



Castle Hill & District Probus Club Inc.

Club No N9004055, Accreditation No 2500, District No 9685

PO Box 321 Castle Hill NSW 1765

December 2025

NEWSLETTER

Vol 13 No 12

*Wishing
you all
a very
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!*



Christmas Lunch

Monday Dec 8

Yet again Pennant Hills Golf Club rose to the challenge of attending to 132 of our members who had gathered at their clubhouse, overlooking the amazing golf course. The food was excellent and was matched by the service from the very efficient staff. They promised us a new menu to choose from next year so I imagine we will be back again. Everyone was dressed either very glamorous or particularly "Christmasey" and our President and Senior Vice President chose Greg and Janet Carson to take home the "Best Dressed" prizes.

Lucky door prize winners were - Moira Matthews (the Birthday girl), Gill Begbie, Bill Northcott, Linda Armour, Fran Fitzpatrick, Brian Hoare, with the larger major hamper won by Gary Foster. Well done to all of you and thanks again to Marg and Moira for your work purchasing, wrapping and transporting the hampers, they were fantastic. Also a big thank you to Ian for being our photographer for the day, great work Ian, Verna for efficiently signing us all in and to Judy for the fabulous little Christmas boxes on the tables.

President Geoff thanked Marg and I for the day and all the Club's Activity Leaders for making our Club such an on-going success. I took the opportunity to thank all of my Events Team for their efforts all year too, ie Marg, Moira, Lyn, Fran and Olivia. Of course though when we say Event and Activity people, we also mean people like, Anika (Guest Speaker Co-ordinator), Sue H (Hospitality Co-ordinator), Janice (Tours Co-ordinator), Judy (Newsletter Editor), Terry (Welfare), Warren (Risk Manager), Davy, Bruce and Ken (various IT jobs), and John (Public Officer) and all the Committee and Assistant Committee people too. Every single one of you are absolutely essential to making our Club the Best Probus Club there is, this year and every year (that is my opinion any way).

We wish you all a very Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dianne Carroll



Above left : Huge thanks to Margaret & Dianne - our hard-working organisers.

Above right : A very happy group !

Right : The Birthday Girl was a winner!

←
Our photographer making sure he's ready for the day!



Christmas Lunch Continued.....



A very festively dressed President Geoff



Beau was getting into the spirit of the day!



A very happy Gary with his First Prize



Catching up - Lorraine & Jean



"Did you see this one?!"



Festively dressed Brian & Sue Hoare enjoying the lunch



The Best Dressed Janet & Greg Carson

Bundeena (and back) for \$2.50

The last \$2.50 trip for 2025 was another great day with friends

Friday 28th November 2025

Our Club had previously been to Bundeena as early as 2016—it was good then and is even better now.

On boarding the fast train to Redfern, the 30 of us were greeted by hoards of excited school children and their friendly teacher. It turns out that there was a matinee rehearsal of the 2025 Schools Spectacular at Qudos Bank Arena and the kids were to be the audience. It was not lost on us, or their teacher, that here were a bunch of 11 yo's enjoying an outing and there were we, a bunch of 70+ yo's also enjoying an outing. The attendant at Redfern was very keen for us to "keep behind the yellow line" and told us so quite often. Redfern is where we change to



the Cronulla line. As usual, there is a lot of fun just in the travel !!



From Cronulla station it is a short walk downhill to the wharf where we waited for the 11.30 ferry to Bundeena. MV Curranulla is the same ferry that took us in 2016. It was our conductor's last day as he was off to the Manly Ferries to work for a Master's Certificate.



Bundeena RSL is an excellent lunch venue. The outlook is superb and the meals are tasty and large. There is an unanswered question over the lack of availability of a bowl of ice cream.



And so a most enjoyable day (and year for that matter) comes to an end. We all waited patiently for the return ferry to Cronulla. From there our train took us home via several different routes.



Well done and thanks Kenneth, \$2.50 is a great activity.

Rod Dredge



Orange Cherry Picking Tour

Day 1. We joined Cherrybrook/North Rocks Probus for a fun filled tour. Our first stop was at the beautiful Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens for morning tea. Then onto Millthorpe via Lithgow where we experienced a "white out" with heavy rain and hail with many trees down along the roadside. Arriving in Millthorpe, the weather was again beautiful for our lunch and tour of Golden Memories Museum, unfortunately most of the shops only open Friday through to Sunday.

On to Orange and the Remington Hotel for dinner and the first of our three night stay.

Day 2. After a delicious breakfast, our first stop was Four Jays Farms. This was a fascinating look into hazelnut farming. Basil gave us a very interesting and detailed account of the families' 30 year history on the farm, as well as a delicious hazelnut based morning tea.

Then onto Mt Canobolas for a picnic lunch.

Our afternoon activity was at Small Acres Cydery to taste some refreshing ciders, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic and to receive a gift pack of the cider of our choice.

After some well needed retail therapy in Orange, we had a delicious dinner in the exquisite Duntry League House.

Day 3. After breakfast, we picked up our Orange tour guide Pam, who informed us in great detail of the history of Orange and it's many lovely old buildings. We had our morning tea in Cook's Park and then on to Hills Harvest for our cherry picking.

We picked deliciously sweet white cherries as the red/black cherries were not quite ready. Lunch at Hillside Harvest began with a power blackout, but not to be deterred, we were served wraps, pies, sausage rolls and a very yummy homemade apple cake with cream accompanied with cherry juice! Then off to Philip Shaw Winery and then dinner back at our Motel.

Day 4. Leaving Orange this morning, our first stop was the amazing Abercrombie House in Bathurst. Some of us had been there before, but this did not diminish the fabulous tour and morning tea.

We drove around Bathurst where our coach driver Mick told us many interesting facts, and showed us the lovely old buildings, as well as the compulsory "hot lap" around Mt Panorama at approx. 40kph not the racing speed in excess of 200 kph.

Our tour today was the Dinosaur and Fossil Museum in Bathurst, which was fascinating. Lunch was at the George Hotel in Bathurst.

We journeyed home via the much improved Great Western Highway with a comfort stop at Bulls Camp. Once again another wonderful Probus outing, thanks to Janice for all your organising, Mick and Toni from On Course Tours.

Anika Corner



Orange Cherry Picking Tour Continued



The information in this Newsletter is Private and Confidential for Probus use only and is not to be used for any other purpose

Editor: Judy Coulson 0418 437 473 newsletter@chdp.org.au

Pavilion Theatre November 30

On the last day in November, 30 lucky Probus members enjoyed "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear".

For me, this was a fast moving and thoroughly entertaining production, with some amazing performances, particularly from Brendon Stone playing Dr John Watson. There was a well choreographed sword fight between two scantily clad women! This play was a hoot and a great way to finish off another good year of Castle Hill Players shows at The Pavilion Theatre at Castle Hill Showgrounds.

Olivia Northcott



Movie Group

NUREMBERG Friday, December 5

As the Nuremberg trials are set to begin a US Army Psychiatrist (Rami Malek) gets locked in a dramatic psychological showdown with accused Nazi criminal Hermann Goring (Russell Crowe).

The movie is very powerful and captivating and kept us interested until the end. It is a timely story and historical lesson.

Gay Thomas



Choir Group

Our Probus Choir has had another successful year, we are all very committed and enjoy our afternoons practicing. Also the two concerts we had, the latest one being for Christmas with Colin playing the trumpet for "Silver Bells" was very well done. We are always looking for new members (especially male singers) if you are interested come along and try out there are no auditions and it's lots of fun. A special thank you to Jeanie for giving so much of her time, we always look forward to our Monday afternoons. We are having a break over the holidays, resuming on Monday 9th February 12.30 to 2.00pm at The Hills Club in Jenner Street. If you have any questions please email or call me, thanks



Sandra Beach : jsbeach@bigpond.com 0417 664 271



Book Club News

Our Probus Book Club has had a very enjoyable & worthwhile year with a variety of various genre of books read by our members (some enjoyed others not so much). The pinnacle of our year was our Christmas Lunch where 14 of us enjoyed a delicious spread before discussing our final book, "The Bee Sting". The Bee Sting by Paul Murray generated lots of discussion about its language, direction & purpose but none of us enjoyed it even though it had won many literary awards.

Our Book Club meetings will resume in February 2026.....New Members WELCOME

Lorraine Osborne



The information in this Newsletter is Private and Confidential for Probus use only and is not to be used for any other purpose

Editor: Judy Coulson 0418 437 473 newsletter@chdp.org.au

Walking Group

DECEMBER OUTING – Epping to Cheltenham

Despite the forecast for quite a warm day we still had a good number of our usual walkers turn up. We caught the metro to Epping and after admiring all the new units going up near the station headed downhill and through a large tunnel beneath the M2 (see photo). We then walked along a bush track section of the *Great North Walk* through part of the Lane Cove National Park.



At the 3 km mark we took a detour along a fire-trail to view 'Whale Rock' (see group photo). We also saw what is called "Turtle Rock" (see photo) which needed a bit more imagination. After returning to the main track, we started our uphill section of the walk to Cheltenham Station (see group photo). Along the way we could view the



heritage listed '*Ahimsa*' cottage up on the hill. This fibro cottage was built in 1937 by Marie Byles, who was the 1st practising solicitor in NSW. Appropriately, she was one of the early members of the *Sydney Bushwalker's Club*. She always slept outside on her open veranda, never drove a car and walked everywhere. One night in 1966, while asleep on the veranda she was attacked and suffered a fractured skull. She did not press charges and returned to sleeping on the veranda.



About half of our walkers were keen to get home due to the warm conditions whilst the remainder went across to Cheltenham



Recreation Club for a well-earned cold drink and some lunch (see photo). The daily special of Prawn and Watermelon Salad was an appropriate and popular choice for the day.

The walking group had been to this club once before and as per previously we were treated with good hospitality and service. Following lunch, we caught the train back to Epping and the metro back home. The total length of the walk was 5.5 km.

The January walk along a section of the Parramatta River will be led by Brian Rose and I will be back for the February walk.

Ian Landon-Jones



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

To add to the Christmas theme of our December meeting, President Geoff Redshaw inducted three new members, Lesley Scrimgeour, Kerry Tan and John Matthews.

Many thanks to Sue Hoare and her helpers for a great Christmas morning tea after the meeting.

Everyone enjoyed the nibbles & cuppa with fellow members. Our choir was very entertaining with their carols.



And the winner is

Beau Barry!

Just one of the lucky winners drawn by Sue & Olivia.

Many thanks to our Committee members for the Lucky Door prizes.



Norfolk Island Tour

Nov 30 - Dec 7

Five of our probus group went on this wonderful tour with On Course Tours & Travel. Our tour guide Debbie was most helpful & hired a car to transport us if required. Norfolk Island is known for its natural beauty & fascinating history. We stayed at the South Pacific Resort Hotel which was located close to the town. Most of our tours were conducted by Baunti Tours. These included a half day island discovery, Pitcairn Settlers Village, a Taste of Norfolk, a Progressive Dinner



at three different local homes hosted by extremely welcoming people, a tour of Colleen McCullough's home, the Convict Kingston Tour, a walk in the Hundred Acres Reserve on route to a barbeque breakfast, a Fish Fry dinner whilst watching a magnificent sunset, a tour of a Lavender farm, an entertaining Night as a Convict & a Sound & Light Show. We also had the chance to swim at Emily Bay or in the resort swimming pool, go to the Cascades, visit the amazing Cyclorama & the Bounty Museum, which was of particular interest to some people. Some of us went on a glass bottom boat on Emily Bay & were able to view beautiful coral, a variety of colourful fish & even a large turtle. There was ample time to relax & explore the shops & cafes. All of us had a thoroughly enjoyable & memorable week.

Bev Sweeney



Norfolk Island Tour Continued ...



Club Calendar

School holidays are shown in blue
NSW Public holidays are shown in green

JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Movie Group	3
4	5 Choir Group The Hills Club 12:30pm - 2.00pm	6 Monthly meeting 10.00am	7 Mahjong Group 10am Baulkham Hills Sports Club	8	9	10
11	12 Women's Coffee & Cake Group 9.30am Frankies Cafe Flower Power Glenhaven	13 Walking Group ----- Men's Interest Group 9:00 am	14 Management Committee 10.00 am ----- Mahjong Group 10am Baulkham Hills Sports Club	15	16 Parliament House Tour and High Tea	17
18	19 Craft Group 10.00 am	20 Ten Pin Bowling 11.00 am	21 Mahjong Group 10am Baulkham Hills Sports Club	22 Event #45967 Car Rally	23	24
25	26 Australia Day Public Holiday -- Book Club 2.00 pm	27 Men's Interest Group 9.00am	28 Sightseeing & Photography Group --- Mahjong Group 10am Baulkham Hills Sports Club	29	30 \$2.50 Outing	31

Please check with your Group Leader to ensure your regular meeting will be held this month.

VALE

Ron Paynter passed away on 23rd December after a long battle with cancer.