



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



Earlier this week Lawrie and I, with a couple of friends, travelled into the city and had coffee at busy Circular Quay while watching crowds and crowds of people pass by. We walked past the Opera house and into the Botanic Gardens and spent a couple of hours strolling through beautiful gardens, Australian natives and exotics from around the world. It was busy here too but, despite the crowds, the pace was gentle, no one was in a hurry, everyone seemed to be relaxed and enjoying the day.

How lucky are we here in Sydney, Australia, to be able to spend a day this way.

By the time you read this message our Probus Australia Day celebration may be over but I must thank the many members involved in organising this day. Lawrie and many helpers have put a great deal of time into making the day a success.

All regular activities such as Bridge, Mah Jong, Book Group, Walking Group, coffee days will be starting up again so look for further information later in this newsletter.

Looking forward to 2026 . . .

Janet Hayes

Editor's Notes

It's good to see the Club's activities getting back to normal this month after the December/January hiatus.

Outings and Trips Away on page 5 promise fun times ahead.

Lawrie's walk (page 6 and map on page 7) is rated "Easy" with the caveat of "73 steps".

Susie Bannatyne

Important Notice from the Treasurer

I sometimes make several trips to the bank each month, often with only one item to deposit. In future, I'd therefore appreciate it if those of you not wishing to use EFT would, unless handing it to me at a monthly meeting, deposit your cash or cheque into the Club's bank account directly and email me the details.

Jim Bannatyne

Treasurer

New Activities

Anne's Puzzle

You planted sunflower seeds in your back garden. Every day, the number of flowers doubles. If it takes 52 days for the flowers to fill the garden, how many days would it take for them to fill half the garden?

Solution on page 9

Anne Prescott

Getting to Know You Q&A

Who will be Ross Prestipino's subject this month? Be at the February meeting to find out.

Editor

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
The Brokenwood Mysteries	Drama	Netflix	24	Susie Banatyne
This great programme is best described as Midsomer Murders in New Zealand, without the roses! Good scripts, interesting characters and great acting.				
Choral	Drama	Movie	1	Leo Dent
A choral society's male members enlist in World War I, leaving the demanding Dr. Guthrie to recruit teenagers. Together, they experience the joy of singing while the young boys grapple with their impending conscription into the army.				
Dr Karl's How things work	Doco	iView	8	Janet Hayes
Dr Karl visits eight new factories to find out how some of Australia's best-known products are made. With an access all areas pass to see how everyday items like books, guitars and chips are made, he'll discover the secrets of modern manufacturing.				
Portrait Artist of the Year	Reality TV	iView		Barbara Burgess
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

February - Jennifer Hubbard – Old Movies – Bill Collins Style

March - Graham Sims – Legend of Tarzan

April - Changeover meeting so no speaker

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

Ross Prestipino

Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up



The next gathering will be on Wednesday 18 February at 10am, Wills Cafe, ARV, Castle Hill. Please advise Julia or me if you would like to attend.

Best wishes.

Julia Elborn and Mavis Todd

Men's Coffee Group



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

When: Friday 27 February at 10am

Where: Wills Café at the ARV

Don't forget about your chance to solve any number of the local and international problems by joining us over a cup of coffee and maybe a tasty cake or two.

Please email me lawriehayes@bigpond.com so I can confirm reservation numbers.

Lawrie Hayes

Outings and Trips Away

Upcoming Trips

Proud Mary Tour in May 2026. Balance of tour cost payable by 28 February 2026.

Proposed Trips

Retired Laughing, a revue-style comedy theatre show at Glen Street Theatre, Frenchs Forest on 17 February 2026. The cost is \$75pp or \$65pp if we can get a group of eight. 12 confirmed to date. Details as per information sheet.

Murder Most Foul, Darlinghurst Historical Walking Tour

Tuesday 24 March 2026

Meet at Central at 9.30

Tour commences at 10am

Cost \$40pp

Lunch at Kinselas Hotel optional

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. Bookings have closed but we can include latecomers if there are any. Details as per information sheet.

Geoff Childs

Hawkesbury Race Day

Thursday 21 May 2026. The package for the day includes admission to course, reserved seating in the Clarendon Brassiere (2 course lunch with tea or coffee), Race Book, reserved seating in the Grandstand and car parking. Cost \$68 per person. Add your name to the interest sheet at the February meeting.

Bob Crabb

0408 189 340

February Walk

Rozelle to Drummoyne Sailing Club via Callan Park

Date: Tuesday 10 February 2026

Distance: About 4.3km

Walking Time: Approximately 1.5 hours

Grading: Easy. Street and park walking with some stairs and ramps

Time: I will be catching the 09:04 train from Beecroft

Travel Options: Change at Epping to join the Metro and get off at the rear of Gadigal Station. We then catch the 500X or 505, or 504, from stand K in front of the Criterion Hotel in Park Street.

The walk:

Get off the bus just before Darling Street and turn left into Darling Street from Victoria Road.

Coffee will be at a place to be advised along Darling Street.

After coffee we will walk to the entrance to the park precinct and make our way down to the water's edge via the original beautiful sandstone buildings and the glass conservatory looking over the Iron Cove. From here walk down to the athletic park below and under the bridge and on to the Defunct Balmain Power Station pump house. This is very interesting.

After we have looked at the building, retrace your steps and walk up to the bridge deck via approx. 73 steps. Cross the bridge towards Drummoyne and walk down to the water's edge and around the Birkenhead shops to the Sailing Club for lunch.

After lunch walk back to Victoria Road and catch a bus 500X bus to the city or West Ryde Station.

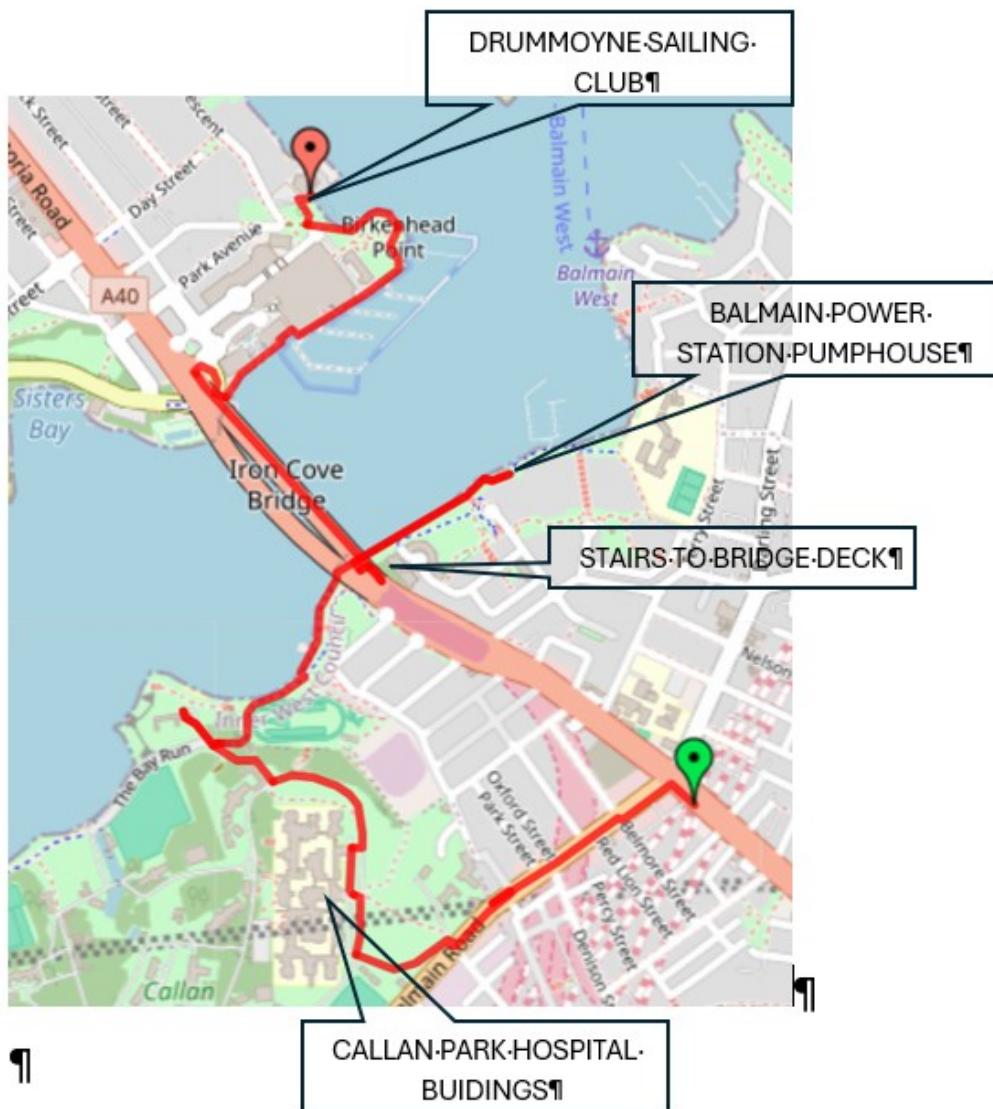
Some interesting information:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Callan_Park_Hospital_for_the_Insane

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balmain_Power_Station

Hope you enjoy the walk.

Lawrie Hayes



General Club Notices

Probus Meeting Roster

Month	Hall	Kitchen
February	John Vermeer	Maree Sprainger
	Terry Stinson	Lyn Marsden
	Leo Dent	
March	Lawrie Hayes	Maris Wild
	Leo Dent	Veronica Wiseman
	Neville Ward	
April	David Taylor	Sandra Smith
	Bob Crabb	Meg Mills
	Bob Dickerson	

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

Mike Macdouall

Welfare Report

I've spoken to Colleen Woodhead and she sounds her beautiful, cheerful self. It's so lovely to hear her so positive and settling into their new surroundings. Our thoughts and prayers are with you both and Happy Australia Day. We will miss you at the gathering on 26 January.

Please let me know if you hear of anyone unwell.

Only one month left in summer and then autumn is upon us, my favourite time of the year. Keep safe, stay well and enjoy every day with a smile and a hug for someone you love.

Kindest regards

Marie Macdouall
0434 819 862

Reports of Ongoing Activities

Mah Jong Monday



There were no games played in January.

Editor for Meg Mills
0414 639 654



Mah Jong Thursday

The first Mah Jong meeting for the year was down in numbers but some good hands were played.

The winner of the day was Ann with the runner up being Russ Riddell.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on 5 February.

Judith & Mike Reidy

Solution to Anne's Puzzle

It would take 51 days. If the number of flowers doubles every day, half the garden would be full the day before, on the 51st day.

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 February 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3 Probus Meeting Lunch at the Pennant Hills Pub	4 Bridge	5 Mah Jong	6
9 Mah Jong	10 Walk	11	12	13 Second Friday Book Group
16	17 Retired Laughing	18 Bridge Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up	19 Mah Jong	20
23 Mah Jong	24	25	26	27 Men's Coffee Group

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