



The Newsletter of the Combined Probus Club of West Pennant Hills

Club Website: www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/wphc

MEMBERS MUST READ

Members must consider their capabilities before undertaking any activities with the Club. This includes housekeeping duties and organised activities such as clubs, groups, trips or walks. It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that they are physically capable of undertaking any particular activity. In particular, please advise the Welfare Officer (Marie Macdouall) if your medical condition precludes you from helping in the hall set-up and kitchen rosters. The responsibility for compliance sits with attendees.

President's Message



Greetings everyone. I hope you are all keeping well and by now possibly gearing up for Christmas. I know that in our family the planning for getting family members together is underway.

November has been a busy month for Lawrie and me, both family-wise and with Probus activities. It was a great day trip to the Zig Zag railway at Lithgow that Geoff organised for us. The railway was established in 1869 and it was a great experience to see travel as it once was on the lovely old, beautifully restored steam trains.

Our monthly walk, led by Lawrie, was especially picturesque this month – most of our walking was around the Harbour's edge with lovely scenic views, but this month we were blown away by the sea of purple, courtesy of the fabulous old jacarandas everywhere.

The monthly men's and ladies' coffee mornings are proving popular and thanks for them go to Lawrie, Mavis and Julia. Some Groups seem to keep a lower profile but they are just as important, well attended and thoroughly enjoyed – as an example the \$2.50, Gardening, Mah Jong, Bridge and Book Groups.

I am looking forward to our End of Year Dinner at Wills Café – Patricia Ellison and her helpers have put a lot of time into this evening and I know it will be very special.

It's important that we support these activities. A lot of time is spent in the planning. And this thought prompts another . . . please, if you have a thought or an idea for an activity that members would enjoy, talk to someone about how we might put it into action.

Stay well everyone – see you in December.

Janet Hayes

Editor's Notes

As far as the Club goes, December and January, are quieter months. Most activities are taking a rest.

Anne's Puzzle replaces the Maths Puzzle this month because it is a festive, anagram task.

Please save your used Christmas postage stamps for Lynette who has written about how they are processed by the *Mary McKillop Today* organisation (below).

Wanted 1 – Vice President for 2026/27. See page 4.

Wanted 2 - New Book Group Convener and members. Read all about it on page 4.

From January I will be sending out one deadline reminder only. You are all so good at submitting your contributions that it seems unnecessary to add extra emails to your inboxes. Although it is not possible for all activities and reports, I appreciate early entries as it means much less work before circulation.

I hope you all enjoy this month's issue.

Susie Bannatyne

Slice of Life

Mary McKillop Today

Susie Bannatyne asked me to explain what happens to the "Used Stamps" I collect and pass onto the *Mary Mackillop Today* organisation. Here is a short explanation of its work.

Mary Mackillop Today was established in 1990, primarily to assist in the education of women and girls by creating the opportunity for self-determination through "learning for life". This involves supporting programs of equity in education and economic independence for disadvantaged people in Australia, Timor-Leste, Fiji and Peru.

The stamps I collect I forward to *Mary Mackillop Today* in North Sydney where a team of volunteer ladies prepare the stamps to sell to collectors. The money raised helps to support the above-mentioned programs.

Thank you Club members who save the stamps for me to pass on - they are always appreciated by *Mary Mackillop Today*.

Lynette Hope

Wanted 1

VICE PRESIDENT 2026/27

(to incoming President Colin Lissner)

Combined Probus Club of West Pennant Hills

Suitable candidates - any current member of the Club. In the past we have had our Presidents run male one year, female the next. To keep with the tradition we are seeking a female Vice President for 2026/27 but if necessary are willing to take the alternative.

Promotion opportunity - to stand as President in 2027!

Benefits - include being part of the 'in-crowd', involved in planning and decision-making of the Club. You have a voice and ideas - let us hear them.

Your ideas will be important. If you have ever thought of how the club might improve in some way - this is your perfect opportunity!

Duties include a formal, but not very, Committee meeting each second month with casual, less formal meetings in between, as required.

Without a Vice President in 2026/27 we have no planning for a President in 2027/28 which could likely mean the Club may not continue.

So come on - give it some thought - you will be supported all the way – you are among friends.

Applications to Janet Hayes - janetlhayes@bigpond.com or 0405 197 991

Janet Hayes

Wanted 2

New Book Group

As the current Second Friday Book Group is full, three Club members have indicated a wish to join a new book group but they do not want to organise it.

Keen readers of either sex are invited to sign up for membership, one volunteering to act as Convener.

I am happy to co-ordinate the applications if this would help.

Susie Bannatyne

susie.bannatyne@hotmail.com

0413 897 016

New Activities

Anne's Puzzle

Nice work if you can get it! Solve the cryptic clues about workers – some clues are easy, some are hard – then spell out the message under the arrow.



1. Worker whose output might be measured in volumes.	B	O	O	K	M	A	K	E	R			
2. Worker who can wander all over the place.												
3. Worker who does the twist.												
4. Worker who is told to maintain the swelling.												
5. Worker represented by Tom, the rafter.												
6. Worker who is often described as ham.												
7. Worker who makes tea – no milk, no sugar.												
8. Worker who is always neat and tidy.												
9. Worker who is in improved health.												
10. Worker represented by twisted stripe.												
11. Worker who could become a moon-starer.												
12. Worker who becomes more mixed up in the cooler.												
13. Worker who makes the French become nudists.												

14. Worker who has to run backwards, with some direction.												
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Solution on page 15

Anne Prescott

Getting to Know You Q&A

Who will be this month's subject for Ross Prestipino's Q&A? Be at the December meeting to find out.

Susie Bannatyne

Good Viewing

Thanks to those who submitted shows to watch this month. If you have anything you want to share, please send to leothedent@gmail.com.

Title	Genre	Service	Episodes	Author
I Was Actually There	Doco	iView	8	Leo Dent
From the makers of the award-winning You Can't Ask That, this bold documentary explores defining moments of our recent history through the eyes, ears and voices of those who witnessed them firsthand.				
No One Saw Us Leave	Drama	Netflix	5	Marie Macdouall
Follows a mother desperately pursuing her husband who kidnapped their children, highlighting the clash between two powerful Jewish families in the 1960s.				
The Assembly	Doco	iView	6	Janet Hayes
Australia's most renowned interviewer, Leigh Sales returns to mentor a new and bigger cohort of Autistic journalism students from across the country as they learn their craft and interview famous celebrities.				

Malpractice	Drama	SBS	10	Susie Bannatyne
This British medical drama television series, created and written by Grace Ofori-Attah, is an anthology series about investigations into the decisions made by doctors in fatal cases.				

Leo Dent

Guest Speakers

December - Neville Turbit - The Story of Bass and Flinders

January - Paul Kearney - Early 60s Rock and Roll History

February - Jennifer Hubbard – Old Movies – Bill Collins Style

(see <https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/wphc> for more details)

Ross Prestipino

Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up



There will be no meeting in December. Details of the next gathering will be given in the January 2026 Newsletter.

Julia Elborn and Mavis Todd

Men's Coffee Group



Men's coffee, cake and general world problem solving session

No December or January gatherings. Details of the next meeting will be given in the February Newsletter.

Lawrie Hayes

Outings and Trips Away

Upcoming Trips

- Proud Mary Tour in May 2026

Proposed Trips

- *Retired Laughing* revue-style comedy theatre show at Chatswood Concourse 20th February 2026
- March 2026 – *Murder Most Foul*, in a suburb yet to be decided.
- *Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers* and Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Arts Centre tour, 21 September 2026. Limited to 8 rooms, first in best dressed.

Geoff Childs

General Club Notices

Probus Meeting Roster

Month	Hall	Kitchen
December	Bob Crabb	Maureen Farago
	Mike Macdouall	Anne Prestipino
	Ross Prestipino	
January	Russ Riddell	Christine Taylor
	Will Seaton	Florina Vanderwaals
	Mike Macdouall	
February	John Vermeer	Maree Spranger
	Terry Stinson	Lyn Marsden
	Leo Dent	

If you are unable to attend on allocated day please arrange for a replacement.

Mike Macdouall

Welfare Report

Mike Kirby has been treated for a couple of medical issues. While some follow up consultations are yet to come everything to date has turned out as hoped.

Mike would like to pass on his thanks and gratitude to the many who have enquired, it's much appreciated and certainly aids in the recovery. Sending our best wishes to you Mike and hope you soon feel much better.

Cheers and best wishes to you all for a wonderful Christmas. Stay safe and be happy.

Marie Macdouall
0434 819 862

Reports of Ongoing Activities

\$2.50 Group

Outing to Fashionable Silhouettes Thursday 30 October

On Thursday 30 October a group of 11 went by bus and light rail to Old Government House in Parramatta Park.

We had perfect weather and enjoyed an informative tour of the house and then the exhibition of costumes showcasing various styles through the ages. Our guide told us about the various Governors and their additions to the house as well as the illusions of grandeur which were incorporated into the design to make up for the lack of materials available at that time in the colony. We all wondered how the early colonists survived our hot Summers with all those layers of clothing!

After the tour we walked down to Club Parramatta for a nice lunch. Here are a few photos from the day.

https://probussouthpacific.org/microsites/wphc/Fashionable_Silhouettes

Marion Dent

Garden Group

We'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

We started the year with a visit to Vaucluse House and Gardens, then in Autumn we visited Mt Tomah for the Autumn colours and just recently Red Cow Farm Gardens in Sutton Forest.

We hope to do some more outings next year and would welcome any suggestions you might have for speakers or locations of interest to visit.

Ros Ward and Marion Dent

Knitting Group

Thank you to Vivian Truelove for her gift of 24 bears for the children in out of home care whom we support.

To Pat Jackson, Suzanne Lord, Patricia Smith, Ann Turner and Maris Wild, thank you for your consistency and support.

Final thanks to Dale Taylor for transporting all the gifts for our charity *Hope in a Suitcase*.

May the blessings of Christmas be with you all today and always.

Mavis Todd, Julia Elborn and Maris Wild

Mah Jong Monday



First session Barbara Shannon was the winner, closely followed by Lyn Horne and Vivienne Truelove.

At our second session we had 10 players = 3 tables. Rita Watson was the outstanding player of the day with 22,900 points, way ahead of the other tables where Fran Kirby and Pat Jackson were the winners.

Only one more session to add points to the yearly total. Who will win the Dragon this year? 🐉

Meg Mills

0414 639 654



Mah Jong Thursday

On Thursday, 6th November, we were delighted to have Ann Turner back with us after her accident.

We also had both Bob and Terri Williams join us for the day. Terri showed us how the game should be played and had a very good win.

No Mah Jong on the 20th due to illness.

The last Mah Jong for the year will be on the 4th December. Once again we will follow this with our annual Christmas Lunch.

Judith & Mike Reidy

Outings and Trips Away

Zig Zag Railway Trip



Departing the Clubrooms at 7.45am on the 7 November, 25 members and guests embarked on our trip to the Zig Zag Railway near Lithgow.

Upon arrival we boarded the Puffin Billy train at the Top Station.

As the line is in the shape of a Z, thus enabling the train in its day to climb the mountain, we viewed beautiful flowers and appreciated the construction engineering of the tunnels - this was all done by hand, remember this track was laid in about 1860.

The labour was mostly convicts, the weather variable at best.

At the completion of the 90-minute trip we enjoyed a sausage sizzle at the Station prepared by Adam and Mal, tour leader and bus driver.

We then embarked on our return journey, stopping at Wentworth Falls Lake. A number of the group, me included, were not aware of the lake. It was serene and we enjoyed home cooked cake.

We returned to the Clubrooms around 4.30pm. A great day.

Karen and I would like express our appreciation to members who have supported the outings.

We wish all members a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Geoff Childs

Second Friday Book Group



10 MINUTES AND 38 SECONDS IN THIS STRANGE WORLD

by
Elif Shafak

This is a novel by Elif Shafak about the life and death of Tequila Leila, a prostitute in Turkey.

The title refers to the amount of time that Leila's brain remains active after her death, during which her consciousness is flooded with vivid and specific memories. This was both an unusual and interesting way of telling her life story. We meet the people and events that defined her existence. She was sexually abused as a child by a close relative in her traumatic family and was eventually disowned by them.

Whilst none of our group would recommend this as a 'must read', most found it quite readable.

Heath Cook

November Walk



**Birchgrove to Balmain
via
Ballast Point**

Here we are, nearly at the end of the walk with our backs to Morts Bay.

The walk started as usual with coffee and cake at a café. We met up with Warwick Pidgeon and Ian Western outside the The Old Rosebud, which apparently (as rumoured) was quite a notorious establishment operated by the well-known Tilly Devine.

As you can see in the above photo the day gave us spectacular views over the inner Harbour from above Dawn Fraser pool, the Birchgrove Cricket oval (which was the original home ground of the Balmain Tigers) and the now defunct Caltex site on Ballast point.

Lunch at the Cricketers Arms back in Darling Street.

Check out the photos on our web site at:

https://probussouthpacific.org/microsites/wphc/Birchgrove_Walk

As most of you will know there are no walks in December or January, so please check out our next expedition in February's newsletter.

Keep walking

Lawrie Hayes

Solution to Anne's Puzzle



1. Worker whose output might be measured in volumes.	B	O	O	K	M	A	K	E	R			
2. Worker who can wander all over the place.	W	A	R	D	E	N						
3. Worker who does the twist.			T	U	R	N	E	R				
4. Worker who is told to maintain the swelling.			S	U	R	G	E	O	N			
5. Worker represented by Tom, the rafter.		S	A	W	Y	E	R					
6. Worker who is often described as ham.				A	C	T	O	R				
7. Worker who makes tea – no milk, no sugar.				C	H	A	P	L	A	I	N	
8. Worker who is always neat and tidy.	O	R	D	E	R	L	Y					
9. Worker who is in improved health.				F	I	T	T	E	R			
10. Worker represented by twisted stripe.	P	R	I	E	S	T						
11. Worker who could become a moon-starer.			A	S	T	R	O	N	O	M	E	R
12. Worker who becomes more mixed up in the cooler.	F	O	R	E	M	A	N					
13. Worker who makes the French become nudists.				L	A	U	N	D	R	E	S	S
14. Worker who has to run backwards, with some direction.		N	U	R	S	E						

Appendix A - Contacts and Activity Locations/Times

Management Committee

President	Janet Hayes	
Vice President	Colin Lissner	
Secretary	Anne Prescott	
Treasurer	Jim Bannatyne	

General Committee

Auditor	Will Seaton	
Guest Speakers	Ross Prestipino	
Membership	Fran Kirby	
Newsletter Editor	Susie Bannatyne	
Public Officer	Ron Ellis	
Special Events	Patricia Ellison	
Trips and Outings Coordinator	Geoff Childs	
Website	Leo Dent	
Welfare	Marie Macdouall	

Activity Leaders

2nd Friday Book Group	Fran Kirby	
\$2.50 Group	Marion Dent	

Bridge Group	Andrew Clarke	
Foyer Books	Wal Dover	
Foyer Spectacles	Ian Western	
Garden Group	Ros Ward	
Hall and Kitchen Roster	Mike Macdouall	
Kitchen, Morning Tea	Suzanne Lord Patricia Smith	
Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up Group	Mavis Todd	
Mah Jong - Monday	Meg Mills	
Mah Jong - Thursday	Judith & Mike Reidy	
Men's Coffee Group	Lawrie Hayes	
Stamps	Lyn Hope	
Walking Group	Lawrie Hayes	

Location/Start Time of Activities

Activity	Location	Time
Probus Meeting	WPH Community Centre	9.45 first Tuesday
2nd Friday Book Group	Members' homes	10.00am second Friday
\$2.50 Group	Varies	Varies but generally on fourth Thursday

Book Exchange	WPH Community Centre	09.30 before Probus Meeting
Bridge Group	Dural Country Club	13.30pm first and third Wednesday
Garden Group	Varies	Varies but generally on the second Thursday
Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up	Wills Cafe, ARV	10am third Wednesday
Mah Jong -Monday	Dural Country Club	13.15pm second and fourth Monday
Mah Jong- Thursday	Reidy home	10.15am first and third Thursdays
Men's Coffee Group	Usually Will's Cafe, ARV	10am last Friday
Spectacles Exchange	WPH Community Centre	09.30am before Meeting
Stamp Donation	WPH Community Centre	Please hand to Lyn Hope at the Meeting
Walking Group	Varies	Second Tuesday most months

Appendix B – Payment Details – Treasurer Jim Bannatyne

Members and those on the waiting list have three payment methods for membership (\$55 per annum) and activities:

- 1) Electronic Funds Transfer to
The Combined Probus Club of WPH - BSB 112-879
Account Number 478 850 160
Please remember to put your name and description (eg Membership) on the EFT;
- 2) paying at the meeting by cash or cheque. Please fill in the Registration and Receipts Form before coming to the meeting. (Print from the last page of this appendix);
- 3) mailing a cheque and Registration and Receipts Form (below) to
The Treasurer, 14 Veronica Place, Cherrybrook, NSW 2126.

Jim Bannatyne

0429 408953 jim.bannatyne@hotmail.com

Registration		Receipt	
Function		Function	
Date of Function		Date of Function	
Name(s)		Name(s)	
Cost per Head	\$		
Number Attending		Received	\$
Method of Payment	Cash / Change (Circle one)	Received by	
This Payment	\$	Date of Receipt	

Appendix D – Calendar of Activities for December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2 Probus Meeting Lunch at The Vicar	3 Bridge	4 Mah Jong	5
8 Mah Jong	9	10	11	12 Second Friday Book Group Lunch
15	16	17 Bridge	18	19
22	23	26	25	26

Note: For more details, see the activity reports, Appendix A for contact details/locations/times about specific activities and Appendix B for payment details.