



OUR GUEST SPEAKER JOHN CAMERON EXPLAINS CHATGPT & AI

A 50 year veteran of the computer industry, John has followed the development of ChatGPT and AI closely. He shared his knowledge with us and explained how this technology can help us, how to use it safely and how to incorporate it into our daily lives.

ChatGPT can be used to generate material - stories, letters, etc. to get a unique story built word by word. It can produce travel plans (e.g. put in an itinerary) and can be used as a personal advisor and a management tool.

If used as a drawing tool, it needs a lot of instruction, so is not very good for this application.

Worryingly, ChatGPT has no ethics - it tells lies (called hallucinations). Quite concerning! One example, when ChatGPT was asked about the NSW country town of Glen Innes, it said there were trout farms in the area and there are actually none!

AI will change jobs enormously. News Corp is generating 3000 stories each week with AI. This might create issues as there is no copyright on AI generated articles. There could also be problems in education, such as universities not being able to tell if AI has been used by students.

The more detail you give AI, the answer you get will be more useful but AI cannot tell you if something is true. Should we be worried?

Some of our technically-minded members will already be using ChatGPT & AI. Others, like myself, will keep using the programs on our home computers that we are comfortable with.



John Cameron

Judy Coulson

Sightseeing & Photography Group

OCTOBER OUTING – NEW ART GALLERY & BOTANIC GARDENS

The forecast was for 38 degrees and windy so many people decided not to come on this outing. But the weather turned out not too bad with some cloud cover and by the time we had finished it had only reached 32 degrees.

We started out at the new Art Gallery, opening in December 2022, costing \$347.5M, a 1/3rd of which was from public donations. It is called 'Naala Badu' meaning 'seeing waters' referencing the adjacent waters of Sydney Harbour. It has a 6-star green rating with the roof covered in solar panels and 8,000 sqm of gardens with 50,000 Australian native plants.



We wandered around the gallery seeing some of the exhibits including 'Flowers that bloom in the Cosmos' (see group photo). Our last stop was in the basement, which was one of two old fuel tanks used to supply the allied ships in WW11. It now houses an exhibit called 'The Key's Under the Mat' meaning 'use it and make yourself at home'. It is a playground- inspired park for kids and is made totally from reclaimed and recycled materials. It contains a fully functioning DJ Booth, BBQ, sauna, steam room, laundromat, swings, monkey bars etc (see group photo).

Then we crossed the road to the Royal Botanic Gardens, which cover 30Ha and which were opened to the public in 1831. We wandered through some parts of the gardens learning the story about some of the more interesting plant species, including the Wollemi Pine which is in fact a conifer not a pine. Do you know the difference between a conifer and a pine tree? A conifer has leaves whilst a pine has needles. The gardens also contain what is believed to be the oldest Jacaranda tree in Australia. It was planted around 1850.

We found our way through the rainforest section (see photo) and finished up at 'The Calyx' for lunch. This building houses exhibitions and now contains, one of, if not the largest green wall in the Southern Hemisphere (see photo).

Ian Landon Jones



Sightseeing & Photography Group Continued



Men's Group

Probus Men's Group meets fortnightly at Delish Cafe - Castle Hill.

As a group we meet at the same place and at the same time.

We don't impose any strict order, discipline or rules, to encourage friendship and open communication.

The only regular activity is a 15 minute discussion on a topic we advise prior to the meeting (by email) Our next get together is Tuesday 25th November and the discussion question is - " You have just won a \$6000 Australian travel voucher" where would you go ? How would you get there? - plane, train, coach, boat or car.

Diary Note - The Men's Group Christmas Lunch will be held at The Hills Club on Tuesday 16th December at 12 noon. All men welcome. Please RSVP to John Cowpe (cowpejohn6@gmail.com)

New members are always welcome to join our get togethers. The bacon and egg roll with coffee is a great way to start the day.

John Cowpe



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\$2.50 Group Outing Balmoral - October 31

Our planned trip to Newcastle on 31 October was postponed by the High Speed Rail Hub people and so we had to come up with a replacement \$2.50 trip at very short notice. So it was that we met at Castle Hill Metro for a train trip to Crows Nest and from there a bus journey down to beautiful Balmoral. It was a perfect Spring day to wander about and of course we found a few nice venues to luncheon at. The return trip for most of us was just a reversal of our trip there, but the Carsons took the option of going via bus to the Zoo, ferry and then light rail back to Central and home from there by train. The \$2.50 group last went to Balmoral on 25 August, 2017 which was only our 20th ever trip, and only three of us did both that trip and this one, myself, Di Hobden and Davy Lee.

Ken Carroll



Movie Group

Friday November 7

ROOFMAN

Roofman is the true story of an ex service man with nothing to contribute to his family but his wits. His name was derived from the fact that he robbed 43 MacDonalds outlets by accessing the premises through the roof before being caught.

After a successful escape from prison he made his home for several months undetected in a Toys R Us store.

Humour, melancholy, a smile and a tear make this a very watchable movie.

Roofman ultimately found love; but she 'sold him down the swanny' and he finished up back in jail only to make two more, though unsuccessful, escapes!!

Just the three of us today. However, I encourage others to join us - if not for the context of the movie then for the laughs and comradeship!!

I love our monthly movies.

Dot Marshall



Penrith Museum of Fire Thurs Nov 13

On 13 November, 38 members of our Club enjoyed an informative outing to the Museum of Fire in Penrith. We were warmly welcomed by the museum staff, who provided a fascinating introduction to the history of firefighting in New South Wales.

The Museum of Fire, housed in the former Penrith Power Station since 1986, offers an impressive collection of historic fire engines, uniforms, and equipment — some dating back more than a century. The equipment on display and also the building that it is housed in, are in immaculate condition and are truly a credit to the volunteers involved.

Our guided tour took us through displays highlighting amongst other things, the first Women's Brigade named the Armidale Amazons formed in 1901; the evolution from people drawn fire trucks to horse drawn and finally motorisation; the role of fire station dogs and cats; use of the fire pole in stations; crossover between



Fire and Rescue and voluntary groups like the Rural Fire Service and locals trained in use of the Community Fire Units; the now digital, but previously hand written, station diaries where records are kept of all station activities and call outs; historical and modern breathing apparatus - to name just a few.

All in all, we were certainly given way more than our \$12 worth of information, making it a truly worthwhile activity. Lunch at the Panthers' Leagues Club was well attended by almost all of us and a welcome rest in a cool environment.

Dianne Carroll





**Penrith
Museum
of Fire
Continued**



MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH Tuesday Nov 4

We had four tables of 20 for this year's Melbourne Cup at WPHS Club, only trouble is we forgot to take photos of the tables. Never mind there is always next time. There were widely varying comments on this year's food from "excellent meal" to "my salmon was raw" and, unfortunately, they ran out of cutlets. But the music, entertainment, trivia, giveaways, sweeps, prizes and atmosphere were top notch, with the only complaint to me being that it was noisy (but I do think most of the noise came from the 80 of us). We had entries in all three categories of "Fashions in the Field" being Rick Dugan and Brian Burfitt in the Men's section; Liz Ivory and Lesley Harrison in the Ladies' Hats; Kay Burfitt who took out the Best Dressed Lady prize. Well done to everyone, as I feel that we all looked pretty swish. Again sorry for the lack of photos. I backed the winner "Half Yours" ridden by the girl jockey, so I went away happy, I hope you did too.

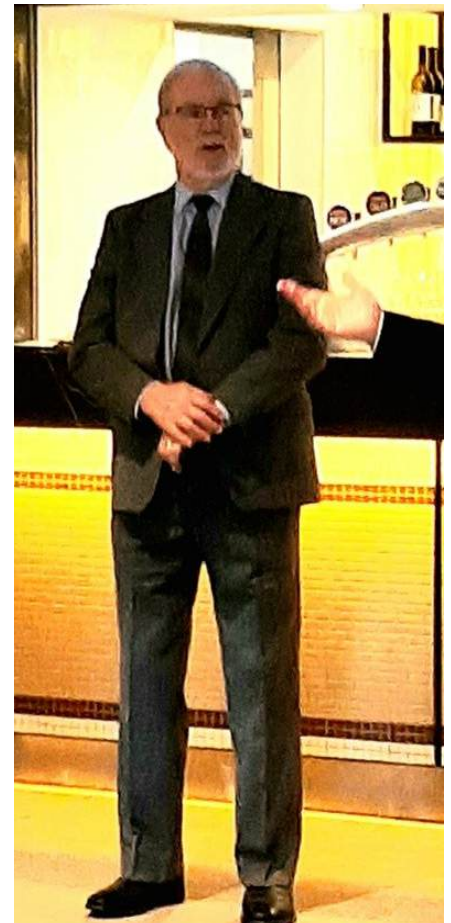
Dianne Carroll



ABOVE - A very stylish Kay with her Ladies Best Dressed prize

RIGHT - A very debonair Ric wins the Men's Best Dressed

LEFT - Lesley & Liz - in their winning hats



GRAFTON JACARANDA TOUR OCT 29 - NOV 2

Barry's coach was chartered by Nomad Tours for our 5 day trip to Grafton and Barry took great care of us. We left Castle Hill 7.30 on a showery Wednesday morning & arrived in Grafton around 5.30 that afternoon. For lunch we stopped at The Artisan Farmer at Nahiach.

After unpacking at the Espana Motel we had a short time to relax before our dinner at Grafton District Services Club.

Thursday morning the sun was shining & we were back on the coach to go to breakfast at Vines Cafe as our motel wasn't able to provide meals for large groups. After breakfast we had an informative town tour with a local guide. During the tour there were ample opportunities to take photos. Many streets had picturesque Jacarandas on both sides. Our main activity for the rest of the day was exploring the street markets. We were spoiled for choice as they were many & varied. There were lots of people out & about especially as the local students had the day off school. Dinner at night was at the Grafton District Services Club &



White Jacarandas

the Clarence River Historical Society. Frederick Schaffer was the town's first architect. After viewing the many interesting treasures from a bygone era with our volunteer guides we were treated to morning tea. Next we travelled to Lanbruk's Gunyah historic

property

On Friday after breakfast we went to Grafton Regional Gallery to view the exhibitions.

Following that we progressed to Schaffer House, built in 1903 which is now the home of



belonging to Dorothy & Don Enders for a delicious homemade stew for lunch. Apart from the enormous quantity of collector items the goats, especially the gorgeous 2-week old kid, attracted our members' interest. We departed after a browse through the gift store & a friendly farewell. Dinner that evening was at the Crown Hotel in Grafton, located beside the river. At 9pm we enjoyed a spectacular fireworks display for 15 minutes.

GRAFTON JACARANDA TOUR Continued

On Saturday it was overcast so after breakfast at the Vines we headed for the markets at the TAFE grounds. Once again they were many & varied. Luckily the showers didn't impact our visit. Before lunch we had the opportunity to go to the Woodwork Expo presented by the Clarence Valley Woodworkers Association in the RSL Club, showcasing a huge display of unique pieces by local talented artists. Later in the afternoon it was time for the Grand Float Procession. Not even the weather could dampen the enthusiasm of the participants. These included a drive by of vintage cars, marching bands, Jacaranda princess floats & a wide range of community groups. All of us then had to venture out in the rain to walk to the Crown Hotel for dinner. Our outdoor enclosed dining area floor was even wet from the rain blowing in. Our host kindly offered our group rugs to those of us who were damp or cold and turned on the overhead heating. Wonderful hospitality.

At 8.30 after breakfast on Sunday we departed for our return journey to Castle Hill. Morning tea was a brief detour to the village of Bellingen. Our lunch break was at the Nابیac Hotel where the meals were hearty & the service was very efficient. After a short afternoon stop it was straight back to Castle Hill, arriving at 6.15.

From all accounts everyone had an enjoyable time including the opportunity to socialise with fellow members. Thanks so much to Judy for all her untiring efforts & patience. Also thanks to Chris for her work with the coach tours.

Bev Sweeney



Lunch Group

Friday November 14

The newly refurbished Vineyard provided a spacious venue for our November lunch. A large group of us enjoyed the wide variety of meals available and the very pleasant atmosphere of this hotel. Judging by the noise level during the afternoon, everyone enjoyed the opportunity to chat to



others in the club. It was nice to see some new members joining the lunch group, hope you enjoyed the day and will join us again next year.

Terry Ireland



Walking Group October 2025 Outing

MALABAR HEADLAND

Well, I set a bit of a challenge for the walk this month with the walk being about 6 km long and including over 200 stairs. But this didn't deter some of our walkers and they were not disappointed. The weather was perfect, with the temperature being in the early 20s and a light cool breeze that made it very pleasant for the walk.

To top it all off we were very lucky to see a pod of whales off the coast heading back down south. When heading south they are normally further out to sea. One of the whales was having a 'whale' of a time flapping his rear tail fin repeatedly for about 5 mins (see photo).

The first part of the walk, called the Boora Point Walking Track (3km in length) took us out to Boora Point, through the Malabar Headland National Park (Australia's newest national park), with some fantastic views of Sydney's coastline (see group photo looking back towards Maroubra Beach).

We then continued to the small Malabar Beach before climbing up and over the Western Escarpment Walking Track which gave expansive views over the ANZAC Rifle Range. The Rifle Range provides 60 targets with a shooting range of 100 to 800 metres. The walking track is closed when the rifle range is being used.

After the walk we headed to the Maroubra Seals Club for a well-earned drink and some lunch (see photo). We then caught the bus and metro back to Castle Hill.

Ian Landon-Jones



Wine & Cheese Night November 21

Christmas Wine and Cheese

Wine and Cheese nights are always great, but this one was even better!

An impossible Christmas trivia quiz was our first challenge, producing many laughs and lots of discussion. Greg Carson was the winner, with Juliet Muras a close second (following a tie breaker drawing challenge). But there were also a few minor winners throughout the quiz. There were also several other prizes along the way for best dressed which went to Peter Debreczeny who was actually "Santa" himself and lucky doors went to Eileen Ashbrooke and Margaret Gillies.

This was followed by a delicious Christmas feast – turkey, real ham off the bone, potatoes, an assortment of salads, gravy and relishes. The two desserts were also awesome.

The highlight of the evening was Jack Daniels, Illusionist extraordinaire, who amazed us all with his brilliance. Julia was more than happy to see her \$50, which had been turned into a US\$1 note, reappear out of a real lemon. Rodney escaped being stabbed by a sword during an unbelievable card trick and Olivia almost took off with a levitating table.

Many thanks to Di Carroll and her willing band of helpers for giving us this wonderful evening. Roll on 2026 for more fantastic Wine and Cheese evenings.

Julia Vrcek & Glenys Wwearne



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Wine & Cheese Night - Continued



Ladies Morning Tea Group

Monday 10th Nov 2025 Frankie's Café Flower Power Glenhaven



Our November chat and catch up, which was our last for the year, was astoundingly attended by 27 lovely ladies!

Thank you all so much for your wonderful company and your great support throughout the year as you've all made it the great success that it is.

Have a safe and happy Christmas and I sincerely hope to see you all in the new year when we return.

Marie Inglis

BBQ-Picnic Group November 20

Despite the chill wind and the possibility of rain, 32 people turned up at Heritage Park Castle Hill on Thursday 20th November to enjoy food and fellowship.

It was most pleasing to see several first timers take the opportunity of putting to the test my oft repeated statement that "***There Are No Strangers At a Probus Barbecue / Picnic***"

The attached photos bear witness to the fact that gas was available in the barbecues and that the would be ***Masterchef*** and ***My Kitchen Rules*** contestants made full use of the facilities.

It was brought to my attention that Rodney Dredge had designs on Juliet Muras' steak, but Juliet's threat to stab him curbed Rodney's desire.

Once again Sue Embrey supplied several games which defied our gross motor skills but added to the enjoyment of the evening.

With threat of rain most people headed off about 7.30pm, and in the words of Maxwell Smart "*we missed the rain by just that much Chief.*"

Thankyou to all who attended or were intending to be there, you made this organiser very happy.

Note for your diary, February 2026 Barbecue Picnic will be another Twilight event at Heritage Park Castle Hill.

Hope to see you there.

Warren Lyons



Club Calendar

School holidays are shown in blue

NSW Public holidays are shown in green

December 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 Choir Group The Hills Club 12:30pm - 2.00pm	2 Monthly meeting 10.00am	3 Mahjong Group 10am Baulkham Hills Sports Club	4	5 Movie Group	6
7	8 Event #45999 Club Christmas Lunch Pennant Hills Golf Club	9 Walking Group ----- Men's Interest Group 9:30 am	10 Management Committee 10.00 am == Mahjong Group 10am Baulkham Hills Sports Club	11	12 Lunch Group	13
14	15 Craft Group 10.00 am	16 Ten Pin Bowling 11.00 am	17 Mahjong Group 10am Baulkham Hills Sports Club Pretty Woman Theatre Royal 1:00 pm	18 BBQ/Picnic Group	19	20
21	22 Book Club 2.00 pm	23 Men's Interest Group 9.30am ----- Card Group Baulkham Hills Sports Club 12:30pm	24 Sightseeing & Photography Group --- Mahjong Group 10am Baulkham Hills Sports Club	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27
28	29	30	31			