



LINDFIELD COMBINED PROBUS CLUB

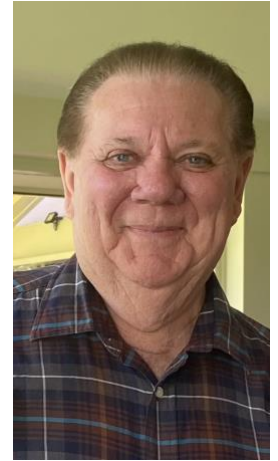
Newsletter

October 2025

I guess I'm not the only one wondering where this year has gone, it's hard to believe that we're approaching November at a great pace with Christmas just around the corner. Unfortunately, I missed our September meeting, but I hear that once again it was very well attended, very pleasing indeed.

A group of 23 of us enjoyed a great tour of the Quarantine station at North Head on a lovely sunny day, beginning with a ferry trip to Manly across our magnificent harbour. We were fortunate to have our own very knowledgeable guide specifically for our group. She guided us through the history and hardship of the early residents of the station. As difficult as life was for them, they certainly enjoyed a magnificent view. After completing the tour we enjoyed a very nice lunch in the on-site café. I spoke to several of our members during the tour who all expressed their appreciation of the day.

I look forward to welcoming you all to our October Probus month meeting.



John Little

Next General Meeting Monday 20th October 10 am – 7a Lord St., Roseville

Our speaker will be **David Dufty**, a historian and author who lives in Canberra. His book about Australian code-breaking, *The Secret Code Breakers of Central Bureau*, won the 2017 Nib Military History Prize. David will talk to us on the topic **Central Bureau – Australia's Bletchley Park**.

During the second world war, Australia was home to the largest wartime code-breaking operation outside of Bletchley Park. The Central Bureau was a joint allied unit comprising mostly Australian and United States personnel. It was founded in April 1942 in Melbourne, but soon relocated to Brisbane, following the relocation of General Macarthur's headquarters. The Central Bureau broke numerous Japanese Army and Air Force codes and also performed traffic analysis on enemy communication patterns. From its small beginnings, by the end of the war, Central Bureau and its intercept stations around the Southwest Pacific area comprised 4,000 personnel. Due to its secretive nature, the contributions of those who served in Central Bureau were not recognised until many years later.



Bill Chan 8th October
Beverley Dunstan 21st October
Peter Sutherland 26th October

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What we have been up to

LUNCH AT BROOKLYN – FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

12 of us enjoyed the train trip to Brooklyn for lunch at the Anglers' pub. It was another beautiful, sunny spring day so we sat on the covered verandah. We all agreed the food was delicious, generous serves and reasonably priced. This was just a lunch outing so most of us caught a train back after lunch while a few stayed on to look around the area. We will definitely do this again, so you may like to join us next time. Thank you to all who came along 😊



CONCERT AND LUNCH AT NSW PARLIAMENT - WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

The three Davids and seven others of us took a late-morning train and Metro to the State Parliament, where we enjoyed a recital by classical guitarist Stu Tyrrell. The program spanned over 500 years of repertoire from the Renaissance to the modern, in an intimate setting that showcased Stu's artistry. Lunch was intended to follow, but it seemed the sandwiches and freshly baked banana bread on offer (gratis) before the performance was adequate for most, and only a late morning coffee, or glass of wine, was needed.

Following a quick look at the display panels on NSW's relationship with Tonga, in place prior to an impending royal visit, some of our party took the long way round to the Mitchell Library entrance to reach the exhibition galleries. We might have lingered longer in the cool and quiet if the print in the accompanying catalogue hadn't been so small, making it hard, if not impossible to read. Scene of the day: a crowded Mitchell Reading Room.

- Beverley Dunstan



Our members plus
2 ring-ins!! 😞 😊

Stu Tyrrell



QUARANTINE STATION NORTH HEAD, MANLY – TUESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

What an interesting day out we had at the Quarantine Station! Most of us travelled by train, ferry and bus to get there but on a beautiful day as we had, it was very enjoyable, especially with such great company. 😊 23 of us met at the reception area to catch the shuttle buses down to the wharf area where the tour started. We had a great guide who explained everything very well and answered all our questions. The first known use of North Head as a quarantine site was in August 1828 with the detaining of the convict ship Bussorah Merchant when a number of crew became infected with smallpox.

The Quarantine Station remained in operation until the early 1980s. During its life 580 ships were detained at North Head and more than 13,000 people were quarantined.

After our 90 minute tour which included the quarantine areas, the hospital and the morgue, we then sat down for a pre-prepared lunch of sandwiches, wraps, fruit, mini pastries, juice and tea/coffee.

Many of our group returned in the cars that had been driven there and the rest of us went back by public transport, including the fast ferry which we didn't know was included on our Opal cards!

We couldn't have asked for better weather and the outing was enjoyed by all of us.



The view from the hospital area at the top of the hill



Luggage was disinfected using large steam-powered autoclaves



Many of the rock faces are engraved with details of ships, crew and passengers who quarantined here



First and second class shower cubicles (high walls)



Interesting info about the compulsory showers on arrival

A harsh disinfection process was used involving a chemical shower, often with carbolic acid, which was intended to kill lice and disease. Passengers were forced to strip and stand under the spray, and guards would check to ensure they had fully immersed themselves. This "acid shower" was so potent that it would cause the top layers of the skin to peel off for days. Children and babies were also subjected to this.



Annie Egan and Elizabeth McGregor were the only nurses who succumbed to the Spanish Flu in December 1918, while volunteering to nurse ill soldiers.



The hospital as it was 100 years ago

BREAKFAST/BRUNCH @ RUNAWAY SPOON CAFÉ – MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER

Ten of us met at the café for coffee, morning tea and muffins (well, one muffin which was HUGE and shared by the 2 men in our gathering 😊). It was a lovely, relaxed time together, sharing stories of travel and other topics of conversation. Thank you, Judy, for organising this for us.



MOVIES

Four of us went to Chatswood Hoyts in Mandarin Centre to see "Downton Abbey" the Grand Finale. We even had the theatre to ourselves! Certainly a beautiful movie and no doubt sad for all those who have followed the series. Afterwards we enjoyed a meal at the Chatswood RSL Club.



OUR NEXT MOVIE OUTING will be **WEDNESDAY 29/10/25**. Movie and time TBA.

Barbara 0405492594

What's coming up

LISGAR GARDENS HORNSBY FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2025

"A hidden gem" in suburbia.



Lisgar gardens cover an area of 2.6 hectares on a steep hillside. Camellias, Azaleas and mass plantings of annuals are to be found in the formal gardens.

There are lots of stairs but there is an inclinator that can be booked. There is a short bushwalk at the end of the garden or you can just sit and enjoy the atmosphere.

Transport: We will catch the train from Lindfield station at 9:45AM platform 3 (5th carriage from the front heading north), (Roseville station 9:43AM) arriving at Hornsby station at 10:04AM.

It will take us approximately 10 minutes to walk from Hornsby station via William St to Lisgar Rd, then the garden entrance.

We will return to Hornsby RSL Club near Hornsby station for lunch at approximately 11:45AM.

The Courtyard at the RSL offers both a Café menu and a Restaurant menu, something for everyone.

Dawn Miller 0411233643

BREAKFAST/BRUNCH @ RUNAWAY SPOON CAFÉ – MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 9.45AM

We have another opportunity to meet for a chat over coffee, breakfast or morning tea – depending on if you are an early or late riser.... 😊

We will book a table, so sign up at the next meeting or let me know if you would like to come along. Hope to see you there.

Judy Agusti 0416314650



HARBOUR BRIDGE WALK, LUNCH @ THE LORD NELSON PUB, THE ROCKS, BARANGAROO, METRO BACK – FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

IF we have a beautiful day, for those who would like to, we will catch the train to Milson's Point, walk over the Harbour Bridge (there is a lift at both ends if you don't do stairs), walk down to Argyle St to the Lord Nelson for lunch followed by an easy walk to Barangaroo then Metro back.

OR...you can catch the train to Wynard or metro to Barangaroo and join us at the pub for lunch.

The Lord Nelson Brewery Hotel in Sydney was built around 1836–1840 and officially licensed as a hotel on May 1, 1841. The building was first constructed as a two-story colonial home by William Wells, who began converting it into a hotel in March 1840 and licensed in 1841. It is a Heritage listed building.

Times & transport details at the next meeting



Lord Nelson 1840's



The bar



Lord Nelson today

DINNER @ CHARMED BY HANUMAN, GORDON –WEDNESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER, 6PM **Address: 786 Pacific Hwy (nr Woolies) BYO (\$2.50pp) / LICENSED**

It has been 6 months since we gathered here for dinner. Those of us who went had a lovely time and the food is excellent!

There is plenty of street parking or park under Woolworths, it is just a couple of doors south on the highway. If you would like to join us for dinner please sign up at the next meeting, or email

Barb Renshaw:
barbrenshaw49@gmail.com



Next General Meeting

Monday 17th November 2025

At the next meeting the author **Greg de Moore** will speak on the topic “**Tom Wills: the insubordinate life of an Australian sporting legend**”. Tom Wills was a flawed genius, sporting libertine, fearless leader and agitator, Australia’s first great cricketer – and the man most often credited with creating the game we now know as Australian Rules football. Sent to the strict Rugby School in England at fourteen, Tom returned as a worldly young man whose cricket prowess quickly captured the hearts of the colony. But away from the adoring crowds, in the desolation of the Queensland outback, he experienced first-hand the devastating effects of racial tension when his father was murdered in the biggest massacre of Europeans by First Nations people. Yet, five years later, Tom coached the first Aboriginal cricket team.

Tom Wills lived hard and fast, challenging authority on and off the field. But when his physical talents began to fade, the psychological demons that alcohol and adrenaline had kept at bay surged to the fore, driving him to the most brutal of suicides. He was forty-four and destitute. .

In his talk Greg de Moore will share details of Tom’s life and give us a portrait of one of Australia’s first sporting heroes.

Books, Movies, TV Suggestions

BOOK: When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi (2016) – 228 pages – fact

Now for something different.

The author was a neurosurgeon with degrees in English literature, human biology, and the history and philosophy of science. He died of lung cancer at age 36, shortly after his diagnosis.

The writing is brilliant. “*Moral speculation was puny compared to moral action*”. Writing and literature can only take you so far. The author wanted action and to make a difference. So he chose the transition from literature to medicine but not from Dr to patient – in horrific circumstances and with so little time to spare. These transitions give him the unique ability to share his insights into medicine as a doctor and as a patient – as well as his insights into life and death.

He was mainly motivated by compassion in choosing neurosurgery. “*While all doctors treat diseases, neurosurgeons work in the crucible of identity: every operation on the brain is, by necessity, a manipulation of the substance of ourselves...*”.

So, read it for his insights and for the writing. Of course, you may already have read it as it is described on the blurb as “the worldwide bestseller”. However, for those of you, like me, who had not heard of it, do yourselves a favour. **David Castle**

TV recommendations

SBS ON DEMAND

1. The Patient (English, 10 episodes)
2. Safe Harbour (English, 8 episodes)
3. Code of Silence (English, 6 episodes)
4. The Invisible Witness (Movie, Italian)
5. Juliet (Dutch, Series 1: 6 episodes)

ABC Iview

1. Mystery Road – Origin (6 episodes)

Barb Renshaw