

The Newsletter of the Combined Probus Club of West Pennant Hills

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

President's Message



Greetings to you all - my first newsletter message . . . still early days and a lot to learn but I know we are off to a good start.

A few days ago I held an informal meeting with our new Committee members to talk about how we will proceed this year. I see no major changes - our club is functioning well and we are all very positive about our plans for the year. You already know most of our Committee members but I will ask them to stand at our May meeting so they can be

acknowledged for giving their time and interest in keeping our club strong.

One thing that came out of our Committee meeting is that all activity leaders now must keep a list of attendees at any approved activity organised by a group such as meetings, tours, trips and interest groups in order that there is coverage under PSPL National Insurance Programs. This needs to be simply a sheet of paper with names of all attendees – can also be done electronically. These lists apparently need to be kept a minimum of 13 months. If any queries about this come and see me, or the Public Officer Ron Ellis. So if you are asked to write your name down as an attendee at any time, this is the reason why.

The Committee also agreed to appoint an 'Activities Co-ordinator' and Geoff Childs has kindly agreed to act in this role - it's a way to keep track of what's happening with dates re planning of outings, events, etc. I will ask Geoff to talk more about this at our next meeting.

Also, at our meeting in May, I plan to ask members present if there is interest in forming a men's coffee group, so have a think, we can have a hands-up and talk about it. And with that in mind, if you do have an idea and can help get things going, please talk to me or the Committee.

Thanks everyone - looking forward to your support.

Janet Hayes

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.

Editorial

Hello and welcome to my first Newsletter. I'd like to thank Paul Brady for being so helpful with the handover.

I'm working with the Committee to improve the content and several innovations will be rolled out over the next few months. The layout will be a work in progress.

Do please send me ideas and suggestions as I want everyone to look forward to reading *Pen West News and Views*. In particular, as a very green editor, I would like to have feedback on errors and omissions!

Of special interest this month is the "Bowling Along No More" farewell tale by Carol and Bob Dunning – see page 8.

Susie Bannatyne

0413 897 016

Regular Activities for May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5	6 Probus Meeting	7 Bridge	1 Mah Jong 8	2 Lawn Bowls 9 Book Club
12 Mah Jong	13 Walk	14	15 Mah Jong	16 Lawn Bowls
19	20	21 Bridge	22	23
26 Mah Jong	27	28	29	30

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

Forthcoming New Activity

Garden Club- Ros Ward

Garden Club day trip to Mt Tomah by bus on Thursday May 8th

We will make our way to Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens via Richmond for morning tea

(at your own expense) at One Mile Kitchen Cafe within The Secret Garden Nursery on WSU Campus at Richmond.

We plan to be at Mt Tomah by 11am for an hour and a half where we can wander and explore the gardens.

BYO picnic lunch or at one of the many cafes in Leura.

We should be back at the Community Centre by 3.30pm.

Ros Ward - gandrward@bigpond.com, phone 9651 2002 or 0407 891 117

Trips and Outings Co-ordinator - Geoff Childs

Trips and Outings Report May 2025

- Our next trip is the Outback Qld tour which will commence 1st June and finish 8th June 2025.

I have spoken to Aurora Tours and the recent rainfall in western Qld, whilst being catastrophic to local landowners, will provide our tour group with a once in a lifetime experience, observing the outback in its glory.

- Bob Crabb has arranged a visit to Hawkesbury races on 27th May 2025 – see details below.
- A visit to the Parramatta Town Hall and the Parramatta Phive building is being arranged for 23rd May 2025.

The itinerary for the day includes a tour of the Town Hall between 11am and 12pm and the Phive building tour between 2pm and 3pm. There are many good quality eateries in Parramatta Square, therefore we can enjoy lunch between the tours.

For those interested would you place your names on the sheet provided.

Geoff Childs

Outing to Hawkesbury Race Day – Bob and Pam Crabb

Date: Tuesday 27th May 2025

Meet at: Those members attending this event, please meet at 11am at: Hawkesbury Race Club Main Entrance,
1 Racecourse Road, Clarendon, 2756.

Pam and Bob Crabb

0408189340

Probus Meeting Guest Speakers - Ross Prestipino

May: Sue Butler - Aussie Slang.

June: Daniel Hart - War and the Art of Propaganda

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

May Walk - Lawrie Hayes

John Street Square to Victoria Hotel, Annandale

Please note

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Date: Tuesday 13th May 2025

Distance: About 5.2 km

Walking Time: Approximately 2 hours

Grading: Moderate to easy

Time: 10:00am at John Street Light rail stop in Harris Street. I will be catching the 9:06am train from Beecroft.

Travel Options: Train to central then light rail to John Street Square.

Lunch: Victoria Hotel (corner of Young and Collins Streets, Annandale).
<https://thevictoriahotel.net.au/bistro/>

Once we have arrived at the John Street Square station make your way up into Wattle Street. From here we walk down towards the water for a coffee stop. After coffee, walk towards the ANZAC Bridge and into Bank Street. Turn left into Quarry Master Drive and up the spiral ramp to the bridge deck. **This is the steepest part**

of the walk. From here we stroll across the bridge and into the new Rozelle Parklands. Walk around the park and turn right into the children's play area before the bridge over the city west link. Follow the walkway until you pass the water ponds and cross over the City West link towards Annandale. Walk down the spiral and into the bush walkway over the road below. This is Whites Creek Walk. Cross over Piper Street and under the viaduct the other side. Continue to Booth Street and turn left, then right into Young Street to the Pub on the corner of Collins Street for lunch. After lunch we catch the 470 bus in Booth Street to Martin Place Metro and home.

Lawrie Hayes

General Club Notices

Membership - Fran Kirby

Introducing myself as the new Membership Officer, taking over from the wonderful Ann Osborn. Contact me via email:

membershipprobuswph@gmail.com or 0414 239 036.

Fran Kirby

Probus Meeting Roster - Mike Macdouall

Month	Hall	Kitchen
May	David Taylor	Marilyn Taylor
	Bob Dickerson	Margaret Hamaty
	John Vermeer	
June	Bob Crabb	Vivienne Truelove
	John Vermeer	Meg Mills
	Ross Prestipino	
July	Mike Macdouall	Marjorie Seaton
	Will Seaton	Vivi-anne Logan
	Russ Riddell	

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

Regards, Mike Macdouall

Welfare Report - Marie Macdouall

To date I have not been made aware of anyone unwell this month. I do hope everybody is ok and enjoying the beautiful autumn weather we're having this year. Remember, please call me if you hear of somebody who is in hospital or not well. Take care, stay safe and keep smiling.

Regards,

Marie Macdouall

0434819862

Reports of Ongoing Activity

Knitting – Mavis Todd

Conveying our Best Wishes to President Janet and her Board members - may you have a very successful and happy year of Probus 2025/26.

Our group of enthusiastic knitters now begin their efforts supporting various organisations in need. These include Ronald McDonald House requiring beanies for winter and very small hats for preemie babies. Last Wednesday, 16th April, a small group of us had a coffee morning and chat.

Next month on Wednesday, 14th May, at 10.30am we will have a knitting morning tea at my home, 10 Maranatha Close, West Pennant Hills. Please bring a small plate if you wish. New knitters are very welcome. Please call 0427 66 8964 to accept my invitation.

I look forward to seeing you at our next monthly club meeting on May 6th.

Blessings to all, fondly,

Mavis Todd

Mah Jong Monday - Meg Mills

Attendance was down for our first session. Those who made it through the rain had a good afternoon of play.

Barbara S had an amazing score and easily won on the day.

Our second session was played over 3 tables of 4 players.

Sandra McG. was overall winner closely followed by Maris.

Sandra S came up from the ranks of "learner" to be a very close second to our drago- holder Barbara, not an easy task!

New players interested to learn, give me a call, we can teach you.

Meg Mills

0414 639 654.

Second Friday Book Club - Fran Kirby

Richard Glover's *The Land Before Avocado* provided lots of reflection, reminiscing, "Oh gosh, I'd forgotten" and "so glad it's changed" moments, sobering reminders and lots of laughter.

Glover writes well and using both anecdotes, statistics, Trove and *The Australian Women's Weekly* as an integral part of his research material, delves deep into the question of whether times were safer and better back then, as often asserted, and came up with a resounding "No".

Before the prevalence of avocado in our regular diet, we were a nation of mainly white European immigrants with laws against homosexuality, women requiring a male guarantor to have a bank loan or a passport, as well as those working in public service having to resign when they married, no seat belts in cars and no laws against drink driving. We sunbathed without sunscreen, ate food now unimaginable, getting a phone line installed at home was next to impossible, sewerage in new suburbs was uncommon, outdoor dining was not allowed, real coffee was unobtainable, corruption was more common than it is today and the crime rate for all types of crime (robbery, murder, car theft) was much worse than today. But anyone different in any way had a very difficult time, children were free range, but no-one took their side. No gig economy, none of the benefits of social media and the internet, or the ghastliness. Houses were cheaper. But we can expect to live twelve years longer now!

We all relished the dive into our earlier years, found it informative, sobering, surprising and very funny too. Recommended.

Fran Kirby

April Walk – Lawrie Hayes



Just ten of us enjoyed a walk along the banks of the Cooks River to the Canterbury and Hurlston Park RSL Club. It was interesting to hear the reminiscences of Sandra Sun and Neville Ward about their early days living and schooling in the area. It is a pleasure to take people on walks that give some of you a sense of history personally and generally.

Lawrie Hayes

Bowling Along No More - Carol and Bob Dunning



It is with much regret that we have had to “call it a day” on our Lawn Bowling mornings. We just cannot seem to get enough new bowlers and some of our usual players are tending to feel the effects of old age and cannot play regularly. We have arranged for any of our bowlers who still wish to play, to join in with another local Probus Club on their bowling days. This group plays at Castle Hill B.C. on the second and fourth Fridays. Please let us know if you wish to join, and we will send you the details.

We formed the bowling group as soon as our Probus Club started 22 years ago. We have enjoyed a wonderful time and made many new friends while playing. We also arranged for all the local Probus Clubs in The Hills District to get together three times a year to compete in Carnivals. These were very successful days.

For many years, we used to get a large group of bowlers and go away for a few days. Country areas within a 2-3 hour drive of West Pennant Hills were chosen as venues. We played two games of bowls against the local Probus Clubs and sometimes even the local bowling club.. We stayed in nearby motels or clubs and often took advantage of the bowling club buses to get us around.

The dinners we had at night time were always filled with speeches, jokes and personal stories. It was a wonderful memorable time which held true to the Fun, Friendship and Fellowship within the Probus family.

We shall miss our friendly games on Friday mornings but will not forget the wonderful times we have had over the last 22 years.

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	Bob 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 Club	Marion Dent	
Bridge Group	Andrew Clarke	
Foyer Books	Wal Dover	
Foyer Spectacles	Ian Western	
Stamps	Lyn Hope	

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Garden Group	Ros Ward	
Hall and Kitchen Roster	Mike Macdouall	
Kitchen, Morning Tea	Suzanne Lord Patricia Smith	
Knitting Group	Mavis Todd	
Mah Jong - Monday	Meg Mills	
Mah Jong - Thursday	Judith & Mike Reidy	
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 Club	Varies	Varies but generally on fourth Thursday
Book Exchange	WPH Community Centre	9.30 before Probus Meeting
Bridge Group	Dural Country Club	13.30pm first and third Wednesday
Garden Group	Varies	Varies but generally on the second Thursday
Knitting Group	Sunnyside Cafe, WPH	Varies according to need
Mah Jong -Monday	Dural Country Club	13.15pm second and fourth Monday
Mah Jong- Thursday	Reidy home	10.15am first and third Thursdays
Spectacles Exchange and Stamp Donation	WPH Community Centre	9.30am before Probus Meeting

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Walk	varies	Second Tuesday most months
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Appendix B

Payment Details - Jim Bannatyne

Members and those on the waiting list have three payment methods for membership 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 (e.g. 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 (next page) to The Treasurer

14 Veronica Place

Cherrybrook, NSW 2126

Jim Bannatyne 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	