



Deepdene Combined Probussouthpacific Club

Volume 12 Issue 11

For Events please deposit amount into Probussouthpacific Account with reference: 'yournameEvent' (Space for 18 letters available.)

Payments for events may be made through

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Anything you would like to put into the newsletter? Please send to editor:
Marian


Guest Speaker:
Monday 19th
January 2026: Casual meeting. Bring a plate.
Topic: Fun & Games

As I mentioned at our meeting it is pleasing to see how our members all contribute to the functioning of the club. Angela stepping up at the last minute to fill in for the speaker who wasn't well, to many hands helping clean up after morning tea. Thank you everyone.

Congratulations Leslie on winning the jar of snakes donated by Heather.

This year at our Christmas luncheon Marcia will collect money donations for **"Hope in a suitcase"**, a reminder to bring some cash with you. Your contribution could help brighten some persons Christmas.

Are you looking forward to our Christmas break up and trivia

quiz? Who will win the  this year?

Until we all get together stay well and safe.

Cheers,

Wendy

*The Beaver Moon on Port Phillip Bay.
This year's Beaver Moon reached its peak on 6th November. but it appeared full in the sky from the evening of November 5th through November 6th. This was the biggest and brightest supermoon of the year, coinciding with the Moon's closest approach to Earth.*



Please look up our expanded Webpage!

The URL of The Deepdene Combined Probussouthpacific Club website is:
<https://www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/deepdenecombined>

Our website is run by the Web Master Michael. He has taken on the task of maintaining our website and ensuring it is kept current.

If you have a query or a suggestion to make, please let Michael know at xxxxxxxcom Feed back is very welcome. It's your web site not the committee's.

Michael





Deepdene Combined Probud Club

GUEST SPEAKER

Today's guest speaker was Probud member Angela who delighted members with her description of the little-known *Palazzo Davanzati* in Florence, a venue often neglected by tourists to this famous Italian city.

In 2023 she and husband Graham undertook their grand tour of Italy after an absence of 35 years. Angela acknowledged that Florence has always been her favourite city and as tourists they explored all the well-known tourist attractions such as the Uffizi, il Duomo, and the Ponte Vecchio but in their walk around the city they came across a gem amongst gems.

Angela said of this gem *"If I were a real estate agent, I would present this property to you as follows: Location, Location, Location! This Palazzo is in the heart of Florence and with three storeys of 'Palazzo' it would satisfy any discerning buyer. Its features include:*

- 3 bedrooms all with ensembles!
- A study
- Ample living and dining accommodation
- Kitchen, laundry, and staff quarters with dumb waiter to all floors
- Off street parking, and
- A security system."



Not a modern, contemporary home but rather one built in the 14th century. *Palazzo* in Italian can mean a royal palace but more commonly it is used to describe a substantial family residence, of which this Palazzo is an example.

Palazzo Davanzati was built in the second half of the 14th century by the Davizzi family, who were wealthy members of the Wool Guild. Florence was and still is famous as a centre for wool and silk textile manufacture. In Medieval and Renaissance Florence, there were twenty-one guilds with six representatives from these guilds elected to sit on the Signoria, the body that once governed Florence. These guilds and their members were wealthy and, where there is wealth there is a need for bankers. Enter the Medici family and from their involvement and influence the Italian Renaissance was born.

The Davizzi family would have been considered an upper middle-class family but not a noble family. Such families usually aspired to the nobility through strategic marriages. In 1578 the palazzo was purchased by the rich mercantile family, the Davanzati. The house remained in the Davanzati family until 1838. With the unification of Italy from 1861 to 1871, the temporary capital of Italy was established in Florence. The Risorgimento or 'resurgence' as it was called resulted in the demolition of many medieval buildings to make way for new buildings befitting of a new capital.

Palazzo Davanzati by sheer good fortune escaped the wrecking ball and today remains a prime example of mediaeval architecture.

By the mid-1800s the Palazzo had become a tenement housing several poor families. In the late 1800s an antiquarian dealer by the name of Elia Volpi, recognized the historical significance of the building; he purchased it, and it was subsequently restored.



In 1910, Volpi opened the building as a private museum called the *"Museum of the Ancient Florentine House"*. Later purchased by the State in 1951 it was reopened to the public with a display of objects from Florentine Gallery collections to which donations of majolica, furnishings, lace, and embroidery were added over time.

In 1995 the museum needed to be closed for major structural

the museum partially reopened in 2005 with the ground floor and first floor accessible; by 2012, all the floors were once again open to visitors. Angela provided images of the various floors and their displays, wall paintings and furnishings.





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The building was constructed in sandstone, with three large portals and three stories of mullioned windows. The top-most floor has a loggia that was added in the 16th century. The façade displays the Davanzati coat of arms and has traces of other decorations. The interior courtyard has 14th century-style arches, vaults, and capitals.

In exploring the interior tourists enter the ground floor room and atrium through one of three large portals. This area was used to conduct business and presently displays objects and information related to the history of the building.

All the rooms of the building communicate onto hallways that open onto a central courtyard. Carriages could be brought into the courtyard and hence, your off-street parking!



On the first floor is the Great Hall, this large room was also used for conducting business. Its large windows are located street-side. There are three square holes with wooden covers that align with the openings of the atrium below. These holes were used to observe who was walking in, and for defense purposes. Medieval family were, like those of today, often at the risk of home invasion. Their homes contained, money, jewels, and precious objects of art.



Bowling ball size balls of stone could be dropped through the floor openings onto the intruders found lurking in the atrium below. If, however you killed the intruder you would have to pay the intruder's family compensation!

The room is now set up as a museum with various 16th-century objects on display and one wall displays derogatory anti Medici graffiti. Rebellious youth no doubt!

The security system consisted of dropping stone balls the size of bowling balls through these trap doors onto the intruder below. The catch was that if you killed the intruder you would have to pay compensation to his/her family!

The first floor contains Sala dei Pappagalli (The Room of the Parrots) with wall paintings designed to look like patchwork and wall-hangings lined with miniver, with motifs of parrots painted or embroidered on the blocks. These paintings have been restored from the original frescoes. A large fireplace dominates this room, and it is currently set up with a bed and cradle. In addition is a row of coat of arms of families allied with the Davizzi. A small bathroom or ensuite had indoor plumbing for visitors.



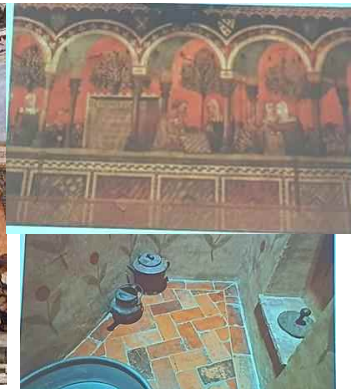
On the same floor is the Study (studiolo) which unfortunately does not retain any of its original wall decoration. Objects on display include a forziere (locking chest), cassone, several small sculptures, and paintings.





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The bedroom on the second floor is called the Chatelain of Vergy in honour of the frescoes inspired by The *Châteline de Vergy*, a medieval romance full of courtly love, adventure, and death. These frescoes were painted to commemorate the wedding of a daughter to a nobleman. Upward mobility!



Located on the third floor are the Camera delle Impannate, another bedroom, and the kitchen. The impannate were cotton or linen textile panels that were dipped in coloured wax and put in a wood frame to be inserted in the windows as a substitute for glass, which was very expensive at the time.



The kitchen is located on the top floor because the hot air rising from cooking stayed away from the lower living spaces in the heat of summer, and to minimize damage in the event of an out-of-control fire. The room features a fireplace with bellows and two turnspits, a wooden bread-kneading machine, a metal butter churn, and other tools dating from the Renaissance period or later. There is a dumbwaiter that services all floors so that food and water could be sent down to the dining rooms and bathrooms. Cisterns underneath the palazzo collected the rainwater that came into the atrium, to be used for drinking and ablutions. The servants' quarters were housed on the loggia level on very top floor. The loggia also allowed the family to escape the heat of the day, of an evening and catch the cool evening breezes.



A 13th Century French Quilt was also displayed at *Palazzo Davanzati* depicting scenes from Tristian and Isolde.



A definite surprise with the discovery of an historical and authentically restored building, somewhat off the beaten tourist tract, and away from the crowds and constant need to queue for tickets on a hot summer's day in Florence.

Thanks, Angela, for informing us as to this real estate gem!

Susan



Deepdene Combined Probud Club

MONTHLY MEETINGS, GROUPS, OUTINGS & WALKS

What we have done....

BOOK CLUB

Our book club meeting for October was reduced in numbers but the conversation was still interesting as always. The book for October was "*The Five Wishes of Mr Murray McBride*", written by Joe Siple, an American sports commentator. This novel was published after 17 years of his manuscripts being rejected and him coping with disappointment. The unexpected sudden death of his father before he read a completed manuscript was a light bulb moment for Joe to reflect on how he regretted not spending more time with his dad as he aged. This novel tells the story of centenarian, Murray McBride. Murray befriends a 10 year old boy, Jason, with a terminal heart defect and five wishes he wants to do before he dies. Murray takes on the task of helping Jason, in the short time they both have left, to achieve his wishes. Wishes are had, tragedies happen and miracles occur. This novel is fiction, but thought provoking about aging and relationships, as well as attitudes to end of life.

Score: 9



November's Novel: *The Secret World of Connie Starr*
by Robbi Neal
See p.8



Wendy

WALKS

Friday 31st October

STRADBROKE PARK TO HAYS PADDOCK KEW

What an enthusiastic group met to brave the poor weather armed with umbrellas and raincoats. No sooner had we started our walk to Hays Paddock when the skies opened. It rained the whole way through the walk. By the time we arrived at Tru Coffee Balwyn, our pit-stop, we were all saturated! Our doggy mascots enthusiastically enjoyed the retreat under the outside tables, where we warmed ourselves with hot drinks and food. What a brave and enthusiastic group!



Monday 10th November

MAIN YARRA TRAIL HAWTHORN & RICHMOND TO FRANKIE SAYS ABBOTSFORD

Despite the recent poor weather a jolly group met to enjoy the walk along the Yarra River. Intermittent sunshine made for a pleasant day as we meandered alongside cyclists and other local walking groups. We were treated to a delightful lunch at Frankie Says. The new management produced an extensive menu with an Asian flavor.

The return walk along the opposite side of the Yarra River provided a different view, encompassing the variety housing that flanks the river as well as the landing for the Hawthorn Rowing Club. A delightful new walk for Club members. Thanks Di!



Julie



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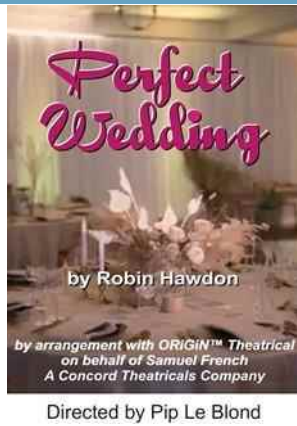
On a very wet and cold Saturday 8th November afternoon, four of our members ventured out to be entertained by the final Malvern Theatre Company production for 2025. The performance we saw was the *Perfect Wedding* by Robin Hanson.

The play is a light, fast moving farce about a wedding day that goes completely wrong. The story is about mix-ups, misunderstandings, surprises and fast paced jokes, as the characters try and fix one problem after another (frequently the 'fix' creates further problems!). Even though the situations are unlikely, the humour feels natural and keeps the audience entertained.

The set was of the Honeymoon Suite in an countryside town B&B. As with a good farce, many doors to open, close and slam. It's all in the timing!

We all enjoyed this well acted play and left with smiles on our faces.

Jenny



OUTINGS

10 pin bowling and lunch at Mr and Miss Café on Thursday, 13th November

We had a great time on Thursday when we revisited our 10 pin bowling styles. We (six) bowlers all had mixed scores from strikes to zero. Some could claim jet lag but what about the rest of us as intermittent gutter balls went right and left.

Eight of us adjourned to *Mr and Miss Cafe* in Whitehorse Road where we had a leisurely and ample lunch.

Thanks everyone for the fun and laughter.



Lucy

SNAKES ALIVE!

Just for fun, Heather created a Snake Guessing Completion. Jelly Snakes in a jar. Guess how many are in the jar. The person with the closest guess wins the jar of *Jellied Serpentes*. Everyone had a guess.

Leslie was the closest with a guess of 50. There were actually 48.

Congratulations Leslie.

And thank you Heather for being so creative.



Marian



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POST MEETING LUNCHEON

After our meeting this morning 10 members headed to *Eno Garden Café* for lunch. Despite being short staffed, our food came out in dribs and drabs, but was yummy. Lots of chats and laughter. Lovely as usual. Thanks Susan for organising.



Marian

MONTHLY MEETINGS, GROUPS, OUTINGS & WALKS Coming up.....

WALKS

THURSDAY 20TH NOVEMBER (SHORT 3KM WALK w gravel)

Start: 10.00 a.m.

Meet: 179 Station St, Burwood VIC 3125 in rear car park at the back of the Bennettswood Bowling Club.

ROUTE

Entrance to the car park is almost opposite Boardman Close on Station Street. (Make sure you park in the area allocated to the Gardiners Creek walk and not the Bowling Club. Parking is limited so if possible car pool)

Please note that you will need to inform me if you are participating in the luncheon at Box Hill Golf Course as a booking is required.

Co-ordinator: Julie

BOOK CLUB

Book for November (Susan)

The Secret World of Connie Starr

by Robbi Neal

Date—24th November @ 11.00 a.m.

Book Club's end of year luncheon will be held on Monday 1st December @ *The Boulevard Restaurant*, 369 Mont Albert Rd, Mont Albert VIC 3127, at 12.00 p.m. Please let Neva know if you're coming as we need to book our Table.

On 4th November *Half Yours* won the 2025 Melbourne Cup ridden by Jamie Melham, who becomes the second female jockey to win the race that stops the nation. *Half Yours* won by two-and-three-quarter lengths from Goodie Two Shoes



Co-ordinator: Neva



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MOVIES



Wednesday, 26th November @ 11.00 a.m.

Wicked: For Good

Now demonized as the Wicked Witch of the West, Elphaba lives in exile in the Ozian forest, while Glinda resides at the palace in Emerald City, revelling in the perks of fame and popularity. As an angry mob rises against the Wicked Witch, she'll need to reunite with Glinda to transform herself, and all of Oz, for good.

Running time: 2h 17m

This is our FINAL FILM for 2025.

These Outings to the *Golden Years* screenings on the 4th Wednesday of the month. **Meet** at Ticket Office @ 10.45 a.m. and buy your own ticket. We may arrange lunch afterwards among yourselves.

Co-ordinator: Marian

OUTINGS

Christmas Luncheon & Trivia Quiz

Date: Monday, 8th December 2025

Outing: Christmas luncheon and Trivia Quiz

Time: 12.00 p.m. *Templestowe Hotel Bistro*

Address: 23 Parker Street

Templestowe Lower 3107



Join us again for our 2025 Christmas function. Bring your friends if you wish as it is a good day out. Our Quiz Master has been working on our questions for months so it will be a challenge and fun.

The booking is in the name of Lucy Honeycombe/Deepdene Probus. There is ample parking at the side and back with a lift next to the back stairs to take you to the bistro. If stairs are an issue, there is also an entrance at the front of the hotel from Parker Street which is flat and no stairs.

You pay for your own drinks and food at the bar.

Add your name to the list or contact me separately if you are coming.

It's been a great year for our group so let's celebrate!

Co-ordinator: Lucy

A Special Event. Play: *Come From Away* on Friday 12th December

Come From Away tells the true story of how the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, became the unexpected host to thousands of stranded passengers on September 11th, 2001. After 38 planes were diverted to Gander's airstrip, the isolated community welcomed the travellers, overcoming cultural and language barriers with music, open bars, and a sense of global solidarity.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Address: *Geoffrey McComas Theatre* at Scotch College,
54 Fordholm Rd, Hawthorn .VIC 3122

MAP:

[https://www.google.com/maps/place/Geoffrey+McComas+Theatre/@-37.834204,145.0294765,17.25z/data=!4m6!3m5!](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Geoffrey+McComas+Theatre/@-37.834204,145.0294765,17.25z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x6ad6430060e033fb:0x89d87e7a4776ce42!8m2!3d-37.8343932!4d145.0305994!16s%2Fg%2F11w2fp8l0h?entry=tту&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MTExMi4wKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D)

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Co-ordinator: Marian

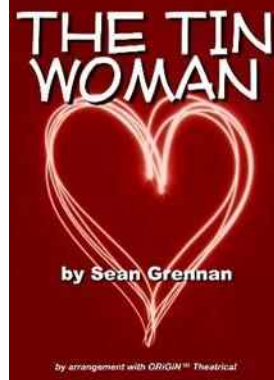


Deepdene Combined Probud Club

PLAYS



**MALVERN THEATRE – 2.00 p.m. MATINEE
SUNDAY 22nd FEBURARY, 2026**



Our first Malvern Theatre play for 2026 is **The Tin Woman**.

More details re: Plays in the January Newsletter.

- THE BREADBOX
- THE VISIT
- MISERY
- WHEN THE RAIN STOPS FALLING
- DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS

Co-ordinator: Michael

NEXT MEETING

Monday 19th JANURARY 2026, meeting commencing at 10.00 a.m.

Venue: *St Aidan's Church, 17-21 Duggan Rd, Balwyn North.3104*

Guest: *Casual day. Everyone Bring A Plate.*

Topic: Games & Activities

MORNING TEA ROSTER

DATE	NAME
19-01-2026	Everyone Bring a Plate to share
16-02-2026	Di H
16-02-2026	Julie
20-04-2026	Dianne Mc
18-05-2026	Dieu
16-06-2026	Jenny
20-07-2026	Neva

Co-ordiantor: Neva



Every Christmas at our Christmas luncheon we raise money for a charity.
This year it is **"Hope in a Suitcase"**.

Money is raised for children who are taken into care by the authorities.
A suitcase is full of goodies, books, toys, clothes, toiletries etc., and given to each child. Sometimes this is the only thing the children have or own.

The money will be given to the charity or we will buy the goods to make up suitcases.

Please bring your cash donation to the luncheon and give to Marcia.



Marcia