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Web Version

This is a web-version of Willoughby North Probus Club's monthly newsletter, *WillowWay*. 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

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Bruce Miller

Secretary

Greg Naimo

Treasurer

Stephen Baker

Guest Speaker Officer

Ann Louise Cameron

Newsletter Officer

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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)

WillowWay



Agapanthus, Chatswood

The Willoughby North Probus Club Inc

President's message – Steve Tufts

We all know February 14th as Valentine's Day. It is somewhat less well known as International Library Lovers' Day. The State Library of NSW introduced International Library Lovers' Day to Sydney in 2006 and it has spread across Australia.

Libraries have existed for thousands of years - from the ancient clay tablets and scrolls, and medieval monks who copied books by hand for the few who could read, they've changed and grown.

Mechanical printing and the spread of education made books accessible to more people. This trend continues and last century new printing methods greatly reduced the cost of books. With these developments libraries have spread.

We all remember going to the school and other libraries to borrow books for assignments or to read for pleasure. If you have not been back to the library since those days you will find your local library a very different place.

The core functions have not changed; it is still a repository of freely available information on almost every subject you can think of. Books are still on the shelves, sorted and organised according to the Dewey system.

Libraries now are computerised with easy to search databases to locate the book you want. Modern technology has transformed how libraries connect with their communities. Should a busy life or mobility challenges restrict you going in person, audio and digital books are amongst their many free offerings. Our local Willoughby Library uses "Borrowbox" for the online supply of electronic books.

If you haven't visited one recently, take time to visit a library. Read a book, magazine or newspaper. Explore, too, other resources it can offer you. See how your library has evolved and continues to evolve.

Steve

Diary Dates

Wednesday unless noted otherwise

18 February

Probus meeting speaker:
Paul Kearney, "History of Australian early 1960s rock & roll songs"

25 February

Riverboat Postman,
Brooklyn



4 March

Walk, Pyrmont and New Sydney Fish Market

18 March

Annual General Meeting
Speaker: Bill Phippen,
"Kathleen Butler and her work on the Harbour Bridge"

25 March

Lunch, the Manly Club

Thu 26 - Mon 30 March

Orange/Mudgee Escape

1 April

Walk (TBA)

22 April

Lisa Frost-Foster Mosaics,
Killara

29 April

Men's Breakfast

27 May

Steel Magnolias, Theatre Royal

Thu 30 - Fri 31 July

Bathurst Yulefest

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.

Newsletter

WillowWay 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 January 2026			
Accumulated Club Funds	\$	\$	\$
<i>Opening Balance (1 January):</i>		5,577.22	
plus Income	Fees	87.50	
		87.50	
less Expenses	Morning Tea	25.55	
	Hall Hire Jan, Feb	550.00	
	Christmas subsidy	973.00	
	Badges	46.26	
		1,594.81	
Accumulated funds at 31 January:			4,069.91
Plus Social Activity Funds			
<i>Funds held at opening (1 January):</i>		2,532.25	
plus Received	Riverboat Postman	885.00	
	Yuletide	200.00	
	Mosaics	90.00	
	Christmas subsidy	973.00	
		2,148.00	
less Paid	Christmas lunch	3366.00	
		3366.00	
Funds held for activities at 31 January:			1,314.25
Bank Reconciliation			
<i>Opening Bank Balance (1 January):</i>		8,109.47	
Income&Deposits for month		2,235.50	
Expenditure for month		4,960.81	
Closing Bank Balance at 31 January		5,384.16	5,384.16

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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 by email if you would like to join. This month's book is *Travelling to Tomorrow* by Yves Rees.

Bridge Group



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

Bushwalking Group



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

Mahjong



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.

Men's Breakfasts



A Men's Breakfast is scheduled on the 5th Wednesday of the month (if there is one!) and occasionally on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. We meet at Shuk, Chatswood Place, 260 Victoria Avenue at 8:30am. The entrance to the car park, which offers 3 hours of free parking, is in Oscar Street. Contact Peter Lay no later than the Monday before the scheduled breakfast if you plan to attend so we know the numbers for the table booking. The date of the next breakfast will be under "Diary Dates" on p2.

Monthly Walks



For details of our next monthly walk see this newsletter under "Upcoming Activities". Contact Wendy Tufts for further information.

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.

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

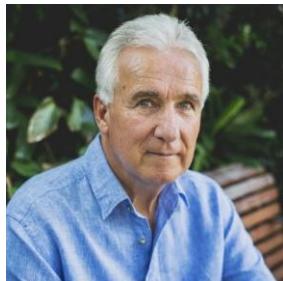
We meet in Beauchamp Park, Chatswood, on the second Wednesday of each month at 3.30pm for wine and cheese. Email Regina Smith if you would like to join us.

"Destiny is not a matter of chance. It is a matter of choice" - Dale Carnegie

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18 February: Monthly Meeting Speaker

Paul Kearney – The History of Australian Early 1960s Rock & Roll songs



Paul Kearney's devotion to music began when he was four, learning the Suzuki method on piano. He went on to study classical piano and, at the age of 10, also began drum kit and percussion studies. He went on to study at the Victorian College of the Arts and to tour internationally in symphonic bands. After experimenting with computers and synthesizers for five years, he started to transport his love of composition to the electronic realm, composing and producing full time for five years. He has since built an impressive Melbourne-based studio facility. He has spent his time becoming technically proficient in both music

production hardware and software. He has released an album, EP, done several tracks for widely respected compilations, whilst collaborating on several other artistic endeavours. Paul also performs regularly on his armoury of analogue gear. He lives with his wife and is becoming more interested in the popular music realm.

Paul will present the history and a selection of great old Aussie Rock & Roll songs and video clips from the early 1960s. Come with your toe-tapping shoes and listen to some old favourites such as Jimmy Little, the Bee Gees, Johnny Farnham, The Seekers and Slim Dusty.

Ann Louise Cameron (*Please send Ann Louise suggestions for possible future speakers.*)



Source: Freepik Content

Last Month's Speaker: Synopsis

Noel Phelan - The Navy at Gallipoli



Dardanelles/Gallipoli Peninsula.
Landsat 7 data. USGS/NASA 21
March 2006

The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) played a small, but significant, role in the Gallipoli campaign through the actions of two units, who both served with distinction – the submarine *AE2* and the Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train (RANBT). Indeed, the RAN was both “first in” and “last out” of Gallipoli in 1915.

“First in” during the early hours of 25 April 1915, was the submarine HMAS *AE2*, under the command of Lieutenant Henry Stoker. The *AE2* was the first allied submarine to successfully navigate the Dardanelles, a heavily mined strip of water separating the Gallipoli Peninsula from the rest of Turkey. *AE2* had orders

to “run amok generally” in the Sea of Marmara and continued to attack Turkish ships until sunk on 30 April 1915 by the Turkish torpedo boat *Sultan Hissar*. The crew of 32 survived the sinking but were taken prisoner. Four crewmen died in captivity and the rest were released in 1918.

The RANBT was a unique unit of the RAN, formed in Melbourne in February 1915 and active only in the First World War for 2 years on Gallipoli and the Sinai. Under the command of Lieutenant Commander Leighton Bracegirdle, the RANBT arrived from Mudros on the Greek island of Lemnos to Suvla Bay, north of ANZAC Cove, to provide engineering support to the British offensive. From August to December 1915, while camped at Suvla Bay, on “Kangaroo Beach”, the 400 man Bridging Train carried out a variety of tasks including: building and maintaining wharves and piers; unloading stores from lighters; controlling the supply of fresh water to front line troops; building a light railway for stores movement; and carrying out repairs in an open-air workshop, all of which was undertaken under frequent enemy artillery fire and occasional air raids.

When the order was made to evacuate Gallipoli in late 1915, RANBT personnel were the final Australians to depart the Gallipoli Peninsula on 20 December 1915, thus becoming “last out”.

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The RANBT became Australia's most decorated Navy unit in WW1. A memorial to the unit can be found at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. A detailed diorama depicting the RANBT at Suvla Bay is on display at the Seaworks Maritime Museum in Williamstown, Victoria.

If you would like to have more information on this topic brought to life for us by Noel Phelan, please refer to the book *First In, Last Out – The Navy at Gallipoli* by T.R. Frame and G.J. Swinden (Kangaroo Press, 1990) or visit the Naval Historical Society of Australia website.

Thanks to Deborah Drummond for this synopsis.

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.

25 February: Riverboat Postman, Brooklyn (10.00am)

Gabrielle Ross



The Riverboat Postman with morning tea and a ploughman's style lunch is fully booked.

For those who have booked, please arrive at the Riverboat Postman Wharf, 3 Dangar Road, Brooklyn by 9.45am. Brooklyn is just an hour from Sydney's CBD and connected by both train and freeway. If arriving by train you will find the wharf right beside the station where there is lift access. If driving, the car park is nearby. The boat departs promptly at 10am and returns at 1pm.

Contact Gabrielle if you'd like to be included on a wait-list in case of cancellations.

For further information about the Riverboat Postman view their website.

4 March: Walk, Pyrmont and New Sydney Fish Market (10.30am)

Wendy Tufts

After taking the L1 Light Rail from Central we will stroll along the stunning Pyrmont Foreshore learning about the history and development of the suburb. The walk will end at the New Sydney Fish Market, opened just last month, where we can explore the bustling area. There will be many wonderful seafood eating options for you to choose from after we look around the markets.

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.

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25 March: Lunch, The Manly Club on Gilbert Park, Manly (12 noon)

Adrienne Connaghan



A delightful club only a short walk from the Manly ferry or 144 bus from Chatswood which stops at the club. There is a car park opposite for those who wish to drive.

The club serves pizza, burgers, mains, salads, desserts and drinks.

The address: The Manly Club on Gilbert Park, 2 West Promenade, Manly. Meet there at 12 noon.

There are twenty places available. A sign-up sheet will be at the meeting.

For further information contact Adrienne.

Thu 26 – Mon 30 March: Orange/Mudgee Escape

Jan Bouveng



This tour is fully booked. There is currently a wait list. Cost will be on display at this coming meeting for anyone wanting to go on the wait list.

See tour description on OnCourse Tours website.

For further information contact Jan.

22 April: Lisa Frost-Foster Mosaics Workshop, Killara (10.15am)

Adrienne Connaghan



This 2-hour workshop is fully booked.

Payment of \$90, which includes all necessary materials, is DUE BY 20 MARCH.



Examples of Lisa's unique designs are shown at left. Lisa will be offering the choice to make a bee bath or a wall hanging with your own design. Meet at The Manor House, 67 Stanhope Road, Killara, 10.15am for a 10.30am start.

A wait list will be at the meeting in case there are cancellations.

For further information contact Adrienne.

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27 May: *Steel Magnolias*, Theatre Royal 2.00pm

Gabrielle Ross



Steel Magnolias is back, live on stage in a dazzling new Australian production at the Theatre Royal.

We will fall in love with six extraordinary women as they share their joys, struggles and a bit of gossip. Set in Truvy's beauty salon, these women share their stories of weddings, babies, divorces, and funerals. They face life's highs and lows with humour, courage and impeccably styled hair. When tragedy strikes, it's within these familiar walls that they find comfort, support and the unbreakable bonds of friendship that carry them through. View Theatre Royal website.

15 tickets have been reserved for us. Cost is \$89.63 per person.

A sign-up sheet will be at the meeting. For further information contact Gabrielle.

Thu 30 – Fri 31 July: Bathurst Yulefest

Libby Coleman

We are working towards having a private tour for Willoughby North Probus. Enjoy Mount Tomah and Bathurst's historic landmarks including Ben Chifley's Cottage and a thrilling hot lap of Mount Panorama. Visit the Motor Racing Museum. Wander through Oberon and Leura, and celebrate with a Yulefest dinner at magnificent Abercrombie House in Bathurst for a magical winter experience.

Cost \$775, plus \$85 single supplement, if available. This includes all experiences, meals, accommodation and coach travel.

Contact Libby for more information.

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 *WillowWay*, 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.

The February photography theme is “**Shopfronts**”. Please email your photo to Dot Theeboom in time for the deadline of Thursday 12 March 2026. Selected photos may be viewed on the WNP website shortly afterwards.

The month that was:

Note for all members: If you've signed up for an activity and later find that you're unable to participate, please make sure you let the activity organiser or a committee member know as soon as possible. This is particularly important when tables have been booked at restaurants.

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21 January 2026 – General Meeting.

New member, Lynne Gerber, was presented her membership badge by President Steve Tufts. Welcome Lynne!

28 January 2026: Ferry and Lunch, Watsons Bay Hotel

"We were very lucky to enjoy perfect weather, not a cloud in the sky and a very pleasant temperature", reported activity organiser, Di Baker. "Ferry ride was smooth and picturesque. Our food was delicious, enjoyed with a glass or two of wine, and best of all, wonderful company. Many of us hiked up the hill to look over the Gap and wear off a few calories! Others decided that an ice cream was the perfect way to finish the outing." Twenty-five people attended this lunch. These photos from Jan, Jenny and Vicki capture a magnificent day.



"A view from my seat at lunch today" said Jenny Lusher of the photo above.



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4 February 2026: Light Rail & lunch at The Juniors Kingsford



As anticipated, the air-conditioning was very welcome on this warm, sunny day. Pictured here are some of our members and guests at lunch at the Junior's Sundeck Brasserie.



But this photo at left is the odd one out. Earlier in the day three people were left behind when the tram doors closed at Wynyard Light Rail stop. Off the tram rolled, leaving three very surprised members still on the footpath. But they still managed to have a good laugh and so did those on the quickly disappearing tram. Luckily, another tram was only 8 minutes behind. Everyone caught up again at the club in time for lunch and an enjoyable day was had by all. Thanks to Wendy for the background to this photo and for organising such a successful outing. *N.O.*

“The pain of parting is nothing to the joy of meeting again”. Charles Dickens, Nicholas Nickleby

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Photos in this edition of *WillowWay* were received from Bruce, Fran, Jan, Jenny, Vicki, Steve Baker, Wendy and N.O. and as otherwise credited. Thank you all!