



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



I always seem to be making some comment about the weather in my opening paragraph for this newsletter. My computer desk faces two big windows and my view includes a large red flowering camellia directly outside. There's a dense green background which includes a very tall, over-the-roof, paperbark and a 'coming awake after winter' very old oak tree – its bright green, new season leaves have popped out quickly with this warmer weather. We think this oak tree is close to 100 years old. It's a nice place to sit and contemplate.

Those of us who attended the Soiree at Lober House on Wednesday 17 September had a very enjoyable evening. Our thanks go to Patricia Ellison, Margy Goddard, Roz Ward and their helpers for making the evening such a success. It's very nice sometimes to dress up just a little and take time to enjoy our surroundings and relaxed time with friends.

The ladies' coffee morning is off to a great start – the third Wednesday of the month – thank you to Mavis Todd and Julia Elborn. An attendance sheet will be on the table at our October meeting.

Looks like October will be a busy month – an outing to Old Government House organised by Marion, a visit to Red Cow Farm Gardens by Ros, Murder Most Foul by Geoff, Lawrie's walk, coffee days, plus all the regular activities Mah Jong, Bridge etc. Check out the activity table for more information.

Keep well everyone.

Janet Hayes

Editor's Notes

The Soiree, organised by Patricia Ellison, was a standout function. There are comments on the evening elsewhere but I just want to say that what surprised me was the amount of vintage on show. No, not the participants! Favoured pieces of clothing were dusted off and worn with pizzazz. I was happy to wear a treasured necklace gifted to me by a dear great aunt. I have to say that the men too looked wonderful.

Thank you everyone who contributed comments about our first visit to *The Vicar*. The standout feature was obviously the car park! (A good tip from Denise Wheeler about exiting onto busy New Line Road is to turn left and go around the roundabout.) Naturally, there were mixed feelings but overall the comments were positive. The Committee

decided that it is worth a second visit so that is our venue for our October lunch. I will try to organise less cramped seating.

Please keep general suggestions coming and do think about writing a few words to send me about your experiences of events which I can include in the Newsletter. Thank you Denise Wheeler for your piece on the Ladies' Coffee and Catch-up.

Your Activity Leaders have been super busy with a wide range of events to take part in over the coming months. So much to enjoy in this wonderful Club.

Susie Bannatyne
0413 897 016

Special Event



**Soiree at Lober House, ARV Castle Hill
on 17 September 2025**

Pictured left to right, Margaret Goddard, Patricia Ellison, Ros Ward.

We had 42 people attend with everyone dressed to the nines, which we all love to do.

The guests were delighted with venue, food, wine and company. All mingled throughout the evening enjoying each other's company.

Margaret and Ros, as usual, were wonderful as were other helpers.

The good news came with people wanting to know when we are having the next one!

Regards
Patricia Ellison

New Activities



\$2.50 Group



Outing to the Fashionable Silhouettes Exhibition at Old Government House Parramatta

Explore fashionable silhouettes from the National Trust NSW collection, from a 1740s yellow silk gown, through the bustle era and leg-of-mutton sleeves to the mini dresses of the 1960s. This exhibition celebrates statement sleeves, striking skirts, and the undergarments that helped to create them.

When: Thursday October 30th.

Meet: At Carlingford Light Rail Stop cnr Thallon and James Streets.

Time: In time to catch the 10.17am Light Rail to the Church Street stop or make your own way to Old Government House another way and meet us at the ticket office by **11.30am**. There is a 10 minute walk to Old Government House from the Light Rail stop in Church St.

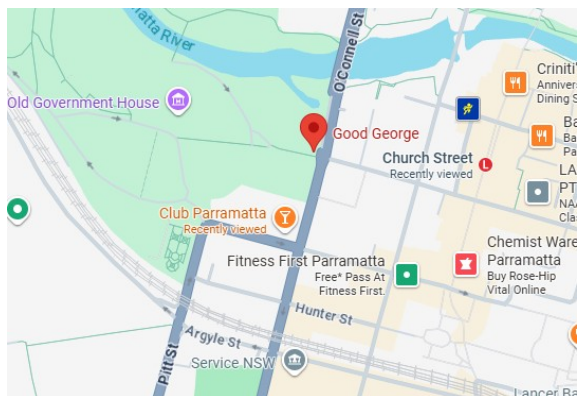
The exhibition is on the first floor which is accessed by stairs only.

We will have a quick coffee at Good George coffee shop around 10.45am, at the Gatehouse entrance to Parramatta Park.

Cost: \$12 each for the exhibition, a free guided tour is included or you can wander at your own pace through the exhibition. Please pay the Treasurer: The Combined Probus Club of WPH, BSB 112 879 , Account No. 478 850 160. Please be aware the National Trust does not give refunds for a no show.

Lunch: We will have lunch at Club Parramatta after the exhibition. Note, unlimited parking is free if you have your parking ticket validated in the Club.

Return by Light Rail from Church Street stop to Carlingford Station.



Enquiries to Marion Dent on 0416 280 261 or dentmar99@gmail.com

Christmas Dinner

Save the date – Wednesday 26 November 2025

Patricia Ellison will give full details of the event at our October meeting.

Garden Group

Red Cow Farm Gardens in Sutton Forest



Date: Thursday October 9th

Destination: A day trip to Red Cow Farm Garden, a beautiful garden in Sutton Forest, by bus. <https://redcowfarm.com.au/>

Time: Departing the WPH Community Centre 8.45am. The trip is nearly 2 hours down and back. We hope to have a short stop for coffee/ bathroom on the way.

Cost: \$20 each for the bus, to be paid before the October meeting to confirm your spot to:

The Treasurer by EFT, The Combined Probus Club of WPH, BSB:112 879, Account No. 478 850 160, or cash at the October Meeting.

\$15 entry into the Garden when we arrive. The garden has EFTPOS facilities.

Lunch: The Exeter General Store a short drive away.
<https://www.meandu.app/egs/dine-in/breakfast-and-all-day>
<https://www.meandu.app/egs/dine-in/lunch-only>

Enquiries: Ros Ward gandrward@bigpond.com or 0407 891117

Getting to Know You Q&A

Don't miss this month's session of Ross Prestipino's Q&A with an as-yet-unknown Club Member.

At the September meeting Leo Dent was the subject. I asked Leo which were the easiest and hardest questions to answer. The easiest was a movie choice – Amadeus: the hardest (after some soul-searching) gaining his AMusA in piano.

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
Code of Silence	Drama	SBS	6	Susie Banatyne
A deaf police canteen worker with vital lip-reading abilities is pulled into an elaborate and dangerous investigation in this gripping series.				
Little Fires Everywhere	Drama	SBS	8	Susie Banatyne
The flawless Richardson family invites a mother and daughter into their lives unaware of the consequences. Reese Witherspoon, Kerry Washington and supporting cast all shine.				
CUFFS	Drama	* TUBI	8	Leo Dent
A fresh, authentic and visceral drama that takes the audience on an exhilarating ride through the challenges of front-line policing in Brighton, Sussex, England.				
Apple Cider Vinegar	Drama	Netflix	6	Janet Hayes
Belle Gibson knowingly fools the world with a wellness recipe app and book when she fakes a cancer diagnosis.				
Boy Swallows Universe	Drama	Netflix	7	Janet Hayes
A working class teen and his young brother enter 1980's Brisbane's underworld to save their mother from danger.				

***Tubi** is a free, ad-supported streaming service that offers a wide variety of movies and TV shows. It's owned by Fox Corporation and available in several countries including the U.S., Canada, Australia, and parts of Latin America.
Here's what makes Tubi stand out:

What You Can Watch

- Thousands of titles across genres: action, comedy, drama, horror, documentaries, kids' content, and more;
- No subscription fees - you don't need to pay or even create an account to start watching;
- Includes classic films, cult favorites, and some newer releases;

- Offers Tubi Originals, which are exclusive movies and series produced for the platform.

Cheers, Leo Dent

Guest Speakers

October - Max Hitchins - 5 Most Important Words in the World

November - None – Melbourne Cup Day

December - Arthur Pearce - A Short History of Sydney Ferries

January - Paul Kearney - Early 60s Rock and Ross Hstory

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

Ross Prestipino

Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up



Wednesday 15 October 2025 at 10am in Wills Cafe, ARV, Castle Hill.

All knitting enquiries please to Maris Wild on 0412 170 756.

Apologies to Julia Elborn 0409 461 997 or Mavis Todd 0427 668 964

Maths Puzzle

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+++++
-      Wilhelm had a bag that contained at least 50 marbles.      x
-
-      When Xavier took out groups of 5 marbles from the bag, there were      x
-      4 marbles left.      x
-
-      When Yvonne took out groups of 4 marbles from the bag, there were      x
-      2 marbles left.      x
-
-      What is the smallest number of marbles that could have been in the bag?  x
+++++

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Anne Prescott

Answer on page 14

Men's Coffee Group



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

WHEN: Last Friday of the month – 31 October at 10am

WHERE: Will's Café at the ARV

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

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

Lawrie Hayes

Outings and Trips Away

Hi All, I'm writing my report from Victoria Falls Zimbabwe.

Future trips away and day trips include the following

1. **Murder Most Foul** 21 October 2025.
Final numbers at the October meeting please.
2. **Zig Zag Railway** visit 7 November 2025.
25 members participating. 2 tickets have become available should anyone else like to join us.
4. **Proud Mary Trip 24 May 2026.** Updated information will be provided at the next meeting.

Geoff Childs

October Walk

Olympic Ferry Wharf To Rydalmere Wharf

Date: Tuesday 14 October 2025.

Distance: About 5km.

Walking Time: Approximately 1.5 hours.

Grading: Easy. Level walkways along the edge of the Parramatta River.

Time: Drive yourself to Rydalmere Wharf for the 09:58 ferry. I suggest that you be at the ferry wharf by 09:45 ready to board.

Travel Options: Car to Rydalmere ferry wharf, then ferry to Olympic ferry stop.

Map: Please see Appendix C.

The Walk:

Disembark the ferry at the Sydney Olympic Park Wharf and walk through the arcade for a coffee stop.

After coffee we will walk to Hill Road and turn left. There are a number of pedestrian restrictions at this stage. Keep walking until you see the track on the right under the high voltage power lines. Follow the track until you reach the sign to Parramatta and the river. Turn right and then walk along the river's edge past the Newington Ammunition area and cross the river via the Silverwater Bridge. After crossing the river, rejoin the pathway to Rydalmere Wharf.

Lunch at The Family Inn Hotel on the corner of Victoria Road and Park Road. There are several attractive lunch special available for just \$15.

Enjoy the walk. Lawrie Hayes

General Club Notices

Probus Meeting Roster

Month	Hall	Kitchen
October	Mike Macdouall	Patricia Jackson
	Murray Bensley	Julia Elborn
	Andrew Clarke	
November	David Taylor	Sandra Sun
	Bob Dickerson	Florina Vanderwaal
	James Wu	
December	Bob Crabb	Maureen Farago
	Mike Macdouall	TBA
	Ross Prestipino	

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

Regards

Mike Macdouall

Welfare Report

Colleen Woodhead is recovering in hospital after a recent procedure. We send our love and best wishes to her and hope she's feeling stronger very soon. A card was posted to Colleen with our thoughts.

Please let me know if you hear of anyone unwell or in hospital.

Enjoy the beautiful spring weather we're having and the gorgeous colours out in gardens now. Travel safe and cheers!

Marie Macdouall

0434 819 862

Reports of Ongoing Activities

Ladies' Coffee and Catch-up

The success of the LC&CU continues as depicted in the following reports. (*Editor*)

On a sunny spring day a group of over 20 ladies got together for our 2nd morning tea.

Such pleasant surroundings in which to chat and catch up with friends and those we don't see for long enough at our monthly meetings. Discussions vary from travel, health, knitting, families and Air Fryers!! Very relaxed and low key.

The service from the ladies at Wills café is excellent, the drinks and 'goodies' a nice selection and enjoyed by all.

Thank you, Mavis and Julia, for organising this event, most enjoyable.

Denise Wheeler

I too particularly like the fact that I get the opportunity to chat and get to know ladies who don't attend the other activities I take part in.

Susie Bannatyne

Thank you to the ladies who attended our Coffee and Catch-up at Wills Cafe on Wednesday the 17 September.

So good to see some of our Knitting Group ladies also enjoying the company. Happy to welcome Ann Turner who brought along her recently finished rug and bear to match. Ann is our most consistent knitter - always a new rug on the go.

Julia and I were very happy with the venue and staff and have booked Wills Cafe again for the next event on Wednesday 15 October at 10am (always the third Wednesday in the month).

Please be sure to add your name and phone number to the list which will be available on the table at the October meeting.

Enjoy this wonderful spring and the beauty all around us. Ask how we can help others and make this a brighter and happier world.

Blessings

Mavis Todd and Julia Elborn

Mah Jong Monday



First session we had 9 players. Ros Ward was the winner on the day, followed by Rita Watson then Maris Wild.

Second session, another good afternoon with 11 players. Lyn Horne excelled as winner with 30,500 points. Well done, Lyn. Rita Watson was second again closely followed by Barbara Shannon.

We play twice a month at the Dural Club on Monday afternoons. New players are always welcome.

Meg Mills

0414 639 654



Mah Jong Thursday

The first Thursday Mah Jong had some very good scores with the winner of the day being Russ Riddell and runner-up Julia Elborn.

The winner on the second Thursday was Gwen Baker, who looked like she was going to keep East Wind for the entire game. Well played Gwen.

We look forward to seeing everyone on 2nd October.

Judith & Mike Reidy

Second Friday Book Group



The Glass Maker

by

Tracy Chevalier

Another case of a book not much enjoyed (or actively disliked or not finished) nevertheless providing lots of really enjoyable discussion.

Set on the glass-making island of Murano, off Venice, it follows a glass-making family across several centuries, including plague and Napoleon's occupation, from 1486.

Women were not meant to work with glass, but Orsola Rosso flouts convention to save her family's business from ruin by making the intricate, patterned millefiori beads used for necklaces, then the tiny seed beads used for costume decoration. She's not allowed to make the glass creations like figures, chandeliers, glasses and platters, as this is an exclusively male domain. Orsola, works in secret, negotiating directly with the agent to sell the beads she creates, which will go on to adorn the necks of empresses and courtesans from Paris to Vienna.

The author takes the same family members and puts them in different centuries, which we found to be artificial. And while the initial descriptions of the many glass-making techniques were interesting, we felt the author didn't manage to animate the characters so we could care about their travails. Unlike Chevalier's previous book, *The Girl With The Pearl Earring*, this felt plodding and repetitive.

It was weighed down further by many unnecessary and unexplained (either directly or by context) Italian and Venetian words, references and phrases which slowed down the narrative.

But it stimulated several members' memories of their visits to Venice and Murano, and one brought pieces of glass she treasured and had watched being made.

Fran Kirby

September Walk

Parramatta Park and Wistaria Gardens on Tuesday 9 September 2025



All the happy walkers!

We started and finished with 15 walkers on what proved to be pleasant day for a stroll though the park to the gardens of Glengarriff House (Wistaria Gardens). Maybe we were a week or so early to see the Wisteria in full bloom, but the flower beds and the early blooms on the vines gave us a glimpse of what they should look like. As usual we preloaded with caffeine at Club Parramatta and finished there for a lunch that had a distinct Asian flavour.

Glengarriff House



Glengarriff House was the official residence of the medical superintendent of the asylum from 1907 until 1963. It was then converted and used as a ward for the treatment of drug and alcohol addiction (Wistaria House) for 30 years.

Glengarriff House was designed by Government Architect Walter Liberty Vernon in the 'Arts and Crafts' Federation style.

History of Wistaria Gardens

Situated on the upper reaches of the Parramatta River, Wistaria Gardens and Glengariff House are on the land of the Burramatta clan of the Darug people.

Wistaria Gardens was built in 1906 as the residence for the medical superintendent of the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum, Dr William Cotter Williamson. Dr Williamson brought the original wisteria cuttings to Australia from Japan in 1907. He was in Japan to chaperone his 2 daughters, Nightingale and Nora. Both daughters were accomplished musicians and were there on a tour. Nora was regarded as one of Australia's greatest violinists in the early 20th century.

Keep on walking, and check the venue for our next walk in the Newsletter.

See you next time.

Lawrie Hayes

Answer to Maths Puzzle

Strategy. Consider the limitations before making a list.

The number has to be more than 50.

Statement 1: Xavier took out a multiple of 5. 50 is a multiple of 5.

Possible numbers are 54, 59, 64, 69, ...

Statement 2: Yvonne took out a multiple of 4. 48 is a multiple of 4.

Possible numbers are 50, 54, 58, 62, ...

The smallest number of marbles in the bag is 54.

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:

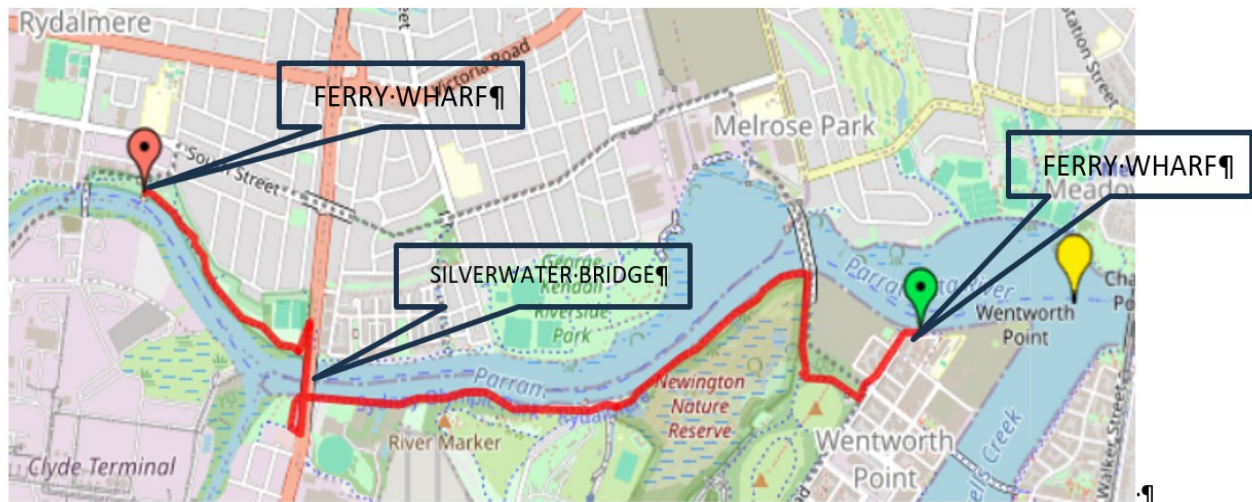
- 1) Electronic Funds Transfer to
The Combined Probus Club of WPH - BSB 112-879
Account Number 478 850 160
Please remember to put your name and description (eg Membership) on the EFT;
- 2) paying at the meeting by cash or cheque. Please fill in the Registration and Receipts Form before coming to the 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 C – October Walk Map



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.

Appendix D – Calendar of Activities for October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Bridge	2 Mah Jong	3
6	7 Probus Meeting Lunch at The Vicar	8	9 Garden Group Outing	10 2 nd Friday Book Group
13 Mah Jong	14 Walk	15 Bridge Ladies' Coffee & Catch-up	16 Mah Jong	17
20	21 Murder Most Foul	22	23	24
27 Mah Jong	28	29	30 \$2.50 Group Outing	31 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.