



BILGOLA PLATEAU PROBUS CLUB

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

The Bilgola Plateau Probud Club was formed after an interest meeting held at the Newport Bowlo on 6 September 2022

President's Message, August 2025



An insightful and informative general meeting was held on 1 August (91 members, 26 apologies and 0 visitors). Thank you to all the morning tea servers and especially those generous cooks. The goodies table was laden with a huge range of treats; all donated for our enjoyment. Guest speaker Sarah Martin enlightened us on the facts of mental struggles and addictions that are as real as any physical disability and should be recognised as such.

Bookings for our December Christmas party at Club Palm (former Palm Beach RSL) on 5th Dec' are now available, get in quick! The Christmas parties for the previous two years were great. Refer to Sue Walker who is coordinating the event. Remember there is no general meeting on this date.

Chris and Robyn Elliot will be hassling you to buy tickets for our Christmas Party raffle prizes at our September, October and November general meetings. C'mon, you've got to be in it to win it! Please bring in to our next general meeting any new, unused 'prizes' you would like to donate for the Christmas raffle and leave with Di or Brian Cross.

For all our activities, you members need to keep up your energy levels! It follows that we should make our coffee, tea and donated goodies service more efficient for you.

At our September 5th meeting we are trying out a new serving arrangement. There will be separate tables for coffee and tea with three to four people on each table to pour the hot water.

(VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THIS!)

Milk and sugar will be on a separate table, and the donated goodies, including gluten free, will be on each of the coffee or tea tables. Brian and I will be 'the runners' filling up the hot water pots. See how we run!

REGULAR MONTHLY CLUB ACTIVITIES

(PLEASE REFER TO THE CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE FOR THE SPECIFIC DAYS AND TIMES)

MONTHLY MAHJONG AT DI'S HOUSE

bd.cross@outlook.com.au

MONTHLY SCRABBLE AT DI'S HOUSE

bd.cross@outlook.com.au

NEW BOOK CLUB - MEETING MONTHLY AT DI'S HOUSE

bd.cross@outlook.com.au

WEEKLY MAHJONG, PITWATER RSL MONA VALE

janeen.macfarlane@gmail.com

FORTNIGHTLY TRIVIA AT AVALON BEACH RSL CLUB

sbarwick7@icloud.com

MONTHLY MOVIES AND COFFEE

lesleyjanedeth@gmail.com

MONTHLY DRINKS AND CATCHUP

maryatnewport@gmail.com

THE CRAFTY YARNERS

maryatnewport@gmail.com

COFFEE AND CHAT MORNINGS

mary_wearne@hotmail.com
maryatnewport@gmail.com

CRAFTY TARTS GROUP

bd.cross@outlook.com.au

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

maryatnewport@gmail.com

HEAVEN'S DEVILS BOYS' COFFEE

mikeatnewport@gmail.com

FORTNIGHTLY BAREFOOT BOWLS

joycemoody1@bigpond.com

MONTHLY WALK AND COFFEE, LONG REEF

jmb6257@yahoo.com.au

MONTHLY SOCIAL GOLF - 9 HOLES SOCIAL GOLF AT PALM BEACH GOLF CLUB, PAY AT PRO SHOP

janeen.macfarlane@gmail.com



We hate to see you bored. As I write this message, members have already enjoyed some of our activities this month such as the book clubs, Monday monthly drinks, a beautiful lunch at the Little Snail Restaurant at Pyrmont, a Japanese submarine cruise on Sydney Harbour (the 83rd anniversary of VJ Day), the monthly movies and Trivia to name a few.

We are getting older! Everyone is doing it, so a CPR demonstration with basic first aid procedures has been arranged for 16 December at the Newport Surf Life Saving Club. An EOI is on the Club's website with the time to be confirmed. Contact me if you are interested. Sadly, an electric toy ambulance could not be arranged.

Your President is coming up to his use-by date, and **succession planning** to replace your existing committee members is all important! For example, come March 2026 I will have served for two and a half years and it will be time to pass the baton to another. Also, I have just sent out my latest novel to book agents and a movie script to production houses. So personally, I hope to be busy!

Please don't forget to read your newsletter. It contains details of most of the upcoming outings, trips and events. Also, our on-line website has details of all our regular activities under 'Calendar' in the left-hand margin.

You can laugh (or agonise) as in your newsletter are lots of member photos from the recent events and outings that were organised.

Warm regards
Mike, President
August 2025



Guest Speaker for our General Meeting on 5 September

Guest speaker: Clare Pearson:

Clare is CEO at Little Wings, based at Bankstown Aerodrome. They provide free air and ground transport for seriously ill children from regional and rural NSW

Visitors are welcome to attend.

Morning Tea Roster Friday 5 September



Jennifer Bennett, Chris and Robyn Elliott, and Deanna Martin

To join the list, please contact Di Cross: bd.cross@outlook.com.au



To cut down on waste - please bring a cup or a Mug

**SPECIAL UPCOMING ORGANISED
OUTINGS**

TO BOOK OR FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION PLEASE REFER TO THE
CALENDAR AND EOIs ON OUR WEBSITE

AUGUST

FRIDAY 22 AUGUST 8AM - 5.30 PM -
ONCOURSE BUS TOUR TO LUCAS
HEIGHTS DISCOVERY CENTRE, ROYAL
NATIONAL PARK & BUNDEENA FERRY

Enquiries: janeen.macfarlane@gmail.com

SATURDAY 23 AUGUST - 2PM CONCERT -
SYDNEY MALE CHOIR, SYDNEY TOWN
HALL

This is a book and pay directly yourself, not
booked by club.

Enquiries: maryatnewport@gmail.com

THURSDAY 28 AUGUST 12.30 PM - WINTER
TWO-COURSE LUNCH SPECIAL AT
JONAH'S RESTAURANT, WHALE BEACH

BOOKINGS CLOSED; WAIT LIST ONLY

Enquiries: tricia412065@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 10.30 AM
TEN PIN BOWLING (WITH OPTIONAL
LUNCH AT DEE WHY RSL) RSVP by 20/8

Enquiries: virginiamoore315@gmail.com

SUNDAY 14 - FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER - 6
DAY TOUR TO GRIFFITH AND THE
RIVERINA

Organised by Newport Probus Club. See
website for details. Enquiries to:
lynghope@gmail.com

FRIDAY 26 - 28 SEPTEMBER - ONCOURSE
3 DAY TOUR TO COWRA, JAPANESE
GARDENS AND MAYFIELD GARDENS. \$100
DEPOSIT BY 20 JULY.

Enquiries: lynghope@gmail.com

OCTOBER

FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER AT 10AM - CLUB
BIRTHDAY PARTY



FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER AT 10.30 AM, GUIDED
TOUR AND OPTIONAL LUNCH OF SYDNEY
BOTANIC GARDENS

Enquiries: lynghope@gmail.com

FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER AT 10.30 AM
WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR
EXHIBITION AND OPTIONAL LUNCH AT
MARITIME MUSEUM

Enquiries: lynghope@gmail.com

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER - WEDNESDAY
5 NOVEMBER TIME TBA

ONCOURSE TOUR TO THE MELBOURNE
CUP

Enquiries: joycemoody1@bigpond.com

TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER AT 9.45 - SYDNEY
HERITAGE FLEET JACARANDA CRUISE
AND OPTIONAL LUNCH, HARMON CRUISE
BOAT

Enquiries: janeen.macfarlane@gmail.com

THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 11 - 12.15 AM
PUBLIC GALLERY VIEWING AND OPTIONAL
LUNCH AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE - limited to
12 people

Enquiries: lynghope@gmail.com

DECEMBER

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER - 12 NOON AT CLUB
PALM BEACH, PROBUS XMAS PARTY!!



BOOK EARLY, PLACES LIMITED

Enquiries: sues0408@gmail.com

BOOKS, BOOKS, AND MORE BOOKS!



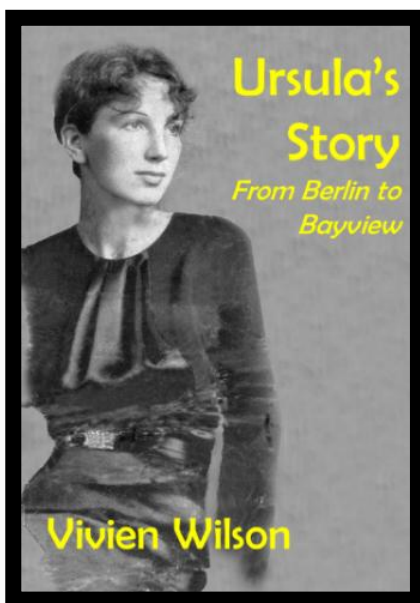
The new book club's inaugural meeting was a great success. Potentially we have 7 members interested and 5 came along. Each person enthusiastically related the concept of their book, title and author; the characters whether fiction or non-fiction; a brief outline so as not to reveal too much of the plot; the location of where the story was set and whether the book was an easy read or difficult. The eery result was that we all chose books which were classified as historical fiction. This meant we all were interested in all the titles!! Just need more time in each day to accomplish this. If you are interested in joining please Di Cross, bd.cross@outlook.com.au

BOOK REVIEW - THE PORCELAIN MAKER BY SARAH FREETHY

I enjoy historical fiction, and *The Porcelain Maker* blends fact and imagination beautifully. The story begins when Clara, an Englishwoman, travels to America to buy a set of delicate porcelain figurines at auction – a Viking, a shepherdess, a candelabra, a bear, a swallow, a greyhound, and a stallion. She believes the Viking could lead her to the father she has never known.

The novel shifts between present day and Weimar Germany, 1925 and traces the lives behind the figurines, intertwining love, loss, and survival with the chilling history of forced labour at Dachau, where prisoners created exquisite works of porcelain to stay alive. It's a moving, well-researched story that lingers long after the final page. Di Cross.

BOOKCLUB CORNER



Our new book this month is a memoir, *Ursula's Story*, by Vivien Wilson. Born in Berlin in 1913, with a Jewish father, Ursula is a naive but beautiful young art student and part-time fashion model. She finds herself only feet away from Hitler when she is working as an interpreter for the 1936 Olympics. She flees the Nazis and eventually travels to England where she shares a room with a snake charmer whilst working for a circus.

Armed with charm and a steely determination, she proposes to the first Englishman she meets. After a brief romance they are married but, in order to save her family, she forms a friendship with a prominent Jewish MP.

And how does she come to end her days in Sydney's Northern Beaches...you'll just have to read the story to find out.

PS: Feedback on our last book *The Salt Path*: Apparently it's not what it's purported to be. Google Raynor Winn to find out more information.

CRAFTY YARNERS

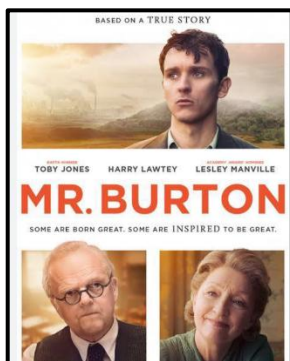
Don't forget to come along to the Crafty Yarners on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 2 pm at the Newport Bowling Club.

Projects currently in progress include embroidered rugs, baby rugs, jumpers and booties, toys and quilting squares.

Bring your knitting, sewing or needlework and join in the chit chat. There's always a giggle or two to keep the smile on our faces.



MOVIE NEWS



On Friday 16 August a group of us met at Warriewood Theatre to watch Mr Burton. We really enjoyed it. It was about the actor Richard Burton. Did you know that he was born in Wales as Richard Jenkins? If not, then you're probably wondering how he got the name Richard Burton? To find out, you'll just have to see the movie.

Thanks, Lesley, for selecting this one for our club.

COME AND JOIN US EVERY THIRD FRIDAY AT WARRIEWOOD THEATRE FOR A MOVIE AND COFFEE AFTERWARDS - MOVIE IS ADVERTISED THE MONDAY BEFORE IN THE CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE.

A SUMPTUOUS LUNCH AT THE LITTLE SNAIL, PYRMONT, ON FRIDAY AUGUST 8



What a find! Delicious food, best table in the house and great company. And yes, they served snails - just ask Joyce what they were like.!

Thanks to Janeen for organising this lunch outing for our club.



THE CRAFTY TARTS

This is a fun group of ladies who like to sew. They meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the home of Di Cross. Here are some of their current projects.



- Completed bag by Lyn with the tiny hexagon patchwork pieces in Japanese fabrics
- Jenny starting Japanese stitching.
- Lyn hand stitching elongated hexagons
- Barbara showing the finished children's quilt for her great grand niece
- Di beginning a wool embroidered baby blanket.



TRIVIA UPDATE

It was a good night on Thursday, 21 August for our trivia buffs. Alan, George, Eric and Mike did the team proud. They attained the highest score in one round winning \$20 and came 3rd overall with a score of 43.

It was delightful to see the smile on the faces of the men at the end of the evening. Well done boys!



ADVENTURE TO LUCAS HEIGHTS

Our tour to the Lucas Heights ANSTO Discovery Centre on the new OnCourse coach was a great surprise to all. While our knowledgeable tour guides blinded us with nuclear science, we came away with a new understanding of the importance of nuclear science, especially for medical advancement, and the role this working facility plays in our everyday medical needs.

A bus ride through the Royal National Park to Bundeena followed and a delicious lunch at the RSL Club. We were lucky to have the sun come out for our ferry ride to Cronulla. Thanks Janeen for organising such a memorable day.



COFFEE CATCH UPS

Don't forget our regular monthly coffee catch ups. We meet 10 am at the Bayview Golf Club on the 2nd Thursday of the month and at 4 Knots, Newport, on the 4th Friday of the month.

It's always a lot of fun. Hope you can make it soon.





COMING UP - DON'T MISS OUT! (see website for details)

DARLING HARBOUR MARITIME MUSEUM
Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition
Friday 17th October 10.30am



NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE SITTING + LUNCH (optional)
THURSDAY 20th November 2025



Book early for the Club's Christmas party, Friday 5 December at Club Palm Beach - catch up with old friends, make new ones, win a prize!

Good food and lots of fun.

Bookings - Sue Walker sues0408@gmail.com



Club Bank A/c details

You can transfer your payment direct to the club's bank account.

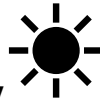
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Account No 10491254

Don't forget to identify your transaction with your last name and event.



Get in early



New outings and dining opportunities are continually being added to the Club's calendar on the website. Some have restrictions on numbers attending, so RSVP early to avoid disappointment.



Welfare



If you are aware of a member of our Club who is ill or in hospital and would like a welfare check, please advise our Welfare Officer **Di Cross** by email bd.cross@outlook.com.au, or telephone 0412141455.

Feeling a little under the weather?



If so, perhaps it's best to stay at home and away from Probus outings. We're in a vulnerable age group and germs can easily be transmitted among us. Thanks so much for your understanding.

Changed your details recently?



It's really important to notify our Secretary (currently Mary Musgrave, at email maryatnewport@gmail.com) if you change your street address, email address or phone no. As well as being used to update our Club's records and Probus South Pacific's database, these details can be used to email/phone you if you are sick, contact you for clarification of an outing, as well as a number of other items. If we don't have up-to-date records, you may miss out on enjoying all the benefits our club offers.



Our monthly newsletter is made by members for members!!

Thank you to Di Cross and others for their contributions to the newsletter this month. If you have an item for the newsletter, please send your contributions to Shelley, sbarwick7@icloud.com, by the 20th of each month.