to look back on what has truly been a phenomenal year for our club. From our opening meeting in February to our recent functions and outings, the energy and dedication shown by our members have raised the bar for what we can achieve together.

This year, we saw significant growth in outing and function participation. Whether it was through the magnificent trips organised by Therese and Denis or the day-to-day camaraderie that defines our group, the spirit of the club has never been stronger. We have met our goals, strengthened our community, and laid a solid foundation for the future.

As we wind down operations for the year, I'd like to take a moment to wish every single one of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

We hope this festive break provides you with a well-deserved opportunity to rest, recharge, and celebrate with your nearest and dearest. May your homes be filled with joy, laughter, and the company of family and friends during this special time.

Thank you for your continued support and passion throughout 2025. I am incredibly excited about what 2026 holds for the club and look forward to seeing you in the New Year at the Back to the Future musical in January or at our meeting in February.

Once again, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays!

Bruce

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Specks and Spicks!
by Bruce.
Christmas Edition!

What did my true love send to me on the 6th day of Christmas?

Which song was the Christmas number one in 1975 and again in 1991?

According to the song, Santa Claus is gonna find out whether you're what?

'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas' was first introduced in which musical?

Which artist sang 'Blue Christmas'?

CASULA POWERHOUSE SHOW

Recently a goodly number of members & guests (30) attended an excellent show at the Casula Powerhouse. This venue is a very good arts & performance venue situated near Casula station.

The show commenced with a rendition of many of the Beach Boy classics (and a few other surf tunes) performed with great accuracy to the originals by a very skilled group of musicians.

A quick change (the surf shirts came off) and they were instantly transformed into the 4 Seasons again performing many of that group's classics. They were joined on stage by another singer for this set.

A very good performance that was enjoyed by all in attendance.

The shows at this venue are of high quality and very professionally done. I commend them to members as a very pleasant way of enjoying an outing with friends.





HUNTER VALLEY/CENTRAL COAST

Well, how quickly has this year flown by! Here we are again heading off on another end of year trip. 37 of our members and guests joined us on this trip to Newcastle, the Hunter Valley and the Central Coast. This 5-day adventure promises to be like all the others - plenty of fun and frivolity (and food), plenty of good cheer, good times and good memories. Our club is one full of fellowship and friendship and the week ahead has all the hallmarks of what Probuss stands for.



Monday, 10 November dawned a beautiful morning as we all headed into Central Station where we partook of some sustenance at the bakery before boarding our intercity train to Newcastle. The train departed at 11:20am and arrived at Newcastle Interchange around 2:00pm. It was a short stroll from the station to the Holiday Inn where we were staying for 2 nights. After checking in, unpacking and a little time to change, it was off again. As the hotel is right at the Interchange, between the train and light rail, we took the tram along the city riverfront. At Queen's Wharf some of us, and certainly Margaret and I, chose to adjourn to the nearby Queen's Wharf Hotel for an afternoon tippie or two. The others went on to Newcastle Beach for a look around before returning for a drink at the hotel. A hardy bunch walked around the point from the beach, past Nobbys and along the Hunter River foreshore till they too arrived at the hotel. It was a great spot in the afternoon sun drinking on the deck over the water.



Around 5:00pm we all walked along to the adjacent ferry wharf for the short trip across the river to Stockton. Then another short stroll to the George Washington Hotel for dinner. It's a lovely little hotel that served beautiful meals which Therese had included in the cost of the trip. After a lot of chatter, a few more drinks and some very creative colouring in by some, a merry bunch of travellers wandered back to the ferry for the return trip to our hotel. What a marvellous thing our Opal cards are - we had travelled on the Sydney trains, the intercity train, the light rail and the ferry, all for \$2.50. Certainly, can't complain. Off to bed after a beaut day and looking forward to tomorrow's adventure.



Tuesday was Remembrance Day and was also a beautiful morning. We had plenty of time this morning to enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel. Anytime I have bacon and eggs (and pastries) for breakfast is a beautiful morning - and so it was. At 11:00am we gathered in the park opposite the hotel to listen to the Remembrance service on Denis' phone and were startled by the fly past of an Air Force jet. Having paid our respects, we were off on a very full day of activities heading off towards Cessnock. Along the way our driver, Pete, showed us the murals dotted throughout the township of Kurri Kurri.



HUNTER VALLEY/CENTRAL COAST

We then arrived at Cessnock for lunch at the Marthaville Arts and Crafts Centre. The volunteer ladies had prepared the most beautifully presented lunch for us, full of country hospitality. Some hot food, sandwiches and home-made cakes and desserts on lovely crockery. It was a really wonderful meal we shared with them. Most of the ladies bought some of their craft that was on display. From here we headed off to the wineries, arriving at Drayton's for a wine tasting. We tasted 6 different red and white (and blue) wines - chardonnay, rose, pinot noir, sparkling shiraz, shiraz and port. A merry group then returned to the coach, some with some extra bottles!

It was then a short trip to the Hunter Valley Gardens, where we stopped for a quick look at the few shops that were open, before arriving at our dinner location - Harrigan's, a large Irish pub. Sitting out on the terrace, in the late afternoon sunshine, enjoying all sorts of different drinks was a really beaut time. Dinner was fully catered by the hotel, with alternate meals of pork or chicken followed by pavlova or lemon tart - another excellent dining experience organised by Therese and Denis, beautiful in every way. As the light faded, we headed off to the nearby Hunter Valley Gardens to see the Christmas light display. Several people had been before, but for Margaret and I it was our first time. Well, what can I say. It was spectacularly spectacular, and then some. It was much bigger than I had expected, many more light installations and much more colourful than you might think. It is really something not to be missed, and Margaret and I were a bit surprised that we hadn't been before this. An absolute highlight. Back to the bus around 9:00pm for the trip back to Newcastle. It has been a day full of varied activities, full of food and certainly full of drink. We can sleep it off till we start again in the morning.

Wednesday was an absolutely sparkling morning. Denis had clearly been waving his weather wand. However, the morning was nearly a disaster - no bacon!!! There were sausages, so breakfast wasn't a complete failure. At 9:30 we loaded the bags onto the coach and headed off on another day's adventure. First stop was the Blackbutt Wildlife Reserve in Newcastle. It was a sanctuary for native animals with a well laid out boardwalk. It was a pleasant morning's walk amongst the bush and totally free, pretty unusual in this day and age. Some also enjoyed coffee at the cafe within the parkland.





HUNTER VALLEY/CENTRAL COAST

Then it was off to Norah Head where Therese and Denis had organised lunch for us from the local Subway. We enjoyed this at the Lions Park overlooking the beach on a picture-perfect day. A short drive then to the Lighthouse where everyone enjoyed the views up and down the coast. Several people joined the guided tour of the lighthouse; the last one built in New South Wales (1903). Margaret and I found the tour to be really fascinating with so many quirky little things needed to mechanically operate a lighthouse before technology took over. There were 96 steps to the top where the views from Newcastle to Sydney were spectacular. A beautiful experience for sure.



It was then a short drive to The Entrance where some went for a walk, some looked at shops, and some made the right choice and went to the hotel for an enjoyable drink and chat, and perhaps some sneaky afternoon cocktails. We arrived at our accommodation at the Ibis Styles Hotel, attached to the Diggers RSL, at Long Jetty around 4:00pm. Enough time to check in, unpack and get changed in time to eat and drink again. We all ate at the club bistro, buying our own dinners and chatting and laughing away the evening. Judy's sister Helen, who was formerly a member, joined us for dinner and will be with us for the next day or so. It was lovely to see her again. What will tomorrow bring?



On Thursday we started with a continental breakfast in the club. It was perhaps a little more healthy with fruit and the like, but I did miss my bacon and eggs. But, life goes on. We headed off for the day at 9:30 and it was another sparkling day. Pete, our driver, showed us lots of the Central Coast's waterways - Tuggerah Lakes, Toowoon Bay and Forresters Beach before arriving at Terrigal. Here people could shop (which most ladies did) or they could walk along the beachfront (or in the water), or they could enjoy morning tea, or all three. It's always pleasant to be at the beach, with the salt air and the sea breeze. From here it was onto Umina, via Empire Bay and Ettalong. At Umina there was shopping again before lunch at the Ocean Beach Hotel.



Another drive along the coastline past Ocean Beach and Pearl Beach to Patonga where we again could walk along the beach. Returning, we travelled via Avoca Beach arriving back at our accommodation at Long Jetty around 4:30pm. Getting changed for dinner and Margaret is wearing her new top and I suspect will be a bit of a fashion parade at dinner tonight, having seen how much shopping was done today. We gathered in the club lounge for drinks and cocktails and much showing off of new clothes. For dinner we had one long table for 38 people which provided for much talking, storytelling and laughter. As more drinks were bought this turned into an attempt at communal carol singing. And attempt is being kind. Then there were group photos of all those wearing their new gear (a fashion parade indeed). Even photos of those that didn't buy anything new. And photos of the guys as well. This was a small group though, with only 6 of us on this trip. All up, it was a very jolly night for sure. A fun way to end the final night of this trip.





HUNTER VALLEY/CENTRAL COAST

Friday arrived as our last day for this particular holiday. Breakfast was again in the club before everyone packed their bags for the final time. We left Long Jetty around 9:15 for the trip to the Australian Reptile Park. We have, like so many others, driven past this park so many times on the motorway but have never been there. So this was a first. We had the time to explore the park and the various exhibits, not all of which were reptiles. Morning tea, of lamingtons and cookies, was included. This was our final meal together and meals have been a big part of this trip - varied and plentiful. The drink also, but you've gathered that. We departed at 11:45 for the drive to Tuggerah station. We gathered our bags and belongings for the last time and said our goodbyes to Pete, who has been an excellent driver for us these past few days.

We boarded the intercity train for Central, bringing to an end this latest Probud holiday. While it was a relatively short holiday it was packed with plenty of fun and the weather was very kind to us. From the places we went, the activities we did, the meals we shared and the drinks we enjoyed made for another great experience. Experiences from which memories are made. Once again, as I've often said, fellowship is at the heart of Probud. And from that fellowship friendships are made. And along the way we have fun. And so it was these past 5 days. Special thanks once again to Therese and Denis who, through their planning and organisation, have provided a holiday where we could enjoy that fellowship. Our club is blessed to have them. For Margaret and I, we have had a beaut week and are ever so grateful to everyone who made it so enjoyable. Till the next time,

Geoff Ashton (Ambassador - Gledswood Hills Probud Club)





ACTIVITY REPORT

Thankyou to all who have supported the many activities throughout the year. The number of members attending events has been fantastic.

We plan with the help of a few lovely people to have a varied range of events next year. Further details at the February meeting.

We have 3 activities in January Pretty Woman 14th January, Back to the Future 21st January both fully subscribed and Chris Sainsbury has arranged lunch in Bowral on 26th January at the Royal Hotel. Please add your name to sheet so Chris knows numbers for booking. This will be an Opal Card trip for those who wish to go by train. The hotel is located very close to Bowral Station.

A reminder a \$25 deposit will secure your place on our next Mystery trip in March. There is also a \$50 deposit required for the Jindabyne trip next November. We need to firm up numbers at the February meeting and pay the deposit to Life of Riley who run the Jindabyne tour.

Originally, I had advertised another opal card trip on 11th February to Watson's Bay. I have decided to change the venue and try a third time for Cockatoo Island. Hopefully, it's a case of 3rd time lucky.

We haven't forgotten about our proposed trip to WA from mid September 2026 and will definitely have a price and itinerary at the February meeting.

I wish to thank Sandra for arranging our Christmas party venue and the lovely table decorations. Barb Morris for all her work on the hampers, Joan for her handmade table gifts and Lisa and Bruce for their hamper donations & Mark for the music. Thankyou also to Lea, Jan Poole, Chris and Deb for their assistance with the hampers.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy 2026.

Best Wishes
Therese and Denis

OUR HOLIDAY



BANK ACCOUNT
WESTPAC
Macarthur Square
BSB 032-734
A/c No. 144472

Our holiday to The Hunter Valley was full of lots of fun days, chats along the way and growing friendships.

I jotted down a few funny things I noticed happening along the way.

I did love dipping my feet in the water at Terrigal with Therese and Kerry.

Some of us ladies had fun colouring in at The George Washington ... competition material for sure.

Was it the wine that tricked us into thinking it was a masterpiece... mmm perhaps!

On the way home someone not mentioning any names tried to tap on at the walk sign at the crossing oh we laughed and laughed !!

Lea and I had a naughty quick gin tasting admittedly we did pop into a different one to others where small bottles were for sale so we sadly just had to buy a large bottle of some schnapps we will get together to share in the new year lol.

There was one day when it was a close call, we nearly left Denis behind ... close call!!

Cheeky cocktails at Mrs May hotel were had by a few of us after a quick shopping trip.

Chris



EVENTS CALENDAR

EVENT	VENUE	DAY	DATE	TIME	COST	PAY BY	COMMENTS
CHRISTMAS PARTY	Panorama House Bulli	Wednesday	3/12/2025	12 Noon	\$50 Members \$70 Guests	November Meeting	Final Payments now due 3 Course Meal & Drinks
PRETTY WOMAN	Theatre Royal	Wednesday	14/01/2026	1:00PM	\$96	December Meeting	Fully Booked
BACK TO THE FUTURE	Sydney Lyric Theatre	Wednesday	21/01/2026	1:00PM	\$70	December Meeting	Fully Booked
OPAL CARD DAY OUT	Royal Hotel Bowral	Wednesday	28/01/2026				Lunch at own cost
PROBUS MEETING	GLEDSDOOD HILLS COUNTRY CLUB	Wednesday	4/02/2026	10:30AM	\$5	At Door	Pay at door.
OPAL CARD DAY OUT	Cockatoo Island	Wednesday	25/02/2026				Lunch at own cost. Hopefully 3rd time lucky
GREAT LADIES OF JAZZ	Casula Powerhouse	Thursday	19/02/2026	11:00AM	\$30	February Meeting	
GIRL TALK	Ronda's Place	Friday	20/02/2026				Contact Ronda on 0432 591 637 if planning to attend
MONTHLY LUNCHEON	TBA	Wednesday	25/02/2026				Lunch at own cost
PROBUS MEETING	GLEDSDOOD HILLS COUNTRY CLUB	Wednesday	4/03/2026	10:30AM	\$5	At Door	Pay at door. AGM Please note
THE GREAT BRITISH SONGBOOK	Casula Powerhouse	Thursday	12/03/2026	11:00AM	\$30	March Meeting	
COME FROM AWAY	Campbelltown Theatre	Friday	13/03/2026		\$46	March Meeting	
MYSTERY TRIP	?????????	Wednesday	18/03/26	All Day	\$90		Deposit \$25 Due ASAP
GIRL TALK	Ronda's Place	Friday	20/03/2026				Contact Ronda on 0432 591 637 if planning to attend
PROBUS MEETING	GLEDSDOOD HILLS COUNTRY CLUB	Wednesday	1/04/2026	10:30AM	\$5	At Door	Pay at door. AGM Please note
BILLY ELLIOT	Campbelltown Theatre	Saturday	2/05/2026	1:30PM	\$45		
LIFE OF RILEY TOUR	JINDABYNE	Sunday to Friday	15/11/26 to 20/11/26		\$1,200		\$50 Deposit due ASAP. Balance due Oct. meeting



Fawlty Towers Comes to Mittagong (and so does the Gledswood Hills Probud Club)

On Friday, 21 November, 18 of us attended the Mittagong RSL for the Faulty (their spelling) Towers Original Dining Experience and what an experience it was! We all met before the show and had a couple of drinks in the lounge, then headed up the stairs in preparation for the show. Whilst waiting to go in, Manuel was running around offering advice and instructions to the guests until Basil spotted him, chastised him heavily and chased him away. Basil ushered us in a table at a time under his ever-watchful eye. The first thing I noticed after being seated was that all the cutlery place settings were wrong. The bread rolls were delivered by either being thrown at the diners or just dumped on their tables. Pumpkin soup shortly followed, however, this was abruptly halted when Basil came running in, yelling "Stop the service", as there had been a problem in the kitchen. He went on to inspect the delivered plates and found a set of lower and upper dentures in two of them. All the while, Sybil was gliding around gracefully, greeting diners and making sure Basil got things right. The mannerisms displayed by these three were impeccable, like the originals, they must have done their research and rehearsals amazingly well. There were warnings to and "Germans" who Basil thought might have been present, after all "They started the war!". Manuel was carrying around a little cage containing his pet hamster which Basil discovered was in fact a rat. Of course, it escaped and ended up under our table. Manuel was quick to chase and ended up crawling under our table, coming out with a pair of white knickers which he claimed belonged to Jenny. From that point forward, Basil referred to her as a "Loose woman". Fortunately, there was a fourth member of the show who was sitting at our table. Basil walked past Glenn, did a startled double-take, spun on his heels, walked back and said "Major?". About now we received our lovely main course of Supreme of Chicken Yule (with sage and onion stuffing, prosciutto crouton, fried leek and red wine jus). Oh, so tasty. Basil received one almighty reprimand from Sybil for not performing to her standard, which got rather heated. Sybil was carrying a wine bottle, and Basil ran off behind a door and down a corridor with Sybil in close pursuit. From behind the door we could hear a great deal of banging and groaning, and then Basil reemerged quite dishevelled. He walked very carefully and slowly back to the kitchen with a wine bottle firmly inserted where the sun doesn't shine.

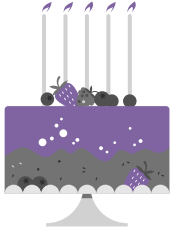
Basil was always trying to be helpful and found some debris on the floor next to Faye and "Is this a piece of your brain". Dessert was an Eton Mess, and like the other courses, all very high quality. We were laughing so hard most of the night, we lost track of time, and it passed rather quickly. It was an evening most will remember for quite some time.





PROBUS CLUB OF GLEDSDWOOD HILLS

BIRTHDAYS

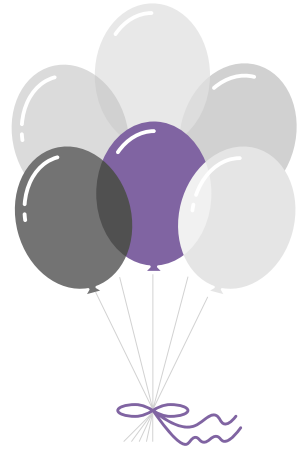


DECEMBER

- Robyn Morton (7th)
- Pam Cooper (26th)
- Jenny Barnett (26th)
- Judy Truer (31st)

JANUARY

- Faye Leveson (1st)
- Michael Whittaker (6th)
- Bruce Butcher (17th)
- Terry Trevascus (18th)
- Virendra Prasad (19th)
- Judith Sweet (26th)



Useful information/Services Available:

Help Is Close If you require transport to or from an appointment with doctors, travelling to or returning from hospital, or require help for other transport or welfare issues please free to contact one of the welfare officers or one of the executive.

- Welfare Officers: • Jean Player 0428 097 701
- Brian Owen 0417 140 240
- Evelin DeCean 0412 540 314

GUEST SPEAKER

This month we learned all about 'Rail Trails' - the conversion of old , disused railway lines all around Australia into User-Friendly Bike Riding and Walking tracks - mostly in Rural areas. Despite opposition from Locals & Councils these Trails have transformed many declining Small Towns into thriving Tourist Destinations. Winding through picturesque countryside - some with Cafe stops and Accommodation along the way- I'm sure many of us wished we were still Bike Riders - and had the Stamina !

(though 'Legal' electric bikes are acceptable, and even a Tuk-Tuk style 'Bike' is operating on a Trail in QLD)

Tim Coen has been involved with Australian Rail Trails - a Volunteer, Non-Profit Group - for many years as a Rider and an Advocate assisting local communities to lobby Local & State Governments trying to establish and obtain Funding \$\$ for this clearly profitable and worthwhile use of neglected and forgotten tracts of land that could be enjoyed by many.

A very interesting Presentation and we wish Tim and his colleagues every success going forward.

Next Speaker will be February 2026.

Please Stay Safe Everyone,
Barb.

