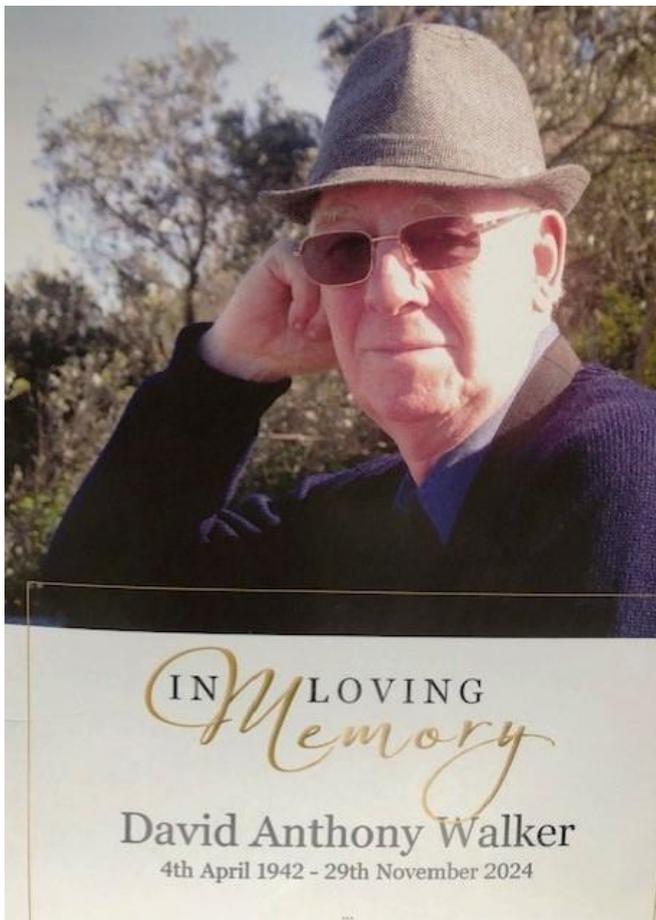




## January 2025 Newsletter

Edition No 204



Probus members were saddened to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of long-term member David Walker after a brief illness. Our club was well represented at David's funeral on 9 December.

David grew up in the small country town of Otautau in southern NZ. He was the eldest of 5 siblings. From a young age he showed a very determined streak and progressed through the local Scout Group and became a Queen's Scout.

On leaving school, David studied extramurally while working full time and quickly completed a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and soon after became a qualified Chartered Accountant, Chartered Secretary and member (later upgraded to Fellow) of the NZ Institute of Management.

He became a Scout Leader and met Lesley who was a young Cub Leader who lived just round the corner. They married in 1967 and had two children Sallyanne and Derek.

As a young Scouting leader David was ambitious and innovative. He organised trips to climb the West Coast glaciers and go sea kayaking on Milford Sound - 50 years before sea kayaking was even a thing. He also introduced caving as another exciting outdoor activity that his Scouts could try, and he went on to organise national caving schools that Scouts travelled from all over NZ to attend. During one of these schools he successfully organised and led the evacuation of a critically ill Scout in the middle of a wild and stormy night.

In 1973 David and Lesley moved to Wellington when David was appointed General Manager of a huge NZ company called Cornish Investments which had chains of retail shops, department stores, wholesale and manufacturing divisions. The company employed hundreds of people and when it got into financial trouble, the Government passed a special act of parliament to put it into statutory management rather than let it fail. David was immediately appointed Deputy Statutory Manager – a role equivalent to Chief Executive.

Over subsequent years, David managed the various businesses and then progressively sold them off – although Lesley was not too pleased when he sold the shoe factory that had been supplying her footwear for several years!

Following this David was appointed Director General of the NZ Manufacturers Federation – a huge and significant lobby group. In this role he helped negotiate the Closer Economic Relationship agreement (CER) with Australia that would bring economic and free trade benefits to both countries for decades to come.

After a 5-year term with the Manufacturers, David's career took another turn, and he was appointed as General Manager of Bell Gully – probably the largest law firm in NZ. In this role he managed dozens of partners and hundreds of lawyers and support staff.

While in Wellington, David had a long involvement with the Western Hutt Rotary Club and was made a Paul Harris Fellow. He was also involved with the NZ Crippled Children Society and directed Scout and Guide Gang Shows and other local theatrical productions.

In 1996 David was headhunted to lead Sydney law firm Sparke Helmore and the family packed their bags and started a new life in Frenchs Forest.

Throughout his career David showed outstanding leadership, empathy, planning skills and the ability to solve problems. He commanded respect,

inspired loyalty and successfully led large and complex organisations.

David was not averse to taking the limelight and performing. He had a fine bass singing voice, could play the trumpet, organ and harmonica, and was an excellent and funny public speaker.

At the end of 1998, aged only 58, and after a 40-year working career, David retired. He could have had the option of directorships and consultancies but after a lifetime in the limelight of high-profile jobs he just wanted to step back, relinquish responsibility and relax – and this is the David many of you would have known. In retirement he enjoyed working on his stamp collection, photography, woodwork, reading, and gardening. With Lesley he travelled extensively, and they visited 47 countries.

Many will remember David's skill on the BBQ, his enjoyment of fine whisky and wine, and his dedication to his family and friends. He was an exceptionally talented woodworker and could turn his hand to most handyman type tasks. As Lesley commented, nothing ever stayed broken for long in their house!

David was a good friend to all, a loving husband to Lesley for 57 years – and an awesome Dad to Sallyanne, Derek and Derek's wife Fleur.

David was given a great send off at his funeral with all four of his siblings travelling from NZ to attend. Fine tributes to a great man were delivered by his son Derek and brother Noel.

**Lesley Walker and Noel (David's brother)**

**WENDY MATCHETT**  
**16/11/1943 - 20/12/2024**

*Feel No Guilt In Laughter*

*Feel no guilt in laughter, he'd  
know how much you care.  
Feel no sorrow in a smile that he  
is not here to share.  
You cannot grieve forever; he  
would not want you to.  
He'd hope that you could live  
your life the way you always do.*

*So, talk about the good times and  
the way you showed you cared,  
The days you spent together, all  
the happiness you shared.*

*Let memories surround you, a  
word someone may say  
Will suddenly recapture a time, an  
hour or a day,  
That brings him back as clearly as  
though he were still here,  
And fills you with the feeling that  
he is always near.*

*For if you keep those moments,  
you will never be apart  
And he will live forever locked  
safely within your heart.*



Wendy Matchett was welcomed into our Probus Club at the May 2024 meeting with photo in the June Newsletter. With her bright and friendly personality she would have been an asset to our Club. Sadly she passed away on Friday 20th December.

Wendy and her late husband Michael lived in Belrose and their 3 children attended Mimosa Public School and Davidson High School. She was an active member of the Bush Regeneration and Year 6 Planting projects at Mimosa, under the leadership of Hastings Pawsey. She completed a certificate course in Bush Regeneration at Ryde TAFE during this time and regenerated her back yard area behind the Glenrose Shopping Centre.

The family were very actively involved for many years with the Wakehurst Rugby Club and she and Michael were regular members of St. Anthony in the Fields congregation in Terrey Hills.

Wendy was a very keen dancer and was one of Val's Gals, a group of adult ladies at the Glenrose Dance Centre, performing in their annual concerts for many years.

Unfortunately Wendy had experienced health issues during latter years but still enjoyed enthusiastically participating in many activities at Glenaeon during her eleven years there.

**Helen Miles**

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### **MOCCO'S MUSINGS**

Musings – a period of reflections or thought



Greetings All,

As 2024 draws to a close a brief recap is in order. Our numbers have grown manifold and we are now closing in on our threshold of 140. We have a short waiting list.

It has mostly been a year of enjoyment with lots of entertaining activities, social events, regional touring and a raft of excellent guest speakers, interspersed with some sad moments with the loss of Founding Member John Duce followed by Dulcie Herman and recently David Walker and Wendy Matchett. Large numbers of our Probus family paid their respects at the various "Celebrations of Life Services."

Looking ahead our AGM and election of office bearers is fast approaching and due in March. The committee is seeking two members willing to fill two vacant positions. Either one or two people could work together on Tours and Outings and one person to take on the Vice President's position. You would be joining a very friendly and supportive committee, whose members have vast experience and are always available to mentor as required. It is a great opportunity to leave your comfort zone and be well rewarded.

Our last major event for the year was our annual Christmas luncheon at the prestigious Monash Country Club. The function was very ably curated by Marg Lovett and as always assisted by Tony. It was highlighted by the talented musical performance by the granddaughters of the Hartnells and Worboys. Over 100 members enjoyed this wonderful event.

On behalf of the committee I would like to wish all my fellow Probusians a happy and healthy 2025 and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Cheers  
**President Peter**



From left to right President Peter Moxham, Ann Knowland who was inducted into the club at our last meeting and her mentor Lesley Hackshall.

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### Thought for the month.

*Look out 2025, here we come!*

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### CLUB CONTACTS

President: Peter Moxham 0417 299 283

Secretary: Alison Soutter 0400 525 700

Treasurer: Colin Fordred 0411 757 156

Newsletter: Jenny Jones 0405 310 537

Club Website:

<http://www.belroseprobus.org.au>

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024/2025

President	Peter Moxham
Past President	Ros Thompson
Vice President	Mike Hartnell
Secretary	Alison Soutter
Assist Secretary	Liz Pawsey
Treasurer	Colin Fordred
Assist Treasurer	Mike Staniland
Entertainment	Warwick Brady
Guest Speakers	Cherry Robinson
Membership	Tony Lovett
Newsletter	Jenny Jones
Social	Marg Lovett
Tours/Outings	Margaret Ayre
Welfare	Robyn Wood

To send a message, comment or suggestion to the committee, please email our club email address:

[Combinedbelroseprobus@gmail.com](mailto:Combinedbelroseprobus@gmail.com)

or use the suggestion box on the book exchange table:

### CLUB SUB COMMITTEES 2024/2025

Audio Visual	Terry Stewart
Honorary Auditor	Chris Wood
Book Exchange	Judy Morton
Cinema Group	Rosemary Daly
Hospitality	Di Pill
Photographer	Peter Loveday
Reception	Warren Needs
Walking Group	Helen and Dennis Miles
Website Admin.	Ross Swadling
Welfare	Robyn Wood
Wine Apprec,	Mike Staniland
Wrap with Love	Margaret Hobson



## JANUARY 2025

9 January – General Meeting

23 January – Committee Meeting

## FEBRUARY 2025

6 February - Tours  
Sydney General Post Office

13 February – General Meeting

15 February – Entertainment  
Vayne's World, Glen Street Theatre

19 February – Entertainment  
Petula Clark, Best of British Music

27 February – Committee Meeting

28 February – Walk

## MARCH 2025

6 March – Tours  
Sydney Water Purified Recycled  
Water Discovery Centre

13 March – General Meeting (AGM)

27 March – Committee Meeting

27 March – Entertainment  
Wharf Revue, Glen Street Theatre

28 March – Walk

## **BOOKING CLUB ACTIVITIES AND PAYMENT**

### TO BOOK CLUB ACTIVITIES

- Please register online via our club website  
<http://www.belroseprobus.org.au>
- or
- During meetings at the back of the hall, Warwick Brady (entertainment), Marg Lovett (social) and Margaret Ayre (outings) will be happy to take your details for club events.

### PAYMENT

Preferred method of payment is EFT. VERY IMPORTANT — Please ensure that you include your surname and event name in the description section of your EFT payment or (if you cannot do this) send an email to the event organiser with a copy to the treasurer to notify them of your payment. Print the "transaction receipt" and give one copy of it to the event organiser and another to Treasurer Colin Fordred.

Our club bank details are:

**Combined Probus Club of Belrose**  
**BSB: 032123**  
**Account No: 325864**

If you need to pay in cash please place in an envelope for each event with your name on the front and give it to the event organiser. Separate payments in separate envelopes please.

**Preferably no cheques or cash please.**

## BOOK EXCHANGE

Judy Morton (0412 235 400)



Please, no more than one book per member to be brought to the table and to be taken back if no one has taken it by the end of the meeting. PLEASE NO MAGAZINES, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICS (OR SIMILAR).

Jigsaw puzzles may also be exchanged.

On the table there is also a "suggestion box". Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

### **Judy Morton**

Mobile: 0427 235 400

Email: [judy.morton@hotmail.com](mailto:judy.morton@hotmail.com)



## ENTERTAINMENT

Warwick Brady (0418 793 684)

Thank you again for your support of the 17 shows we attended at Glen Street Theatre this year and believe it or not our total attendance was 500 how's that and I didn't cheat to get this number.

On Monday 16th December we saw "A Christmas Celebration" starring Charlie Chech at 11.00am. We had 32 people attending and the theatre supplied a morning tea for us. Later on the same evening we saw the fabulous Dami Im Christmas Songbook Tour with 31 of our members at 7.30pm.

Two Early Shows for next year are :

### **PETULA CLARK**

Petula Clark and the best of the British music. A feat of hits like "Downtown" "Colour my World" and "My Love". Outstanding Singers and Vibrant Bands will take you to another place and time in musical history. Relive a myriad of UK Legends from the guitar sounds of The Shadows, the original sounds of the Mersey Beat with a tribute to Gerry and the Pacemakers and a salute to the world of James Bond. Tickets are \$30.00 on Monday 19th February at 11.00am. Please make your booking as soon as possible.

### **SPIEGELESQUE VAYNE'S WORLD**

Who remembers how we fell in love with SPIEGELESQUE when Wayne Scott Kermond had the audience eating out of his hand.

Well now you can take him on another serendipitous romp through the captivating and intoxicating world of variety, burlesque and cabaret. Wayne Scott Kermond and a cast of international claimed performers takes you on a magical adventure where song dance and slapstick collide to create entertainment that will mesmerise. **Date:15th February 2025 at 7.30pm.. This is a super show for \$55.90 a ticket.** Bookings are now open.

## **WHARF REVUE**

Our biggest programme for the year is the final production of the Wharf Revue with the original cast. I originally booked 50 tickets but they completely sold out in two days so our numbers have increased to 80 and we have 74 ordered already. How's that! **Tickets cost \$80.00.for the show on Thursday 27th March on 7.30pm. In addition we also have booked for Wednesday 2nd April at 2.00pm Tickets are also \$80.00.** Bookings should be made as soon as possible. Both shows will be performed by the original cast Jonathan Biggins, Mandy Bishop, Drew Forsythe, Phillip Scott and David Whitney. Anyone interested should make their bookings ASAP.

Well that's all for now. Please make your bookings as soon as possible. Thanks for all your support during 2024. hope you have enjoyed yourselves as much as I did.. To close I would just like to wish you all a wonderful New Year.

**Warwick Brady**  
**Entertainment Officer**  
Mobile: 0418 793 684  
Email: [warwickandlorna@yahoo.com](mailto:warwickandlorna@yahoo.com)

## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

Cherry Robinson (0438 186 584)



## **Guest Speaker Katie Mae Little**

For our last speaker of the year I hope all members found something to chuckle about as we listened to Katie Little tell of growing up an only child to Jeanne Little and her father Barry. A very different childhood to most of us. She told us of the talent of Jeanne on a sewing machine and the incredible creations she made from garbage bags, foil etc. to wear on T.V. shows.

I'd like to thank all who suggested speakers. Some who were suggested never contacted me so I didn't pursue them.

In January our speakers are members Phil Allan and Malcolm McClean who will give us their versions of writing a family history.

**Cherry Robinson**  
**Guest Speaker Coordinator**  
Mobile: 0438 186 584  
Email: [cherryrobinson259@gmail.com](mailto:cherryrobinson259@gmail.com)

## SOCIAL

Margaret Lovett (0414 872 189)

Well, what a way to finish off the year with the Xmas Lunch at Monash Country Club.

A total of 103 people attended, 13 tables, which is one of the largest groups the Country Club has hosted.

The venue proved to be very picturesque and overall, the lunch was successful. The adage "You can't please everyone ALL the time" is appropriate.

Many thanks to all my elves who helped distribute various items to the tables and of course to my second in charge (2IC) Tony who is a great calming influence on me in stressful situations.

Having Libby Worboys and her sister Millie provide us with lovely renditions of Xmas Carols during the afternoon was delightful.

Especially delightful was watching Megan running between the tables during the rendition of "The 12(13) Days of Xmas" encouraging each of the 13 tables (which were all labelled with appropriate signage) to sing their respective verses! I liken it to watching a marathon!! Well done Megan and Mike and Thank you both for your contribution to the fun. I think we can all look forward to an interesting year(s) ahead with Team Hartnell at the helm.

Thanks must also go to all of you who participate and involve yourselves by attending the various outings etc. Without your support the club will not prosper and foster the friendships that Probus offers us all.

I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year and look forward to welcoming you all to 2025 with renewed enthusiasm for our programs for the year.

**Marg Lovett**

**Social Events Coordinator**

Mobile: 0414 872 189

Email: [margaret@lovet.com.au](mailto:margaret@lovet.com.au)

## **XMAS LUNCH** **MONASH COUNTRY CLUB**







## TOURS AND OUTINGS

Margaret Ayre (0423 302 069)

Dear Members,

### BANANA CABANA PRIMATE SANCTUARY

Thursday 5th November, we went on a visit to Banana Cabana at Dural. This venue is set in the most beautiful grounds and looked after by very friendly, dedicated caring people. We were made most welcome by Susan and her staff and given a fantastic, conducted tour of the monkeys, their enclosures were very well maintained and the monkey's entertaining and well fed.

After the tour we finished up having high tea. The visit lasted over 3 hours.

I sent an email thanking Susan and her staff for a fantastic day, and she replied it was a pleasure hosting us.

I highly recommend a future visit for other members.

### SYDNEY GPO

Our next outing is to the Sydney GPO on **February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. There is 1 place still available.

The **cost is \$20.00 pp payment no later than 16th January 2025**

Please see newsletter for more information

### PURIFIED RECYCLED WATER DISCOVERY CENTRE

The visit to The Purified Recycled Water Discovery Centre for **March next year** will be confirmed in the New Year.

### YULEFEST

The 2-day outing to Yulefest on **July 19th next year** - after speaking to you about this at the last meeting I rang On Course tours to book in and they informed me that the tour was nearly booked out. This is a trial Crowne Plaza Hotel Windsor are having. The hotel offered On Course 25 extra rooms which I accepted on the club's behalf. We are doing the tour in reverse to the first tour by going to the new airport on the Saturday and the Windsor area on Sunday. I have new flyers for anyone wishing to go. There are still 8 rooms available.

The **cost is \$615.00 pp twin share, single supplement \$770.00pp a deposit of \$100.00 pp is due now to secure your reservation.**

Please see newsletter for more details

Thank you once again for all your support that you have given me over the past year.

Wishing you and yours a Happy Healthy 2025.

**Margaret Ayre**  
**Outings/Tours Coordinator**  
Mobile: 0423 302 069  
Email: [margayre1@gmail.com](mailto:margayre1@gmail.com)

# BANANA CABANA PRIMATE SANCTUARY





## Sydney GPO Martin Place Sydney



Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**Discover the rich history of the former Sydney General Post Office building with our resident guide on the GPO Heritage Tour.**

The Sydney General Post Office (GPO) was constructed in two stages, beginning in 1866 and designed under the guidance of colonial architect James Barnet. It was regarded as a building which would come to symbolise Sydney in the same way the Houses of Parliament in Westminster represent London and the Eiffel Tower, Paris.

On September 1, 1874, the first stage of the GPO was opened, and Sydney was mesmerised by the first major building development in Sydney. In 1891, the clock tower was finally completed, and the bells rang out across Sydney for the first time.

Delve into the vibrant history and culture of Sydney's former GPO and let our resident tour guide bring you on a journey through time on the GPO Heritage Tour, to discover the stories, tales and legends of the city's iconic Grand Dame.

### **Meeting Point**

The Fullerton Hotel Sydney – Concierge

### **Timing**

Tuesday through Saturday at 11:45AM

The tour duration is 90 minutes. The tour takes approximately 2,327 steps to complete.

Please note that the Heritage Tours do not include access to the GPO Clock Tower.

Cost \$20.00pp

Margaret Ayre

Outings/Tours Coordinator

margayre1@gmail.com

Ph; 0423 302 069

There is a limit of 15 persons per tour. Followed by lunch PAYG.

**Payment due by 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025.** Thank you.

Please don't be put off by the number of steps - when we did the Cricket Ground tour we walked about the same number of steps and you are not aware at the time of how many you have done.

## Purified Recycled Water Discovery Centre tour Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025



Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

The Purified Recycled Water Discovery Centre is located next to the Quakers Hill Water Resource Recovery Facility (previously known as Wastewater Treatment Plant). Here, wastewater is tertiary treated before it is returned to the environment or enters the Discovery Centre.

The Discovery Centre opens to the community for tours in 2024.

### **What to wear and bring**

**You must wear sturdy, fully enclosed, flat soled shoes** (no open toes shoes such as sandals, thongs, ballet flats, or heels). Long pants are preferred.

Safety glasses will be provided for a section of the tour, if you have your own you may wish to bring them.

Please bring a bottle of water with you. You can refill this on site.

### **How to get there**

Address: 240 Quakers Road, Quakers Hill

Continue straight to Gate 1 'Welcome to the Purified Recycled Water Discovery Centre'.

Press and hold the intercom button located on the right side of the road and a Community Education Officer will open the gate.

Enter through the gate and park in the first car park on the right, opposite the Purified Recycled Water Discovery Centre.

Margaret Ayre

Outings/Tours Coordinator

margayre1@gmail.com

Ph; 0423 302 069

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This outing will be confirmed later in the year.

# OnCourse

TOURS AND TRAVEL



## HAWKESBURY WINTER YULEFEST



19<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup> July 2025

2 DAY TOUR

Experience the charm of the Hawkesbury region and join us for a magical Yulefest weekend at the Hawkesbury Crowne Plaza. Immerse yourself in the spirit of the season with festive décor, full traditional and seafood Buffet Dinner, 3 hour beverage package and lively entertainment, including a visit from Santa himself!

Our first day will see us travelling southwest to embark on a journey of discovery at the Western Sydney International Experience Centre, showcasing the exciting developments and endless possibilities. We will have a clear view of the future airfield and be able to watch the airport come to life.



Gain valuable insights into Australia's first smart airport and its impacts on the region, where immersive and interactive displays take visitors on a journey to learn about the Airport. Have access to project information, digital engagement and learning opportunities.

Following our tour we will enjoy lunch in Camden before a visit to the Camden Museum. Housed in a charming heritage building, the museum features a diverse collection of artifacts, photographs, and documents that highlight the region's Aboriginal heritage, colonial past, and agricultural development.

11 Tepko Road, Terrey Hills

PO BOX 188 TERREY HILLS NSW 2084 | FAX: 02 9986 2455 | PH: 02 9986 2400  
www.oncoursetours.com | ABN 65 002 335 686 2TA: 004591

Prepare to discover the rich history of this fertile region as our Heritage Guide, Judith Dunn OAM joins the coach in the morning. As we travel to Ebenezer, Judith will share intriguing stories about the early settlers and the remarkable development of the area. Our adventure includes a visit to Australia's oldest church, established in 1809, where we will delve into its fascinating history and significance. This is a unique opportunity to connect with the past and gain a deeper appreciation for the heritage of the Hawkesbury district!

Walk in the oldest town square at Windsor and hear stories of scandal and intrigue before a driving tour of the area to view pioneer buildings as we hear many more stories.

We will stop at St Matthews Church, known for its beautiful Georgian architecture and said to be one of the best works of Architect Francis Greenway. The church is renowned for its historic graveyard, where many early settlers and notable figures are buried and we will tour the most interesting graves in the cemetery.

Cost per person is \$615.00 twin share including all meals, admissions, guide and luxury transportation. Single supplement is \$155.00. Hawkesbury Crowne Plaza (Ph: 02 4577 4222).

*\*\*\* Subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances \*\*\**



## WALKING GROUP

Helen Miles (0407 078 963) (9451 8777)

### NOVEMBER WALK



Unfortunately our November Walk on Friday, 29th at North Head had to be cancelled due to the unfavourable weather conditions. However, as it was the last walk of this year and it is tradition to have lunch afterwards, 18 people were still able to meet for an extremely enjoyable lunch at the Wakehurst Golf Club together.

The walking programme for 2025 will be organised and submitted to the Committee for approval during January and our **first walk for 2025** will be on **Friday 28th February**.

Very best wishes to all members for 2025.

**Helen Miles**

**Walks Coordinator**

Mobile: 0407 078 963.

Phone: (02)9451 8777

Email: [milesawile@bigpond.com](mailto:milesawile@bigpond.com)

## WRAP WITH LOVE

Margaret Hobson (0416 090 140)

Many thanks to the Probus members who donated money to buy Yarn for the knitters. Also many thanks to those who have donated Yarn.

Up until now we have created and handed over to Wrap With Love 1577 Wraps which is a wonderful effort. Shown below are some of our latest Wraps.

**Margaret Hobson**

**Wrap With Love Coordinator**

Mobile: 0416 090 140

Email: [mhobson@iimetro.com.au](mailto:mhobson@iimetro.com.au)





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## *January Birthdays*

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lyle Pearce
- 9<sup>th</sup> Margaret Hobson
- 9<sup>th</sup> Jan Tomlinson
- 12<sup>th</sup> Geoff Jones
- 18<sup>th</sup> Ross Swadling
- 20<sup>th</sup> Mike Staniland
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Carol Worboys
- 24<sup>th</sup> Jan Kempshall
- 26<sup>th</sup> Marjorie Rickard
- 26<sup>th</sup> Margaret Lovett
- 27<sup>th</sup> Brian Peck
- 28<sup>th</sup> Lynette Low
-