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WillowWay

The Willoughby North Probus Club Inc

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

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Greg Naimo

Treasurer

Stephen Baker

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Ann Louise Cameron

Newsletter Officer

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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

September 3rd was National Flag Day, commemorating the day in 1901 when the Australian national flag was first flown.

Flags can be traced back thousands of years. Early flags represented royal houses, military units or divine favour. Flags became a language - a visual Morse code of sorts: red signals danger; at half-mast signals mourning and a white flag signals surrender or a request to parley. Semaphore was used by navies to spell out messages and is an example of human ingenuity in non-verbal communication.

In our era, beyond war and navigation, flag communication has found its way into various sports and ceremonies, e.g. in auto racing a yellow flag means caution, red means stop the race, and a checkered flag ends it.

Our Australian flag design is a blend of tradition, geography, and astronomy winning the 1901 competition. Although flown continuously for 124 years it was only in the Flags Act 1953 that our polities finally got around to legislating it as the definitive national flag. Featuring the Union Jack in the top left corner - a nod to colonial history - with the seven-pointed Commonwealth Star below it replacing (in 1908) the original six-pointed star (one for each State) with the seventh point representing all Australian territories. On the right, the Southern Cross shows that our country is in the southern hemisphere.

Aborigines have the oldest living culture with 65000+ years of history and one of the newer flags. First flown in 1971 it was recognised by the Australian government as an official flag of Australia in 1995.

In our constantly buzzing digital world, it's worth remembering flags are powerful symbols and a simple piece of cloth on a pole can send a message that matters.

Steve

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Diary Dates

Wednesday unless noted otherwise

17 September

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

1 October

Walk, Longueville



15 October

Probus meeting speaker:
Lindsay May, OAM –
International Ocean Racing

22 October

Lunch, Aqua Room, RSL, Dee Why

29 October

Men's Breakfast (TBA)

5 November

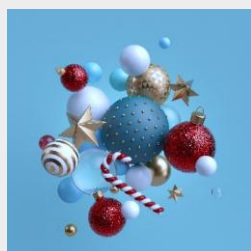
Walk, Woolwich (TBA)

5 November

Lunch, Woolwich Pier Hotel (TBA)

10 December

Christmas Lunch, View Hotel, North Sydney



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, Regina Smith.

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 August 2025			
Accumulated Club Funds		\$	\$
<i>Opening Balance (1 August):</i>			6,362.81
plus Income		0.00	
			0.00
less Expenses	Hall Hire Sep	220.00	
	Morning Tea	15.60	
	Guest Speaker	30.00	
			265.60
Accumulated funds at 31 August:			6,097.21
Plus Social Activity Funds			
<i>Funds held at opening (1 August):</i>			1,547.25
plus Received		-	
	Paint N Sip	49.00	
	Navy Cruise	350.00	
			399.00
less Paid			
	Cockatoo Island Refunds	32.00	
	Paint N Sip	490.00	
	Naval Cruise	280.00	
			802.00
Funds held for activities at 31 August:			1,144.25
Bank Reconciliation			
<i>Opening Bank Balance (1 August):</i>			7,910.06
Income&Deposits for month			399.00
Expenditure for month		1,067.60	
Closing Bank Balance at 31 August		7,241.46	7,241.46

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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. Our book for September is *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult.

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.

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 by email or phone if you would like to join. No experience is necessary.

Men's Breakfasts



Our WNP men meet for breakfast on the 5th Wednesday of the month at Shuk, Chatswood Plaza, 260 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood at 8.30am. Next one will be on Wednesday 29 October. More detail will be provided under "Upcoming Activities" in October's newsletter. Contact Peter Lay by email

for further information.

Monthly Walks



For details of our next monthly walk see this newsletter under "Upcoming Activities". Contact Wendy Tufts by email or phone 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 by email or phone 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 or phone if you would like to join us.

Every day we should hear at least one little song, read one good poem, see an exquisite picture, and, if possible, speak a few sensible words - Goethe

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Last Month's Speaker: Synopsis

Hugh Mackay - The Way We Are



Hugh Mackay is a leading social psychologist who examines society today and asks timely and urgent questions about its future. He talked to us about his latest book 'The Way We Are' which examines the major trends that are shaking the fundamentals of Australia today. As human beings we are a social species built for cooperation and connection. We have the capacity to develop and maintain social harmony. This does not mean we have to be the same, but we are all human. Towards the end of 2025 we have become a more troubled and wounded society. We need each other and need contact with each other to give us a sense of belonging.

The core of Hugh's new book is *kindness*. It strengthens social connections and reduces stress. Humans experience significant distress when isolated from others. The current No.1 public health issue is social isolation. This has occurred with the rise of individualism and an obsession with our differences. Compared to 50 years ago we have shrinking households, falling birth rates and we are a much more mobile population who seem 'busier' than ever, and this has become the enemy of social cohesion. Information technology, while allowing us to be more connected, has also made it easier to stay apart.

What can we do? We need to recover the lost art of listening (even when you do not like what you hear) and to rebuild local communities and the role of neighbour. Hugh's book will encourage us to think about the kind of society we want to become.

Thanks to Jenny Burnell for this synopsis.

17 September: Monthly Meeting Speaker

Professor Andrew Hopkins, Macquarie University – The Secrets of the Universe



Andrew Hopkins has more than 25 years of experience as a professional astronomer. He has held prestigious research fellowships, the Hubble Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh, and an Australian Research Council Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship at the University of Sydney. He led the astronomy group at the Australian Astronomical Observatory (AAO) for ten years, including a five-month period as Acting Director, until its restructuring in 2018. He is an active leader in Australian astronomy, having been President of the Astronomical Society of Australia, and having served on the National Committee for Astronomy, as well as dozens of advisory committees. His leadership and management have been recognised with multiple awards from the Federal Department of Industry. He is a strong champion for diversity and equity, having led the AAO's Diversity Committee 2013-2018. This work has been recognised through the AAO winning the 2013 AHRI Gender Equity award, and with a series of Silver Pleiades Awards from the ASA. He is a Fellow of the Astronomical Society of Australia, and Professor of Astronomy at Macquarie University. His research is aimed at understanding the evolution of star formation in galaxies over cosmic history.

The formation of stars and galaxies and our place in the universe have long fascinated humanity. Andrew will present an overview of our current picture of the universe, including black holes, dark matter, dark energy and what they have taught us about how the universe works.

Ann Louise Cameron (*Please send Ann Louise suggestions for possible future speakers.*) Photo supplied by Andrew Hopkins

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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](mailto:Regina.Smith@probus.org.au).

1 October: Walk, Longueville (10.30am)

Wendy Tufts



Attribution: J.Bar – Own Work, CCBY 3.0
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Longueville,_New_South_Wales#/media/File:Longueville_1.JPG
Longueville seen from Hunters Hill

The lovely harbourside suburb of Longueville sits between Tambourine Bay and Woodford Bay on the banks of the Lane Cove River. Being a peninsula, Longueville is one of those local suburbs that you know of but maybe have never visited. Why does it have a French name? What early colony manufacturing factory was situated there? Which four famous Australians grew up there?

Join us on a pleasant walk around Longueville and get to know it better. Afterwards lunch is available at The Diddy, Longueville Sporting Club.

Meet at 10.30am on the corner of Kenneth Street and Molesworth Lane, Longueville (parking available on residential streets).

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

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

Jan Bouveng

Dee Why RSL is at 932 Pittwater Road, Dee Why and parking is available behind 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.

This lunch is fully booked. Contact Jan by email with your name and phone number if you'd like to be added to the wait list.

I am not the flag; not at all. I am but its shadow - Franklin Knight Lane

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10 December 2025– Christmas lunch, View Hotel, 17 Blue Street, North Sydney, 12 noon to 4pm

Christine Evans

After investigating many other venues, there is no better alternative than the View Hotel in many ways. Conveniently located, North Sydney station is less than 20 metres walk from train or bus.

We'll be treated to a delicious buffet which will include baked ham, salmon with almonds, GF, hot baked vegetables and a wide selection of salads.

Champagne will be offered on arrival, and our package includes a choice of red, white and pink wine, beer and soft drink.

The dessert buffet cannot be beaten - pavlova, Christmas pudding, gateau, cheese plate and more. Tea and coffee will follow.

This is always a great day to socialise with all our members and participate in a few fun games to test our skills. So come and join the fun and feasting on 10 December at the View Hotel from 12 noon till 4pm. Cost \$82pp to be paid into the WNP bank account by 16 November 2025 (see bank details P.2). Sign-up sheet will be at the meeting or contact Christine.

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.

This month's photography theme is "**Favourite Toy**". Please email your photo to Dot Theeboom in time for the deadline of Thursday 9 October. Selected photos may be viewed on the WNP website shortly after that date.

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz. I wonder where the birdies is. They say the birdies on the wing, but that's absurd. The wing is on the bird. Anonymous

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The month that was:



27 August: Paint and Sip

Said attendee VP Ruth: "We had such a lovely morning at our Paint and Sip class today! A splash of wine at 10:30am added just the right touch of cheer, and it wasn't long before the creativity started flowing. Everyone brought their own flair to the canvas, and the results were full of personality and talent. Big thanks to Gabrielle for putting it all together so well -it was a treat from start to finish".

These fun-filled photos tell the story!

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3 September – Glebe walk

The group had great weather for their Glebe walk. Seventeen members enjoyed the sunny day.



5 September – Brooklyn bushwalk

Organiser Lynne reports that three people participated in the Brooklyn bushwalk. It was a very pleasant and easy 6km walk. Judging from the photos, these bushwalks also take in magnificent scenery and go to interesting places. If you'd like to know more or be kept informed of future bushwalks, contact Lynne Lagaida. Lynne organises regular monthly bushwalks.



Hey! We're back! And on our favourite page, too!

Told you not to panic. The editor still loves us.

Photos in this edition of *WilloWay* were received from Ruth, Dot, Lynne and N.O. and as otherwise credited.