



BILGOLA PLATEAU PROBUS CLUB OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

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

President's Message, October 2025

Our new seating plan seems to be working OK. The same seating plan will be used again for our November 7th meeting.

Also, our new, more efficient morning tea service was a winner at the October 3rd meeting thanks to Carol and Peter Marcer and the morning tea helpers. On behalf of all members, a mighty big thank you. Bronwyn Brookes did a magnificent job with cooking and delivering our large 100-person birthday cake.

Councillor Rowie Dillon ably represented our mayor, Councilor Sue Heins.

At our meeting, guest speaker and member Gary Walker gave an insightful talk on the vagaries of cluster unit living and dealing with matters relating to the body corporates.

I don't like to think too much prior to writing and if I did write what I really think sometimes, I'd be in big trouble. What I do know is that common sense isn't that common! It is also good to know life's boundaries, because sometimes I get road rage just walking behind some people at the supermarket.

A reminder that bookings for our Christmas Party on 5th December at Club Palm Beach (former Palm Beach RSL) are now available and thank you to the people who have already paid. Promptness is in the art of happiness! Contact Sue Walker to add your name to the growing Christmas list. Remember, there is no General Meeting on this date.

If you have any new items or "prizes" you'd like to donate for our 5th of December Christmas Party raffle, please bring them along to our General Meeting on **November 7th**. Donations can be left with **Di** or **Brian Cross** at the meeting. Chris and Robyn Elliot will again be hounding you to buy tickets for our Christmas Party raffle prizes at the next General Meeting. C'mon, you've got to be in it to win it!

REGULAR 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, PITTWATER RSL MONA VALE.

janeen.macfarlane@gmail.com

FORTNIGHTLY TRIVIA AT AVALON BEACH RSL CLUB.

sbarwick7@icloud.com

MONTHLY MOVIES AND COFFEE.

lesleyjanedeath@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

Our two-day trip to Bathurst and Cowra was great. If you have never been to the Japanese Festival in the Cowra Japanese Gardens I would strongly recommend that you start planning to visit next September. They had their famous tea ceremony, archery, martial arts display, origami, drummers and choristers plus food, food, food. All set in shaded landscaped gardens. The Bathurst Mineral Museum is world class as well. We snuck into a quaint pub at Millthorpe to view snippets of the AFL final, the NRL semi-final and RU match against South Africa. Mayfield Gardens was an inspiration as well, even it is a bit steep in places.

We managed to sneak into a quaint pub in Millthorpe to watch snippets of the AFL final, NRL semis and some Rugby. Remember what I wrote above re' 'boundaries'. Well, most of the hotel patrons were bigger than me that day so I couldn't very well demand that I watch the Broncos against Penrith in the NRL could I? So I sat quietly, nursing my red wine.

If you are spending half your life trying to find something to do with the time you have rushed through life trying to save then look up our newsletter or web page. We don't want to see you bored. Our on-line website has the details of all our regular activities and future outings under 'Calendar' in the left-hand margin.

More attendees are required for CPR training at the Newport Surf Life Saving Club on 16th December. We presently have 8 attending. Contact me, Mike Musgrave, if you'd like to attend.

Your club's **succession planning** is still taking shape. At our Nov' 5th meeting, we will again be asking for members who wish to come along to raise their hands to be assistants to existing Management Committee members. You will be accepted. You cannot beat on-the-job training.

Please don't forget to read your newsletter. It contains details of most of the upcoming outings, trips and events, as well as lots of member photos from recent BPPC activities. You might wish to study the photos and see if you or your friends have to update your wardrobes!

Remember when people
used to have diaries and
got mad when someone
read them?

Now they put everything
online and get mad
when people don't.

Getting older and aging doesn't bother me; it's just the side effects!

Warm regards, Mike, President. October 2025
Visitors are welcome to attend.

The guest speaker for our last meeting of 2025 is an old favourite of ours:



On 7 November Rock Historian Paul Kearney will present 'The History of Rock'n'roll: British Invasion' featuring old (familiar) music-video clips from 1963-1967.



Morning Tea roster for November 7:

Kaye Fairall Lee
Janeen Macfarlane
Mike Musgrave
Virginia Moore

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



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

COWRA MAGIC



We're definitely all gardened out!

The first stop on our 2-day trip to Cowra and the surrounding areas was Mt Tomah - the Waratah flowers were absolutely amaaazing! A picture-perfect day dawned for our visit to the Sakura Matsuri Festival at the Cowra Japanese Gardens where we experienced drum playing, tea making ceremonies, ikebana, sumo wrestling, origami, archery, singing, etc etc. We now feel there's no need to go to Japan. The next day we were off to the Mayfield Gardens near Oberon - 65 hectares of pure magic - it has to be seen to be believed!

Our accommodation for the 2 nights was at Bathurst and as we were staying on the Mt Panorama circuit, a lap around in the bus was mandatory. Thanks Lyn for co-ordinating a great trip for our Club.

PS. The Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum is a must do next time you visit Bathurst.

Mary Musgrave

UP COMING ORGANISED OUTINGS

**PLEASE NOTE: TO BOOK OR
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE REFER TO THE
CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE**

OCTOBER 2025

FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER AT 6PM - DINNER,
BEACH ROAD DINING, PALM BEACH GOLF
CLUB

RSVP to Robyn Elliot:
robynann@hotmail.com

MONDAY 27 OCTOBER LUNCH FOR
HEAVEN'S DEVILS MENS' GROUP AT THE
BOATHOUSE, PATONGA

MEET AT 12 NOON AT PALM BEACH
FERRY WHARF

RSVP to Eric Gidney:
cegidney@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 2025

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 - WAIT LIST ONLY

Enquiries: janeen.macfarlane@gmail.com

THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 11 - 12.15 AM
PUBLIC GALLERY VIEWING AND OPTION
LUNCH AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE **WAIT
LIST ONLY**

Enquiries: lynghope@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 8.30 AM
BREAKFAST AT WATER VIEW CAFÉ MONA
VALE GOLF CLUB

RSVP to Virginia Moore:
virginiamoore315@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2025



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

BOOK EARLY, PLACES LIMITED

Enquiries: sues0408@gmail.com

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER AT 6PM TWO-
COURSE SET MENU DINNER AT LONG REEF
GOLF CLUB, COLLAROY

RSVP Lyn Hope: lynghope@gmail.com

TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER AT A TIME TBA CPR
DEMO AND OTHER FIRST AID PROCEDURES
AT NEWPORT SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB.

Contact: mikeatnewport@gmail.com

MARCH 2026

THURSDAY 12 MARCH 11 AM PREMIER'S
GALA CONCERT, ICC SYDNEY THEATRE,
DARLING HARBOUR

BOOKINGS CLOSED, WAIT LIST ONLY

Contact: tricia412065@gmail.com

OCTOBER 2026

SATURDAY 31 OCT - TUESDAY 10
NOVEMBER - AUSTRALIA WINE AND
TASMANIA CRUISE

Contact Trade Travel direct - see EOI for
details. If you book the cruise please contact:

lynghope@gmail.com

BILGOLA PLATEAU PROBUS CLUB'S THIRD BIRTHDAY PARTY CELEBRATIONS

3rd Birthday Celebrations

What a magical day it was! Many thanks everyone for dressing in the Probus colours and embracing the spirit of the day. We had everything from stunning magical capes, duck shirts, bubbles, braces, beads, earrings, ties and scarves to party hats, streamers, balloons, crocheted flowers and paper garlands - just to name a few.

Sincere thanks to Bronwyn for making the birthday cake and getting it to the clubhouse in one piece and to Gary for stepping in as the Guest Speaker.

Now it's down to planning the Christmas Party! Any ideas would be most welcomed.





BILGOLA PLATEAU PROBUS CLUB PROFILE - SNAPSHOT OF A MEMBER

Meet Lee Sweet

Lee Sweet joined the Bilgola Plateau Probus Club about 18 months ago, inspired by a desire to learn Mah-jong. She wasn't alone — a few of her friends from an exercise class also wanted to give it a go. The idea took root thanks to Patricia Ryan, founder of the club and a fellow classmate, who encouraged them with a persuasive, “Come on girls, you need to join up!”

That struck a chord with me too — I joined the club the same way, thanks to Patricia (although from a different exercise class, a few years earlier). It seems many roads lead to Patricia and Probus!

Lee began by attending an event as a guest on a trip to Cabramatta before deciding to officially become a member. Although she's lived on the Northern Beaches for nearly two decades and already had a strong circle of friends, the Probus Club has brought new connections, camaraderie, and plenty of activities to enjoy.

Lee has led an adventurous life, rich with travel and experience. Born in Brisbane, she moved with her family to the country near Toowoomba at the age of five or six. Her father and uncle ran a dam-sinking business, and they lived in a remote area where there was no electricity. They relied on wood fires, and it was so cold in winter that water would freeze in the taps. Despite what sounds like harsh conditions today, Lee says it was a wonderful way to grow up. The family later returned to Brisbane, where she finished her schooling.

Her first job was as a window dresser in a frock shop, but her heart was set on the skies. At 20 — the minimum age to apply — she applied to be a flight attendant with TAA. The maximum height for flight attendants at the time was 5 feet 8 inches, and at 5-foot 8½, her career was nearly aborted before it began! With a subtle softening of the knees, she passed the test and hoped they wouldn't notice when, later on, she grew another two and a half inches.

After leaving TAA Lee flew with Ansett Airlines and during that time had a 12-month secondment with Air Italia, a highlight of her 30-year career. Being a flight attendant in those days was a very different job from what it is today, with countless hours of detailed safety training using manuals the size of the old Sydney telephone book. But once in the air there was a real sense of freedom and independence - and no boss breathing over your shoulder. Lee recalls many moments that tested her composure, including a bomb threat (fortunately a hoax). She's quick to reassure nervous flyers that air travel is far safer than driving. Next time I'm gripping the armrest during take-off, I'll try to channel some of Lee's calm confidence!

These days, Lee still travels — but now as a passenger. When home, she enjoys Mah-jong, walking, and exercise classes...especially the coffee afterwards!

Shelley Barwick

Grinners are Winners - Trivia, 2 October

Another thrilling Trivia Thursday!

Our team, **Trivial Matters**, is on the rise — cracking the top 10% once again! The competition was fierce, but spirits were high, and when George took out Heads n' Tails, victory never tasted sweeter — thanks to the celebratory ice creams all round!



BOOK YOUR PLACE FOR THE 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.

To book your seat contact Sue Walker:

sues0408@gmail.com

❄️ Christmas Raffle Countdown! 🎅 Last Call! 📺

Time's running out to donate a prize for the Club's Christmas Raffle! We're only halfway to last year's total — so every little gift helps.

Prize ideas: Christmas treats, wine or chocolates, decorations, homewares, gift cards, garden items, coffee mugs or vouchers, candles — anything festive or fun!

Please bring your donations to the **November General Meeting** and hand them to **Di Cross, our Welfare Officer**.

Let's make this year's raffle our best yet!





Looking for New Members!!

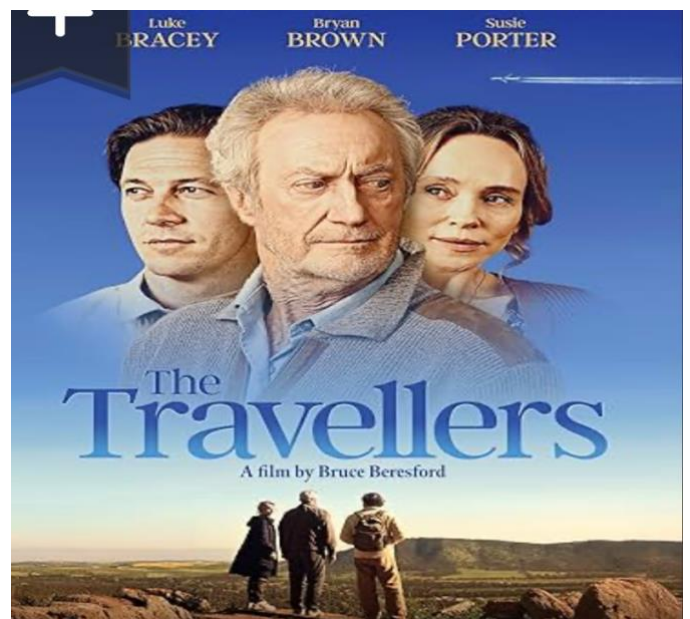
The Crafty Yarners would love to have a few more members come along and join the group. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2-4 pm at the Newport Bowling Club. We knit, crochet and sew. If you don't have these skills, why not just come along for a good natter and laugh. Hope to see you soon.

MOVIE REVIEW

Eleven people rolled up to see the movie *The Travellers* this month, giving it a score of about 8 out of 10.

The movie follows Stephen Seary, a stage designer who returns to his Australian hometown to say goodbye to his dying mother. As he reconnects with family (including Bryan Brown and Susie Porter) and confronts past relationships, Stephen faces emotional turmoil and the pull between ambition and belonging in this poignant drama directed by Bruce Beresford.

Thank you to Lesley, our movie coordinator. MM



Wildlife Photographic Exhibition

Talk about a stunning collection of photographic work! The Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition held at the Darling Harbour Maritime Museum. The exhibition showcased 100 breathtaking images from around the globe and celebrated nature's beauty/fragility through powerful photography. From mesmerizing animal behaviour to striking landscapes and photojournalism, it was definitely a must-see for nature lovers and photography enthusiasts alike - including the 10 Probus members who participated in the outing. Many thanks Lyn for organising a most memorable event for our Club.



A Picture-Perfect Day at the Royal Botanic Garden

It was a glorious day for our visit to the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney. Our guide, Lyn, was a wealth of knowledge — complete with pictures to help bring the history and stories to life.

She shared a fascinating history of the Gardens, including the magnificent Garden Palace that tragically burnt to the ground in 1882 (we were amazed at the sheer size of the original building). Lyn handed around samples of leaves, gumnuts and bark, pointed out a wonderful variety of trees, ferns and flowers, and even managed to spot the garden's resident owl for us!

After a lovely lunch break, we explored **The Calyx**, home to one of the largest living green walls in the Southern Hemisphere — the perfect way to round off a perfect day.

A big thank you to **Lyn** for coordinating the outing and to **Janeen** for hosting on the day.

Mary Musgrave

DI'S BOOKCLUB REVIEWS

THE NIGHTINGALE by KRISTIN HANNAH

(review by Di Cross)

Many of Kristin's novels are based on her belief that women's stories are all too often forgotten or overlooked. In this novel the story revolves around 2 sisters during WWII in France. who face unimaginable horrors and make impossible choices as they fight to protect their loved ones and countrymen. Despite their differences, sisters Viann and Isabelle have always been close.

The characters in The Nightingale are fictional, although some of their actions are based on real historical figures. It begins with a backstory of an elderly woman in Oregon planning to return to France with her son. At that time we don't know what her role was in World War II, but figure it was highly traumatic.

Two sisters lost their mother when they were young. Their father is a World War I veteran-traumatized, distant, almost indifferent to their lives. Elder sister, Viann is content with life in the French countryside with her husband Antoine and their daughter as a mother, wife, teacher, and homemaker. When War breaks out, Antoine is sent off to fight and Viann finds herself isolated. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France...but invade they do, in droves of marching soldiers, in caravans of trucks and tanks, in planes that fill the skies and drop bombs upon the innocent. When a German captain and later a Gestapo or SS officer requisitions Viann's home, she and her daughter must live with the enemy or lose everything.

The younger Isabelle, is a rebellious eighteen-year-old who is shipped off to various finishing schools where she can't seem to finish because of her rowdy insubordination. Isabelle escapes from another school and tries to re-join her father who owns a bookstore in Paris. Isabelle meets a partisan who believes the French can fight the Nazis from within France, and she falls in love. But when he betrays her, Isabelle joins the Resistance risking her life, time and again to save others. Isabelle is a strikingly beautiful, using this to overcome some difficult and dangerous situations

Isabelle and an experienced mountaineer form an escape route into Spain over the Pyrenees with downed Allied airmen. This story was based on the Comet line of 24-year-old Andree de Jongh, a Belgian woman who helped aviators and others escape.

Hannah's writing is emotional and gripping. You are dragged into the lives of normal French people living under Nazi rule. Summers are very hot and winters deadly cold, clothes in tatters giving no warmth; no electricity or timber for fires and virtually no food. Friends and neighbours turning each other in for money or food. The depiction of the horrors of war - violence, loss, betrayal - feels real and heart-wrenching. Yet, The Nightingale is also a story about the quiet, unspoken acts of bravery that often go unnoticed in the grand sweep of history. It is about how women, in their strength and resilience, held the fabric of society together, even when everything else was falling apart. You feel their pain, their heartbreak, and their determination to survive.

It will leave you in tears, but also with a deep respect for the resilience of those who lived through unimaginable horrors. It's a book that stays with you long after you've turned the last page, a haunting reminder of the cost of war and the strength of those who endure it. Men tell stories. Women get on with it. For us it was a shadow war. There were no parades for us when it was over, no medals or mentions in history books. We did what we had to during the war, and when it was over, we picked up the pieces and started our lives over."

THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH by Eddie Jaku

(review by Lesley Whiteside)

In WWII Eddie was imprisoned in Buchenwald and Auschwitz concentration camps.

In 1945 he was rescued by allied soldiers. He always considered himself a German first and a Jew second. But it all changed in 1938 when he was beaten, arrested and faced many horrors. He lost family, friends and his country. Because he survived he made a vow to smile every day and pays tribute to those who were lost, by telling his story. Eddie and family moved to Sydney, Australia in 1950. Despite everything he endured he believes he is the happiest man in earth. I found this book heartbreaking but shows how one can rise above horrifying conditions. The book was published when Eddie was 100 yrs old.

FLOWERS FROM ALGERNON

(review by Steve Jones)

Daniel Keyes (1927 - 2014) was an American author best known for his profoundly moving and psychologically rich novel, Flowers for Algernon.

Keyes, whose output was sparse, worked as a ship's purser, then edited pulp magazines and writing for Atlas Comics, the precursor to Marvel Comics. Later, he taught creative writing, and in 1966 he became an English and creative writing professor at Ohio University and later honoured as a professor emeritus in 2000.

Flowers for Algernon began as a short story in 1959 (Hugo Award Winner) and was later expanded into a full-length novel in 1966 (Nebula Award Winner). It is all about Charlie Gordon, a man with an intellectual disability who undergoes an experimental procedure to increase his intelligence-with deeply emotional and philosophical consequences.

Written in diary format, the story follows Charlie's progress, from his time as a floor sweeper in a bakery where he is the butt of everyone's jokes. But he dreams of becoming smarter and undergoes an experimental surgery designed to dramatically increase his intelligence, which had previously been tested only on a lab mouse named Algernon, who becomes extraordinarily intelligent.

Via Charlie's progress reports, written up as a diary, first in very simple and phonetically narrative before the surgery, but after the surgery, the diary reports increase in perception and depth.

As Charlie's IQ rises to genius level, he begins to understand the world-and the people around him-in ways he never could before. He experiences joy, heartbreak, alienation, and ultimately a tragic reversal as the effects of the surgery begin to fade.

Flowers for Algernon remains a very powerful and emotional read. Charlie's transformation is not just intellectual - it's empirical. His journey forces readers to confront uncomfortable truths about how we value intelligence and disabilities. In my humble opinion it should be mandatory reading at every high school.

The novel was adapted into the Oscar-winning film Charly (1968), where Cliff Robertson won the Best Actor Oscar and later a TV movie in 2000.



NOTICE BOARD

Club Bank A/c details



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

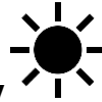
BSB 062205

Account No 10491254

Don't forget to identify your transaction.



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, please advise our Welfare Officer **Di Cross** either by phone or email. bd.cross@outlook.com.au

Ph: mobile 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.