



The Probus Club of Nepean, Inc.

Club No 56925

<https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/nepean>

PO Box 231, Emu Plains NSW 2750. Email nepeanpro@gmail.com

President

Nancy McLeod
0468 867 706

Hon. Secretary

Faye Campbell
0417 267 866

Hon. Treasurer

Barry Syme
0417 241 295

MINUTES OF CLUB MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2025

At Leonay Golf Club, 1 Leonay Parade, Leonay – in the meeting room

1. **WELCOME/OPEN:** The meeting was opened at 10:35am by President, Nancy McLeod. Put mobile phones to silent.
2. **VISITORS:** Leanne Chie, Vivienne Ross, Stephen Larner, Noelene Brendel (carer).
3. **THANK YOU FROM LIONS CLUB.** Cheryl Devine said thank you for our support. The profit from the sale of Christmas cakes and puddings allows Lions Club to buy extra cakes to give to Salvos and Westcare.
4. **APPRECIATION CERTIFICATE.** Awarded to Rose & Ray Shackley "Caring Couple". It was for October Probus Month but Rose & Ray weren't at the October meeting. Each was also given a Probus Notebook and lolly bag.
5. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** Summary of the previous Minutes 1/10/2025 were read by Faye Campbell. Copy of the full version was available at the meeting and on the website.
6. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** Confirmed by Helen Marsh and seconded by Pam Borsey.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE – Faye Campbell – Summary/outline of relevant correspondence October 2025.**
 - 7.1. Sent (& reply if any)
 - Our monthly newsletter was emailed. If no email, given out or posted. Newsletters are on our website.
 - Submitted to Fair Trading Form A6 with New Constitution & Standing Resolutions. Paid \$63. Received confirmation letter from Registry Lodgements.
 - Order for Lions Christmas Cakes & Puddings emailed to Cheryl Devine, Emu Plains Lions Club.
 - Email sent to all advising availability for one person for Griffith trip at a discounted price (no replies).
 - Griffith group photo emailed to those who went on the trip.
 - Reminder sent to those who ordered Lions Christmas cakes & puddings. Collect and pay Lions on 5/11/25.
 - 7.2. Received
 - From Kristy Lee, singer, entertainer, and vocal impersonator. Has performed at retirement villages and function centres. We also had a note in our suggestion box from Joan Okey saying how good Kristy Lee is. We will have to look at the cost for her to come to us
 - Reminder email from the Acting Factory comedy show "It's not good to bottle things up" at the Henry Werrington from 7/11/25.
 - Received a list of speakers compiled by Silverdale Probud (to be used by our cluster).
 - From PSPL: Active Retirees E-Newsletters with articles, advertising, and club news. Advert for "Holiday Inn" at Riverside Theatres Parramatta 3/12/25-21/12/25.

Correspondence – Moved to accept: Lyn Walker. **Seconded** by Joan Hoggan.
8. **REPORTS**
 - 8.1. President's Report – Nancy McLeod.
 - Read out her full report from the newsletter. (Outline: "On high" after Riverina trip. Morning teas well supported. Guest speakers interesting. Thank you to committee. No meeting Wed 3/12/25, will be Xmas Lunch 4/12/25.)
 - Read out the names of all of those having November birthdays, those who were present stood. 90th birthday Stephen Hoggan – he was presented with a Certificate, Probud notebook, and a lolly bag.
 - 8.2. Treasurer's Report – Barry Syme. Figures as at 1/11/25.
 - Activity Account. YTD \$122,731 in, \$116,782 out. Diff +\$5,949. \$14,790.47 in bank. All good.
 - Club Account YTD \$24,400.35 in, \$17,569.79 out. Diff +\$6,830.56. \$10,120.53 in bank.

Treasurer's Report Moved to Accept by Barry, Seconded by Ray Shackley.
 - 8.3. Membership and Club Attendance – Doug Jones absent. Pam Borsey covering for Doug.: Present 88 members, 4 visitors, 14 apologies.
 - 8.4. Hospitality – Kathy Pongrac. She said there is a mix-up with how the morning tea tables are laid out, so be patient, come from each end.
 - 8.5. Outings – Danny Campbell. Mentioned: (1) Griffith – was fantastic. One of the best. (2) Powerhouse Castle Hill 21/11/25. Need to pre-order lunch. (3) Xmas Lights Hunter Valley Gardens 2/12/25-3/12/25. Email from KTG advertising the trip. \$595. Pickup from Central. (4) Seniors Cruise 9/12/25. He will send out an email re suggested train times. (5) Tasmania 18/2/26-3/3/26. He will organise a pickup from Leonay and Ropes Crossing to airport. (6) Sunshine Coast 15/6/26-19/6/26. Still room. Coach Holidays pickup from Royce & take to airport.

- 8.6. **Shows** – Gwenda O'Brien. (1) Grant Galea 19/11/25 at Rowers. Pickup your ticket if paid. If you put your name down and can't go, let her know. (2) Premier's Seniors Gala Concert Thurs 12/3/26 11am Free. 20 tickets, 4 on floor/disability, 16 in gallery. See Gwenda, first in gets tickets. (3) Lion King 29/4/26 \$95. (4) My Fair Lady 3/9/26 \$167. (4) Pretty Woman Theatre Royal 17/12/25 1 ticket available. Sell at \$75 instead of \$95.
- 8.7. Slideshow Griffith Riverina. Faye played 7-minute slideshow. Danny said he learned a great deal about the area.
- 8.8. **Guest Speakers** – Dawn Hayward. (1) "Show & Tell" Jan 2026. Participation forms on each table. Has 2 people so far, don't be shy. Bring in something and talk for 4-5 minutes. (2) Handyman Service. Booked for next year.
- 8.9. **Newsletter** – Christine Upton, away. Faye emailed the Nov newsletter on Monday morning, everyone received. Faye said the committee decided to remove the info for the Probus Travel Insurance because it seemed to be a recommendation. There are other companies which we, or other people, may suggest to get quotes.
- 8.10. **Welfare** - Lauraine Johnston. Wonderful to see Rose Shackley here (recent knee op). Everyone well, no-one has contacted her. Must be the "water or the weather". Ring Lauraine on mobile if someone is sick etc.
- 8.11. **Historian** – Janet Sheen. (Not called up.)
- 8.12. **Walks** - Lyn Roach. Lyn read the humorous poem she wrote about the Griffith trip. Very entertaining as usual.
- o Last month Oct 2025. (1) Moss Vale. 3 trains to get there and 3 to get back. The trees were warm because they had knitted blankets around their trunks. (2) Lindfield. Caught a bus that took an hour and seemed to go all over the North Shore. (3) Blackheath was cold and wet. Saw rhododendrons. Caught new train home, seats don't turn around, so not much talking. Be aware long train, first three carriages are past platform at Blaxland.
 - o Nov 2025 walks will be Middle Head, Bondi, and Cockatoo Island.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 9.1. President's Report. Margaret Bellenger said Nancy McLeod is doing a good job with her monthly report.
- 9.2. Lucky Door Prizes. (1) Our \$20 cash lucky door prize. Ticket X90 drawn by Sandra Pedler, won by Derinda Jarrett. (2) Golf Club \$15 voucher (use on day). Ticket X88 drawn by Helen Marsh, won by Maria Macri.
- 9.3. Morning Tea 11:20am.
- 9.4. Guest Speaker 11:45am. Topic "An Aunt, A Tiger Snake, Batman". Dawn Hayward introduced Graham Sims. Dawn said Graham is a favourite of ours and is super interesting. Graham said his talk will be on mentors, special people in our lives that have guided us.
- An Aunt**. Born 1903, named Daisy, changed it to Marion, his mother's older sister. Amazing storyteller. Went to Maclean High School, had to cross Clarence River on dingy avoiding bull sharks. 1st marriage, husband alcoholic. Divorced & raised two young daughters by herself. 2nd marriage to Harry, an engineer. They joined Syd Bushwalkers Club & walked Aust, Tas, loved Blue Mountains. Introduced Graham to Blue Mtns, Nellies Glen, Blue Gum Forest, Kanangra Walls etc. His aunt had friends Mr & Mrs (Alice) Carlon, had a farm in Megalong Valley, Green Gully, now part of Blue Mtns Park. Last of old pioneers, no electricity, no running water. Newspapers were "toilet stationery" Alice wouldn't accept the Truth Newspaper. Alice left Megalong Valley to live with her daughter. Alice died 1981, age 91. In 1931 Aunt & Uncle with bushwalkers at Perrys Lookdown in Blue Mtns heard clearing of trees with axe, they stopped it. Bushwalking group later got the rights to Blue Gum Forest, now part of the Blue Mountains Park. Aunt & Uncle went to NZ & rented a Vauxhall car. The steering rod broke, they went over a cliff. Uncle Harry was killed & his Aunt was trapped in the car. Someone saw the next day & rescued. Lived in Epping & opened her home to students. Was a tea lady in her 80's. At 86, went on holiday to Canberra, had heart attack, Didn't want to live with daughter. Died a week later 1989. Graham also said his aunt saved his mother from falling through a gap in the bridge near Epping. Aunt's philosophy was "Think young. Don't bunch up." Meaning don't be overcrowded, have your own space. Graham said he took his mum in 1998 to Magpie Hill in Megalong Valley. Mum said she didn't want her ashes scattered there, too lonely. Next day heart attack & died.
- Tiger Snake** Aunt & Uncle were bushwalking with group at Lake St Clair Tas in 1948. One of the women, Dot (Dorothy Vera Townson "Taffy"), was bitten 3 times by a tiger snake while she was having a toilet break. She died in the bush 9/1/1948, bushwalkers carried her body out. Tas would not accept a memorial so a plaque by bushwalkers "Taffy's Rock" at Cowan NSW.
- Batman**. In 1963 Graham 21yo teaching language at Syd Boys' High School, headmaster Murray Callaghan. Murray wore a cape so was called "Batman". Heather Wallace said he was a headmaster at Cootamundra H/S before Syd H/S (Graham confirmed). Graham told the story of a man who thought he was JC & was in the Devonshire St tunnel, boys used to make fun of him. "JC" went to school to complain to principal. Graham told the story comically. Teacher over intercom said "I am God. You have my son." JC disappeared. Graham said Murray was a mentor, showed leadership. 1965 Graham's father hosp overdose, 1968 friends lost in bush fire, Graham assisted, 5 wks off work, put in leave form, Murray tore up. Later in 1968 Graham seconded to RAAF Malaysia Butterworth. Saw Murray at his retirement 1973 & told Graham he should have stayed at the H/S.
- 9.5. Dawn said "what a storyteller" & presented Graham with a Certificate, \$70 donation, pen + keyring torch in gift box. Dawn has booked Graham to come twice next year.

10. **NEXT MEETING**. Wed 7 January 2026 at Leonay Golf Club, 10:30 am. (No meeting 3/12/25, Xmas Lunch 4/12/25)

11. **CLOSE MEETING 5/11/25**: Nancy McLeod closed the meeting at 12:40pm.

President.....Date.....