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WilloWay

The Willoughby North Probus Club Inc

Web Version

This is a web-version of Willoughby North Probus Club's monthly newsletter, *WilloWay*. It does not contain personal contact information. The full version is available to Willoughby North Probus members.

Executive Committee

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Steve Tufts

Vice Presidents

Ruth Browne
Bruce Miller

Secretary

Greg Naimo

Treasurer

Stephen Baker

Guest Speaker Officer

Ann Louise Cameron

Newsletter Officer

Josephine Lindquist

Membership Officer

Vicki Bell

Welfare Officer

Regina Smith

Activities Officer

Jan Bouveng

Activities Committee

Jan Bouveng (Coordinator)
Diane Baker
Joy Carrigan
Marianne Reich
Gabrielle Ross
Wendy Tufts (Walks)



President's message – Steve Tufts

There's nothing quite like Australia when it comes to *scale*. As I write this, I'm sitting in warm sunshine on Magnetic Island — soaking up tropical weather and dodging brush turkeys — and yet just a few days ago I was shivering back at home.

We've crossed borders, clocked up the kilometres, and watched the temperature climb steadily from "bring a jumper" to "where's the sunscreen?" But the real marvel is this: after thousands of kilometres, countless roadworks, one suspicious meat pie, and at least three towns claiming to be the "Big Something" — we're still in the same country.

It's one of Australia's great quirks. In Europe, you drive for a few hours and can be in another country. Here, you drive for eight hours and are still in the same state.

But while the distances are long, there's a comforting familiarity too — from the servo sausage rolls to the roadside banter. And wherever you go, there's always someone who reckons their town has the best fish and chips or meat pies (I'm conducting rigorous research, of course).

Back in Willoughby, I'm told winter is still hanging about — so I'll soak up a little extra sun on your behalf. It's good to be reminded now and then just how big, beautiful, and occasionally absurd our country really is.

Wherever you're spending August — at home, on the road, or just dreaming of warmer places — I hope it brings you moments of warmth, humour, and good company.

Warm regards,
Steve

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Diary Dates

Wednesday unless noted otherwise

20 August

Probus meeting

27 August

Paint and Sip



3 September

Walk: Glebe

Friday 12 September

Navy in Sydney Harbour
Cruise



17 September

Probus meeting speaker:
Prof. Andrew Hopkins – 'The
Secrets of the Universe'

1 October - TBA

Walk: Longueville

22 October lunch

Aqua at Dee Why RSL

10 December - TBA

Christmas Party

*A rare worn down pencil
belonging to William
Shakespeare has been
unearthed!
Experts are not sure if the
pencil is 2B or not 2B!
(an oldy but a goodie!)*

General information

Monthly meeting

Willoughby North Probus (WNP) Club meets at 9:45am on the third Wednesday of each month at the Uniting Church Hall, 10 Clanwilliam Street, Willoughby. If you can't attend, please send your apologies to the Secretary.

Bank details

Willoughby North Probus Club, Westpac Chatswood

BSB: xxxxxx Account: xxxxxx

For EFT payments, please add your name (and activity code if there is one) as the reference.

Welfare

If you know of a member who is experiencing illness or bereavement, or just needs help with transport to Probus Club meetings and events, please advise our Welfare Officer by email or phone.

Newsletter

WilloWay is our monthly newsletter giving you important WNP Club information and information about our latest activities. It's emailed to members each month and a web version is published on our website.

Treasurer's Report

Stephen Baker, Treasurer

Members' Financial Position at 31 July 2025				
Accumulated Club Funds		\$	\$	\$
Opening Balance (1 July):			6,693.82	
plus Income		0.00		
			0.00	
less Expenses	Hall Hire Aug	220.00		
	Morning Tea	39.01		
	Badges	72.00		
			331.01	
Accumulated funds at 31 July:				6,362.81
Plus Social Activity Funds				
Funds held at opening (1 July):			822.60	
plus Received		-		
	Paint N Sip	637.00		
	Navy Cruise	910.00		
			1,547.00	
less Paid	Stargazing Refund	28.35		
	Cockatoo Island	256.00		
	Cockatoo Island Refunds	48.00		
	Paint N Sip	490.00		
			822.35	
Funds held for activities at 31 July:				1,547.25
Bank Reconciliation				
Opening Bank Balance (1 July):			7,516.42	
Income&Deposits for month			1,547.00	
Expenditure for month			1,153.36	
Closing Bank Balance at 31 July			7,910.06	7,910.06
<i>Stephen Baker, Treasurer</i>				

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Regular activities

Book Club



The WNP Book Club meets on the first Friday of each month at 3:30pm. Contact Jenny Burnell if you would like to join. Our book for August is *The Labyrinth* by Amanda Lohrey.

Bridge Group



The WNP Bridge Group meets on the second and fourth Friday of each month. You book your seat the week before each session. You are not obligated to attend all meetings. Contact Ruth Browne for further information.

Mah Jong



We play on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm for 2 to 3 hours, while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee. Contact Christine Evans if you would like to join. No experience is necessary.

Scrabble



We meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month, starting at 1.30pm. Contact Jenny Lusher to join or for further information.

Sundowners

We meet in Beauchamp Park, Chatswood, on the second Wednesday of each month at 3.30pm for wine and cheese. Email Regina Smith if you would like to join us.

Bushwalking group



This group will meet for bushwalks once a month on a Friday and walks will be between one and three hours. If you are interested in receiving emails regarding future walks, contact Lynne Lagaida.

Pub Lunch Willoughby



This is an open invitation to members to join us at the Willoughby Hotel following each monthly general meeting. Let Vicki Bell, Membership Officer, know if you'll be attending when signing in at the meeting.

Last Month's Speaker: Synopsis – Bruce Miller

Hans Kunnen - *A remarkable story to tell* – *Surviving 9/11*

Hans Kunnen is a mostly-retired, senior economist and educator, who experienced first-hand the 9/11 terrorist attack on New York's World Trade Centre towers, on 11 September 2001.

Hans' talk commenced with a video and asking us to focus on the sounds, including screams, cries and pleas for help - we knew then we were in for a graphic account of this frightful event.

At the time, Hans was attending a breakfast session during an economists' conference at the Marriott Hotel, located between the World Trade Centre's twin towers.

At 8:46am New York time (10:46pm Sydney), the first plane struck the North Tower - the explosion rocked the hotel. From inside, alarms blared, people screamed, and debris - including the front wheels of the plane - crashed down. Outside, smoke, dust and burning paper filled the air, while jet fuel from the tower above, poured down and burned people in the street. Hans described the chaos – as masonry pieces the size of buses, shattered glass and debris crashed and killed.

Seventeen minutes later a second plane, under full throttle and accelerating, slammed into the South Tower.

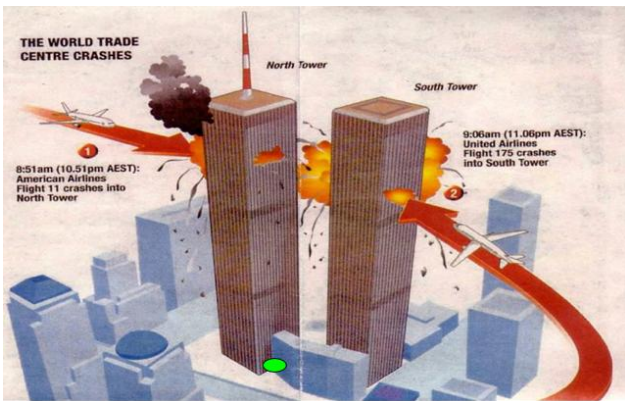
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As more bodies fell and explosions erupted, Hans, unfamiliar with the city and alone, fled toward the Staten Island ferry terminal, unsure if more attacks were imminent.

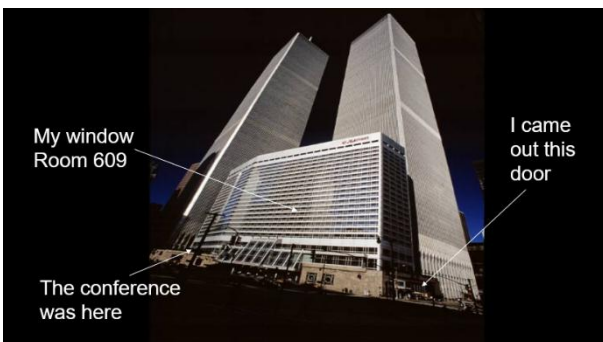
Along with many others, he boarded a packed ferry, where the mood was grim but calm, as people tried to comprehend what had just happened. From the water, they watched the Twin Towers collapse with a series of deafening booms - each floor collapsing onto the one below, taking the Marriott Hotel with it.

Left with no passport or belongings and little money, Hans was overwhelmed when a stranger offered him shelter with her family.

Since the horror, he still feels the power of the kindness and care shown by so many in such dreadful circumstances.



Photos supplied by Hans Kunnen



Speaker for August - Hugh Mackay - *The Way We Are*

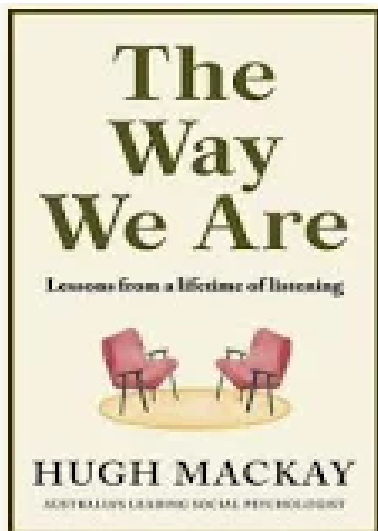
Hugh Mackay AO

Hugh McKay AO, is often described as 'the man who explains us to ourselves'. He is a social psychologist, researcher, and the bestselling author of 24 books (including nine novels). He had a 60-year career in social research and was also a weekly newspaper columnist for more than 30 years. In recognition of his pioneering work in social research, he has been awarded honorary doctorates by five Australian universities and, in 2015, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia.

In his presentation, Hugh Mackay will examine the current 'state of the nation', exploring the major social trends that have been reshaping our society over the past 30-40 years. This will lead him to identify one of the great mysteries of our time: how did social isolation become our #1 public health issue when, being humans, we're inherently social creatures built for connection,

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co-operation and community? Hugh will also propose some of the strategies we need to help mitigate the effects of such a radical period of social change and rebuild our sense of community, in particular, based on his conviction that 'the state of the nation starts in your street'.



Photos supplied by Hugh MacKay

Upcoming activities

If you require transport assistance to attend our monthly meetings or to participate in any of our upcoming activities, or if you are willing to assist others with transport, please email [Regina Smith](#).

27 August: Paint and Sip (10.20am)



Welight Art Space image used with permission

Guided all the way by a professional artist, this will be a fun 2.5 hours. Painting experience is not necessary.

Meet at 10.20am at Welight Art Space, Suite 2, Level 1, 308 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood, directly opposite the bus stop outside Chatswood Chase. Class starts at 10.30am. All art equipment is supplied plus one glass of wine. You are welcome to bring additional beverages and snacks if you wish. Cost is \$49pp. Payment is due now.

3 September: Walk Glebe (10.30am)

Please join us on a lovely stroll through Glebe and its foreshore and parklands, with the opportunity for refreshments afterwards in the Tramsheds.

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We will take the L1 Light Rail from Central Station on a 20 minute journey to Glebe's Jubilee Park station. On our walk we will see Glebe's diverse architectural house styles, and from the Foreshore pathways enjoy wonderful views across Rozelle Bay towards Anzac Bridge and the city skyline. At the Tramsheds, which is an industrial-chic commercial complex redevelopment of the old Tramway Depot, there will be a variety of eateries at the end of the walk.

Meet at 10.30am under the overhead clock in Central Station's Grand Concourse (next to the large hanging Departures Board).

To register, please email Wendy with your name and phone number.

Friday 12 September: Navy in Sydney Harbour Cruise East (9.30am)

Departs from King Street Wharf 3, Darling Harbour. Check in 9.30am. Returns 1pm.

King Street Wharf 3 can be accessed by ferry to Barangaroo, or train and walk from Wynyard or Town Hall stations.

The boat is the MV Bennelong, an 80ft all-timber classic yacht “designed to impress with its elegance and charm”.

We will cruise historic naval sites east of the Harbour Bridge including Dawes Point, Sydney Cove, Garden Island, HMAS Rushcutter, Clark Island, Rose Bay, Watson's Bay, George's Head, Chowder Bay, Bradley's Head and Neutral Bay Submarine Base. Commentary will provide information about Royal Australian Navy (RAN) activities and facilities in Sydney Harbour from 1788 to the present, especially during WWII. Includes a “delicious” morning tea.

The committee thought this outing would interest the men, so would like a few more to join the event. Cost is \$70pp.

22 October: Lunch - 12 noon at Aqua Room, Dee Why RSL

Dee Why RSL is at 932 Pittwater Road, Dee Why and parking at rear of the Club in Clarence Avenue

The Aqua Room offers Italian cuisine, light meals, risotto, pasta, cake, coffee and alcohol. Remember to bring ID as it is a Club. Please sign the sheet or contact Jan.

Member Photographs:



Coordinator Dot Theeboom

For members with an interest in photography WNP is facilitating a means for you to share your photos with other members. Each month, via *WilloWay*, our co-ordinator, Dot Theeboom, will nominate a photographic theme and request interested members to submit ONE photo related to this theme for display on the WNP website photography page and/or other club outlets such as at meetings. Inclusion of photos for display will be at the discretion of the co-ordinator. Please note, individuals taking photos for display by WNP will be doing so at their own risk, as this is not classified as an approved activity.

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This month's photography theme is "**Tomb Stones**". Please email your photo to Dot Theeboom in time for the deadline of Thursday 11th September. Selected photos may be viewed on the WNP website shortly after that date.

The month that was:

Wednesday 23rd July, Putt Putt Golf at Warriewood.

It was such a fun, laughter-filled day. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the time together. A great successful day. You might notice in one of the photos that someone forgot to tell Steph she was playing putt putt golf, not croquet!



Photos in this edition of *WilloWay* were received from Jan, Peter, and as otherwise credited. This month's *WilloWay* has been prepared by Fran Miller.