



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



It's been my habit, as I write this message each month, to gaze out my window while I gather my thoughts. Today I have shutters closed to keep out the heat. Lawrie and I have been busy hosing in the garden and making sure we have little dishes of water out for the birds. We welcome the little rain we've had, and I hope you are all keeping safe from these extreme heat days.

The next event in our Probus calendar is Australia Day on 26 January 2026 to be held at our meeting place, the West Pennant Hills Valley Community Centre. Planning is currently underway for this. If you wish to help or have an idea for the day, please contact Lawrie. There will be an Expression of Interest sheet on the table at the January meeting – hope to see you all there.

With the new year almost upon us it's time to be giving thought to our upcoming AGM in March 2026 when all committee positions are declared vacant and nominations called to fill particular roles. Please . . . consider becoming a committee member. You're with friends. No experience required. If you have any thoughts or questions, myself or any committee member would love to speak to you.

Some members of our Hayes family will be away on 25 December this year so we recently had an early family Christmas gathering and, despite the early date, and not a lot of time to prepare all the trimmings, we all got into the spirit and had lots of fun – the important thing is being with your special people. Lawrie and I wish you all a very happy Christmas season, with family and friends.

Janet Hayes

Editor's Notes

New year greetings to you all from my desk in Cootamundra.

Well, what a year 2025 turned out to be! I speak personally and had hoped that 2026 would be a little quieter. However, with the move the Treasurer and I have planned to Glenhaven Green, the first quarter, at least, will be hectic.

The Club Calendar is looking a little empty with most activities 'on hold' until February.

Susie Bannatyne

Home Fire Safety Visit Program

Earnie Garland from Beecroft Fire Station has shared a valuable community service opportunity. Fire and Rescue NSW offers a free Home Fire Safety Visit program designed to provide expert advice and practical tips to help prevent home fires. These visits include fire safety education and the installation/ servicing of smoke alarms, where needed.

To opt-in for a free Home Fire Safety Visit simply visit the link below:

<https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9316>

This is the same service mentioned by our guest speaker Matt Murphy in February 2025. Marion and I contacted Beecroft Fire Station and they came and replaced all our smoke alarms with much better alarms for free. We highly recommend this service.

Leo and Marion Dent

Wanted

New Year - 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

Cryptarithms

A cryptarithm is a mathematical puzzle where the digits in a sum have been replaced by letters.

In each of the puzzles below, each letter stands for a different digit.

Bearing in mind that none of the numbers below have 0 as a leading digit, can you find a solution to all of these cryptarithms?

1.	$\begin{array}{r} A \\ A \\ + A \\ \hline BA \end{array}$	2.	$\begin{array}{r} BB \\ + A \\ \hline ACC \end{array}$	3.	$\begin{array}{r} AB \\ + A \\ \hline BCC \end{array}$	4.	$\begin{array}{r} AB \\ + A \\ \hline CDC \end{array}$
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For example:

In Q1, we know that 3 times A ends in A so A has to be 0 or 5.

(Check the other numbers A could be so you understand that step).

We can then see that 3 times 0 being 0 is a silly result (why would we add zero 3 times) and it does not help us find B.

Then 3 times 5 gives 15 so A = 5 and B = 1.

Now you have 3 more to play with

Solution on page 10

Anne Prescott

Getting to Know You Q&A

Our Treasurer, Jim Bannatyne, was the recipient of Ross Prestipino's December questions.

Who will be this month's subject? Be at the January 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
Vigil Season 2	Drama	SBS On Demand	6	Susie Bannatyne
When a Royal Air Force prototype combat drone is compromised and kills several soldiers during a joint demonstration in Scotland, Silva's team are tasked with finding the perpetrator.				
Maigret	Drama	iView	6	Susie Bannatyne
Jules Maigret is a rising young detective in the Paris Police Judiciaire who heads La Crim, the serious crime unit. Unlike previous adaptations, the series is set in the				

present day.				
One Shot with Ed Sheeran	Doco	Netflix	1	Janet Hayes
Sheeran takes viewers with him as he spends one afternoon travelling the streets of New York while playing impromptu gigs on sidewalks and the subway, interacting with fans.				
The Equaliser	Drama	Netflix	74	Janet Hayes
Retired intelligence operative Robert McCall reluctantly returns to action to protect a young sex worker from the brutal members of the mafia.				
Portrait Artist of the Year	Reality TV	iView	8	Veronica Wiseman
Talented artists from across Australia compete in a once-in-a-lifetime challenge: capturing iconic celebrities in a race against the clock. Who will be crowned the winner and walk away with a life-changing commission?				

Leo Dent

Guest Speakers

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

February - Jennifer Hubbard – Old Movies – Bill Collins Style

March - Graham Sims – Legend of Tarzan

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

Ross Prestipino

Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up



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

Julia Elborn and Mavis Todd

Men's Coffee Group



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

No January gathering. 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. Balance of tour cost payable by 28th February 2026.

Proposed Trips

- ***Retired Laughing***, a revue-style comedy theatre show at Glen Street Theatre, Frenchs Forst on 17 February 2026. The cost is \$75pp or \$65pp if we can get a group of eight.
- ***Murder Most Foul***, in a suburb yet to be decided, March 2026.
- ***Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers*** and Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Arts Centre tour, 21 September 2026. Limited to 9 rooms, first in best dressed. Details as per information sheet.

Geoff Childs

General Club Notices

Probus Meeting Roster

Month	Hall	Kitchen
January	Russ Riddell	Christine Taylor
	Will Seaton	Florina Vanderwaals
	Mike Macdouall	
February	John Vermeer	Maree Spranger
	Terry Stinson	Lyn Marsden
	Leo Dent	
March	Lawrie Hayes	Maris Wild
	Leo Dent	Veronica Wiseman
	Neville Ward	

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

Mike Macdouall

Welfare Report

An update on Colleen and Eric. They are both now living in the ARV at Castle Hill in assisted living. They arrived on Christmas Eve and our love and best wishes and thoughts are always with them. We send much love and blessings for a happy comfortable new year.

Happy 2026 to all WPH Probus members and let's all have a safe, healthy and peaceful new year.

Kindest regards
Marie Macdouall
0434 819 862

Reports of Ongoing Activities

Mah Jong Monday



Meg is currently in Switzerland waiting for snow to appear!

However, she reports that Barbara Shannon won the dragon, again, and Lynn Horne was second, again!

No play in January – the first session in 2026 will be the 2nd Monday in February.

Editor for Meg Mills

0414 639 654



Mah Jong Thursday

On Thursday 4 December, our last game for the year was won by Gwen Baker with a very high score.

This was followed by our Christmas Lunch. Our thoughts were with Colleen and Eric Woodhead who have never before missed a Mah Jong Christmas lunch.

There will only be one Mah Jong Thursday in January as the first Thursday is New Year's Day. We will start the new year on the 15th.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy New Year.

Judith and Mike Reidy

Second Friday Book Group



Left to right – Rita Watson, Heath Cook, Robyn Dalton, Ann Osborn, Susie Bannatyne, Marjorie Seaton, Anne Prescott, Sandra McGuinness and Fran Kirby behind the camera.

We've enjoyed another very fine year of sharing books, discussions, insights, laughter and friendship - and excellent lunches too. Especially today when we celebrated with a Five Star Christmas lunch together in the fantastic Yuletide surroundings provided by Ann Osborn.

It's been 7 wonderful years so far - here's to more stimulating reading in 2026. 📖 📖 📖

Fran Kirby

2025 Walk Report

By the time you get to read this I am sure you will all have had a great Christmas and a 2026 new year's celebration. I hope that you all have a great 2026 full of walking and discovery of Sydney and its surrounding suburbs.

What did we do in 2025?

February walk/picnic was cancelled due to the weather. We will have another go at this in August or September when the wildflowers are out.

The March walk was cancelled due to the weather again and we did the Enfield to Canterbury walk in April.

May was a walk around the waterfront from the end of Harris Street, Ultimo to the Victoria Hotel in Annandale via the ANZAC bridge and the Rozelle Parklands.

The June outing was across the Harbour Bridge to McMahons Point with a lunch back in the city at the Orient Hotel. Another great day around our Harbour.

July took us on a stroll from Carlingford light rail to Parramatta via the pathway alongside. Lunch was at the Albion Hotel.

August found us travelling to our iconic Balmoral beach for a beachside walk and lunch of fish and chips from the Bottom of the Harbour fish shop.

September was back in the west to explore Parramatta Park and the Wistaria Gardens. Maybe we were a couple of weeks early as the flowers were possibly not at their best.

October was a ferry ride to Wentworth point (Olympic ferry stop) and back to Rydalmere for a lunch at the Family Inn pub. Another perfect weather day.

November found us exploring the inner suburbs of Rozelle and Balmain, great panoramic views of the Birchgrove streets and waterways. Lunch at the Cricketers Arms in Balmain.

2026 will see us exploring other areas and maybe repeating walks that Eric Woodhead took us on in earlier times.

Keep walking and look forward to 2026.

Lawrie Hayes

Solution to Anne's Puzzle

1) $A = 5, B = 1.$

2) $A = 1, B = 9, C = 0.$

3) $A = 9, B = 1, C = 0.$

4) $A = 9, B = 2, C = 1, D = 0.$

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 January 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
5	6 Probus Meeting Lunch at the WPH Sports Club	7 Bridge	8	9
12	13	14	15 Mah Jong	16
19	20	21 Bridge	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

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