



BILGOLA PLATEAU PROBUS CLUB SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

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

President's Message, September 2025

Many thanks to the whole platoon of helpers who arrived by 9:15am on Friday 5th September to help move chairs and tables for our General Meeting. We had a new arrangement to accommodate 90 plus persons! Just 77 members arrived although we did have 35 apologies! No matter, we will persist with the new set-up. The same seating plan will be used again for our 3rd birthday meeting to be held on wait for it, October the 3rd!

Our new, more efficient morning tea service was a winner thanks to Carol and Peter Marcer. The new system featured separate tables for coffee and tea with helpers standing behind the tables pouring the water for the tea and coffee as members moved past. Instead of the normal long queue and fifteen plus minutes (or more) to get served, our morning tea ladies had it down to a slick ten minutes from start to finish, woohoo! This meant more time for gossip, scandal and tales of nefarious deeds with your Probus friends. Thanks to the volunteer ladies (and male) for the donated baked goodies, they were simply delicious!

I now know worrying works, because none of the stuff I worried about with the new seating and morning tea arrangements ever happened!

At our meeting, guest speaker Clare Pearson gave us an emotional insight into a flying regional health service called **Little Wings** which provides follow-up regional transport services to children under the age of 18 who have been injured and who require on-going health care from our major children's hospitals in the capital cities.

A 'gentle' (?) reminder that bookings for our Christmas Party on 5th December at Club Palm Beach (former Palm Beach RSL) are now available. Get in quickly if you wish to attend. Contact Sue Walker to add your name to the growing Christmas list. Remember, there is no General Meeting on this date.

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

FORNIGHTLY 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

**By replacing
your morning
coffee with green
tea, you can lose
up to 87% of
what little joy
you still have
left in your life.**

Chris and Robyn Elliot will again be hassling you to buy tickets for our Christmas Party raffle prizes at our October and November General Meetings. C'mon, you've got to be in it to win it! If you have any new items or "prizes" you'd like to donate to the Christmas raffle, please bring them along to our General Meetings on **October 3rd** and **November 7th**. Donations can be left with **Di** or **Brian Cross** at the meeting.

Already this month we have enjoyed Probus trivia, mahjong and tenpin bowling (see photos in this newsletter) and there is a big list of the regular activities for this month including two bus trips. So c'mon, don't be shy join in! We don't want to see you

bored. Check out our on-line website as it has details of all our regular activities under 'Calendar' in the left-hand margin.

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

Your club's **succession planning** is taking shape. At our Oct' 3rd birthday meeting, we will be asking for members who wish to volunteer as assistants to existing Management Committee members to raise their hands. You'll probably 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!

As our club continues to mature and have fun, I've realised that growing old is a real privilege denied to many.

Warm regards, Mike, President. September 2025



No Guest Speaker for our General Meeting as we will be celebrating our 3rd birthday

No Morning Tea Roster for October as we will be eating our delicious birthday cake!



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

REMEMBER TO WEAR SOMETHING IN OUR CLUB COLOURS TO THE BIRTHDAY PARTY - BLUE AND YELLOW - IT COULD BE AS SMALL AS A YELLOW HEADBAND OR A BLUE TIE.

GET READY FOR THE PREMIER'S GALA CONCERT ON THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2026

HELD AT ICC SYDNEY THEATRE AT DARLING HARBOUR. WE HAVE 20 TICKETS AVAILABLE.

CONTACT PATRICIA RYAN TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST: tricia412065@gmail.com

UP COMING ORGANISED OUTINGS

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

SEPTEMBER

**FRIDAY 26 - 28 SEPTEMBER - ONCOURSE
3 DAY TOUR TO COWRA, JAPANESE
GARDENS AND MAYFIELD GARDENS.**

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 - numbers not limited.**

Enquiries: lynghope@gmail.com

**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

**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



**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

TEN PIN BOWLING OUTING



It was many years since most of us had played Ten Pin Bowling, but that didn't stop us from having a great time. Yes, it took a few goes to get into the groove of the game and forget we weren't playing lawn bowls - but after the lovely reception staff reset the scoreboard for us, put the bumper bars up and brought some water refreshments, there was no stopping us! See if you can guess who these players were:

- the dark horse who surprised us with her many strikes and spares
- the dynamite one who obviously took protein pills for breakfast
- the petite one who threw the 8 kg ball down the alley like it was a tennis ball
- the two who used the bowling ramps

We were on fire! Thanks Virginia for organising a fabulous outing for our club.

DI'S BOOKCLUB REVIEWS



If you are
interested in
joining please

email Di Cross.

bd.cross@outlook.com.au



The group talked
about four books
they read this
month:

A Love song for
Ricki Wilde;
The Thursday
Murder Club;
Childhood's End,
and
The Women.



Steve Jones took centre stage with his presentation of his read "Childhood's End" by Arthur C Clarke. This is a famous science fiction novel, first published in 1953. The story begins with the sudden arrival of mysterious alien ships hovering over Earth's major cities. These beings, known as the Overlords, impose a benevolent but authoritarian rule. However, the Overlords remain unseen for decades, and when they finally reveal themselves, their appearances are startling: they resemble traditional depictions of demons. The novel then shifts focus to the transcendence of humanity as children begin to develop psychic abilities, signalling a dramatic evolutionary leap. The cost? The end of human individuality and culture as we know it.

Diane Tsoa-Lee wrote about her choice – "A Love song for Ricki Wilde". If you are into rom-com movies, then this book is for you. A little of everything – love story, family disputes, racial problems over the decades, New York jazz scene of the 1920's and add to that a little time travel. It will not solve the world's problems; it is just a feel-good book that goes with the flow.



Lesley Whiteside read "The Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman. In this story, four elderly residents in a retirement village have an interest in solving murders. They meet each Thursday over a glass of wine in the Jigsaw room. Then an actual murder takes place right on their doorstep. Each member of the group contributes a different aspect to solving the murder. It is told in a delightful and amusing read. This could be pertaining to the dialogue or the situation the group finds themselves in. You will not be able to resist a smile or laugh.

Di Cross likes historic fiction and chose a book called "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. This is the story of fictitious USA female nurses who volunteer to go to Vietnam during the War. They were young and naïve but determined to make a difference. The main character, Frankie McGrath, is raised on California's Coronado Island, leading a very conservative and sheltered life. Her brother joins up and under a saying she was once told "Women can be heroes", Frankie follows her brother. The process to volunteer is difficult and not encouraged by all departments, who followed the concept, – no women should go to war. She is exposed to the worst of humanity as well as participating in gory but lifesaving operations. Frankie also learns the value of true female friendship and the heartbreak that loves can cause. The worst aspect was coming home to a hostile America, where large sections of the population were fighting to stop the War and those that went, were spat upon and verbally abused. How this group of women survive is the centre of this emotional read.

TUESDAY MAHJONG AT MONA VALE RSL



Mah-jong at the Pittwater RSL Club is now held every Tuesday, 1.30-4 pm.

We have a coffee break half way, and happy hour drinks after for those who wish to stay. Lots of interesting conversation in our breaks!

Teaching can be provided for beginners.

If you'd like to join the group (no experience necessary) please contact:

janeen.macfarlane@gmail.com

Congratulations to Cheryl on this amazing Mah-jong hand - it was a pity they weren't scoring!



LUNCH AT JONAH'S, PALM BEACH



In a rare day of Sydney winter sunshine, 12 diners enjoyed lunch at Jonah's on 28 August.

Following a selection of hors d'oeuvres, diners enjoyed either an entree and main course or main course and desert, accompanied by delicious sides of salad and roast potatoes. The meals were accompanied by sommelier matched wine. The prawns and meat dishes of beef or lamb were popular choices.

Everyone agreed it was a lovely lunch! Thank you to Patricia for organising this outing for us.

MONTHLY WALK AROUND LONG REEF



Every second Tuesday of the month we meet to walk around Long Reef Golf Course with a stop on the way for a cup of coffee at the Butterbox Cafe. The views are beautiful, and often when we stop at the top of the hill we see a whale making its way up the coast, or some birds gliding in the thermals above the cliffs. This month we were lucky enough to enjoy a beautiful day before the torrential rain hit us once again. Thank you Julie for leading the group. If you would like to join us, see the website for details.



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



LOOKING FOR COMPANY AND ENTERTAINMENT? 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.



Book Club News

Our 10 members meet at Mona Vale Golf Club for a friendly hour every 5 weeks when we discuss the book we read in the previous month and preview the next one. Members take it in turns to select a title from the extensive book club kits provided by the Council's libraries, and bring the kit to the meeting. Each kit contains 10 books plus a laminated sheet which summarises the book and lists a set of questions which can be used if required to stimulate discussion. Kits cover a wide genre within fiction and non-fiction.

The book discussed at our last meeting "Ursula's Story" : From Berlin to Bayview" didn't need the suggested questions. The author, Vivien Wilson, who lives locally, self-published the book which was, in her words, historical fiction. Ursula was the author's mother and what a life Ursula led. Born in 1913 in Berlin to a Jewish father and Protestant mother, growing up with Hitler's rise to power in the background, she wangled a visa to visit England in the late 1930's. Living in London she proposed to and married an Englishman shortly after they met, managed to get visas for her parents and sister, survived the blitz, had two daughters who emigrated to Australia, and after the death of her husband of 40 years, she came to Australia also. Ursula settled into a happy life in a retirement village in Bayview, hence the title.

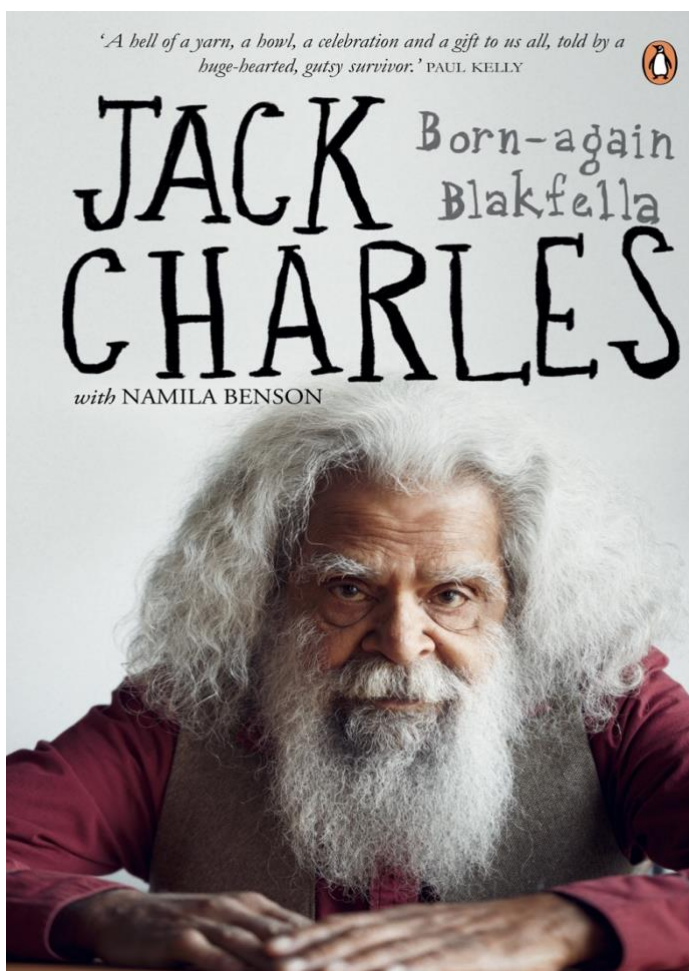
It was difficult to separate fact from fiction and it left us asking some questions. Who was Frankie who popped up at the end of the book? Did the husband die here or in England? An editor may have tied up these and other loose endings but it was agreed Ursula had an amazing life and if only half was based on fact it was indeed amazing. It gave us a vivid picture of how difficult life could be in those times, how resilient Ursula was, and how her ties to family survived. Some enjoyed the book, some were unsure about it, but it promoted lots of lively discussion which is what it's all about.

Next month's book is "Jack Charles, Born-again Blakfella". This memoir shows Jack among other things as an actor, cat burglar, musician, heroin addict, activist, and an Aboriginal Elder. Stolen from his mother and placed into institutional care when only a few months old, the loneliness and isolation he experienced had a devastating impact that endured long after he reconnected with his Aboriginal roots. He still feels today an outsider, a loner, a fringe dweller.

Thanks to Yvonne Giddy for this review



NEXT MONTH'S PICK



NOTICE BOARD

Club Bank A/c details



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

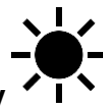
BSB 062205

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.