



AN UNIMAGINABLE EXPERIENCE

Our guest speaker for the September Meeting was Hans Kunnen. He was attending a conference at the Marriott Hotel, located adjacent to the Twin Towers in New York, when the terrorists flew two aircraft into the buildings.

Hans spoke of his horrific experience in 2001 during the terrorist attacks on the iconic Twin Towers on the last day of the conference.

At times, a very emotional Hans told of his escape from the horror and danger following the first plane plunging into the North Tower. He spoke of the noise and the debris that rained down from the building as frightened and bewildered people tried to flee to safety.

He was forced to leave the hotel without his belongings, including his passport and luggage, left behind in his hotel room. He knew he had to somehow leave the city when a second plane flew into the South tower – the sounds and falling debris were horrific. Not knowing how to get to the evacuation centre at the river, he decided to go to the ferry terminal or find a church for shelter.

Arriving at the Staten Island ferry terminal, the noise from the collapsing towers was unbelievable. Even there, he could hear the sound as each floor of the towers collapsed, the smoke and dust getting thicker, even covering the ferry terminal.

He managed to get a seat on a ferry beside a young woman who, after hearing of his experience, asked him if he would like to come and stay with her family in their home on Staten Island. Hans accepted her offer – he had nowhere else to go.

It took a few days for Hans, with the help of the woman who took him into her home, to get back into the city to reach the Australian Consulate. He was then able to obtain a new passport so that



he could travel home, the journey taking him 10 days.

Even though his experience was very traumatic, Hans finds it therapeutic to speak to groups of people about it.

He has returned to New York twice since 9/11.

A very confronting story.

Judy Coulson



Welcome to our newest members



Five new members were inducted at our September meeting.

Gary Foster, Di Foster, Peter Gilbert, Lauren Wallis & Linda Mulheron were welcomed and given their membership certificates by Membership Officer Verna Cowpe & President Geoff Redshaw.



CONGRATULATIONS KEN 100

\$2.50 GROUP OUTINGS

Congratulations to Ken Carroll - his \$2.50 Group celebrating 100 outings with a trip to Albury leaving the next day.

A special cake was cut by Ken to honour the occasion.

Watch out for the special edition newsletter dedicated to this trip to be published after this September newsletter.

Lunch Group Friday 12th September 2025

Alexandra Hotel in Leura

Twenty-nine of our members ventured up to Leura for lunch at the Alexandra Hotel in September.

Unfortunately we were a little early for the spring blossoms which were only just beginning to appear. However, we had a very pleasant lunch enjoying great company and lively conversation.

Terry Ireland



Probus Sightseeing & Photography Group

OLYMPIC PARK OUTING

July 2025

This tour brought back memories of times gone by from the 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the old Homebush Abattoirs. We started out at Parramatta and caught the train to Lidcombe. The Olympic train service was undergoing maintenance, so we caught the bus. This was fortunate for one of our members as he was brought up here and he relived some of his early memories. On arriving at Olympic Park, we visited 24 sites. Some of the notable ones were.

“Boral Olympic Dream Pathway” made from nearly 100,000 pavers on which the names of thousands of athletes are engraved. “Games Memories” consists of 480 poles (see photo) upon which are



engraved the names of the 74,000 volunteers for the games. Many of our group hunted around to find their names or names of someone they knew. Most people did not know that this exhibit existed.

We then visited “The Stride” which consists of lights set into the pathway spaced at the length of Cathy Freeman’s stride in her 400m win. Of course, then came “The Cauldron” (see group photo). The names of all the 4,599 medallists from both games are recorded here in gold,

silver and bronze nameplates. The “Eight Women” sculpture (see photo) celebrates the eight women who were involved in the lighting of both the game’s cauldrons. Can you name them?

We finished up at the Abattoir Café for lunch which is located amongst the old Abattoir Administration buildings. We visited several commemorative sites that recreate the atmosphere of the past. The State Abattoirs opened in 1913 and finally closed in June 1988. They were the biggest of their kind in



Australia and employed up to 1600 men and had a capacity to slaughter up to 20,000 sheep, 1,500 cattle and 2,000 pigs a day. The “Australia Map Mosaic” consists of an image of a sheep, pig and beef cow (see photo) with the words “Metropolitan Meat Industry Board State Abattoir Homebush Bay 1915 – 1988”.



After concluding our trip down memory lane and a nice lunch, we caught the bus and train back to Parramatta. If anyone would like a copy of my notes that include a photo, location, and a description of each of the sites we visited, then just email me and I will send it to you.

Ian Landon-Jones

Ladies Morning Tea Group

Mon 8 September
Frankie's Café
Flower Power Glenhaven



Our September ladies chat and catch up was well enjoyed by 21 chatty ladies. We also gave a warm welcome back to our dear Lorraine O'Mara.

Thank you all for your wonderful company and I hope to see you all again next month at Frankies.

Marie Inglis



Probus Sightseeing & Photography Group

August 2025

PARRAMATTA TOWN HALL

The guides were very knowledgeable and gave us a great understanding about the history of the two buildings. The combined tour included a visit to all 6 floors of the new modern PHIVE council building and a tour through the old Parramatta Town Hall. The two tours were totally different. One being very historical in nature whilst the other showcased the latest in technology and office systems.

PHIVE tour. We learnt what PHIVE stands for. It can be one of two things: the council building is located at No. 5 (FIVE) Parramatta Square. It can also stand for Parramatta Hive as the building provides a community, cultural and civic hub for people to meet. It is a 6 Green Star rated building opened on 22 September 2022 and cost \$136M. It has solar panels and rainwater collection systems on the roof, the water in the bathrooms is set at a fixed warm temperature, and glass louvres that adjust automatically to weather conditions for natural ventilation.

The building provides the following spaces: Library over two floors, two creative workshop studios, podcast and sound studio, wellness studio for fitness, dance, yoga sessions, smart tech lab, large basement discovery space for exhibitions, performances etc. The top floor houses the new Council Chambers (see group photos next page).

Probus Sightseeing & Photography Group Continued from Page 4



Parramatta Town Hall tour Continued The historic town hall was built in 1880. The name Parramatta has been translated as "the place where the eels lie down". This is exemplified in the Parramatta Crest that sits above the entrance to the town hall. The building has been renovated and restored but still contains much of the original building and features. Two rooms are worth a particular mention.

The Inspector of Nuisances Room (see photo of Warren and Geoff, our past and current presidents "Inspectors of Nuisances" standing outside this room). It was used to deal with minor nuisance crimes in the colony. The large Great Hall (see photo) retains much of the original features but also has modern lighting and audio-visual systems. Back in the 1950s both Johnny O'Keefe and the world-famous Von Trapp Family Singers (The Sound of Music) performed here. It can now be used for conferences, exhibitions, weddings etc. The old Council Chambers are located



upstairs
(see
photo).



Following the tours many of us went across the road to the Commercial Hotel for lunch (see photo). They had forgotten our booking but soon sorted it out, gave us a couple of free bottles of wine and went out of their way to make our time enjoyable. In addition, there was a lot of praise for the quality of the food.

Ian Landon-Jones



Probus Walking Group

August 2025

AUGUST OUTING – BELLA VISTA FARM TO SEVEN HILLS

We met at Bella Vista Farm and after walking through the grounds around the farm we headed off towards Seven Hills. The walk was mainly downhill along a paved walkway. We walked through Bella Vista Village Green and Francesco Crescent Reserve. Places that many of us had not been to before. We also had the chance to see the large and unusual stormwater collection chamber in the park (see photo).



We then crossed up and over Windsor Road, which tested out the fitness and hearts of those that took the stairs. Some took the easier route of the ramps. Then followed an easier walk along the Lalor Creek Shared Pathway alongside the creek and through Pearce, Banks and Ashley Brown Reserves.

Finally, finishing up at the Hudson Hotel after almost 2 hours for a well-earned drink and some lunch. Many of you will know this place as Lily's. They always provide good food and service here. (See group photos outside the hotel and inside having lunch). We then caught the bus back to our starting point at Bella Vista Farm to conclude an enjoyable day out due to the pleasant weather and our enthusiastic and friendly walkers.



Ian Landon-Jones

Probus Walking Group September 2025

NURRAGINGY RESERVE

Our group met at Plumpton Hotel, many coming by bus from Bella Vista Station. We had a good number turn up for this walk, but hey guys we were outnumbered 8 to 1 (see group photo). Maybe some of the men were still recovering from an enjoyable Father's Day the previous Sunday.



We headed off on the Binyang Matta Long Loop trail which is in Nurragingy Reserve, that forms part of the Western Sydney Parklands. The walk was along a wide sealed pathway which was flat the whole way. We even got to see some wildlife (two wallabies). At the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark we spilt into two groups with some taking a short cut back to the hotel while many continued along a longer loop back. Straight after this we had a brief sun-shower but us harder walkers continued on, and the rain was soon over.

After the 4.5km or 5.5km walk we finished up back at the Plumpton Hotel for our \$16 lunch specials (see photo). They provided good service for us. We then found our separate ways home.

Ian Landon-Jones



Club Calendar

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

September 2025

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
22 Book Club 2.00 pm === Tour & Travel Kimberley Icon Cruises Sept 22-Oct 3	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 Event #45925 Coach Trip Group Gory'u Japanese Gardens	26 \$2.50 Club	27
29	30 Coach Trip Tour Prince Henry Nursing and Medical Museum Little Bay				

October 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 Mahjong Group 10am Baulkham Hills Sports Club	2	3 Movie Group	4
5 Event #45935 Pavilion Theatre I'll Be Baack Before Midnight 4.00pm	6 Choir Group The Hills Club 12:30pm - 2.00pm	7 Monthly meeting 10.00am	8 Mahjong Group 10am Baulkham Hills Sports Club	9	10 Lunch Group Trevi Lakeside	11
12	13 Women's Coffee & Cake Group 9.30am Frankies Cafe Flower Power Glenhaven	14 Walking Group ----- Men's Interest Group 9:30 am	15 Management Committee 10.00 am === Mahjong Group 10am Baulkham Hills Sports Club === Event #45945 Back to the Future 1.00pm	16 BBQ/Picnic	17	18
19	20 Craft Group 10.00 am	21 Ten Pin Bowling 11.00 am	22 Sightseeing & Photography Group --- Mahjong Group 10am Baulkham Hills Sports Club	23	24	25
26	27 Book Club 2.00 pm	28 Men's Interest Group 9.30am Card Group Baulkham Hills Sports Club 12:30pm	29 Event #45959 Coach Trip Group Jacaranda Festival Tour Mahjong Group 10am Baulkham Hills Sports Club	30	31 \$2.50 Club	