



July 2025 Newsletter
Edition No 210

CLUB PRESIDENT
MIKE HARTNELL



We are past the winter solstice now and heading back to nicer and longer days. But what a good June we had!

Firstly our Church Point Ferry trip on 5th June. It was cold and windy up until the day before, but the Thursday turned out to be an excellent day for a ferry trip – warm and sunny. See the report later in this newsletter.

A record 118 people attended our June General Meeting, where we welcomed four new members Kay, Trish, Chris and Maree. Please make an effort to meet and welcome them.



From left to right, President Mike and new club members Maree Stuart, Kay Tink, Trish Nielsen, and Chris Nielsen

Cherry arranged an extremely interesting speaker, Andrew Rogers, who had been down to the wreck of the Titanic in a submersible. He won the trip in a raffle, and he kept us enthralled as he described the whole process of the preparation and the dive, showing us excellent photos. Thanks very much Cherry.

Thanks Hastings for doing our audio visuals while Terry and Barley were in Vietnam working on their suntans.

Geoff Jones took us on the first Magical Mystery Tour on the 19th which was enjoyed by all. See the report in this newsletter. Thanks to Geoff and Jenny Jones for an interesting day and for preparing handouts for us on the Thirroul area.

Next was the 18th Anniversary lunch at Cromer Golf Club attended by 74 members, including 24 foundation members. It was a huge success. Great venue, good food and a terrific group of people. We will do more at Cromer Golf Club. Thanks Megan for all the work you put into it!

July has plenty to offer for you, culminating in our Hawkesbury Yulefest Tour. Margaret Ayre has kindly arranged this for us and it is fully booked. Thanks very much Margaret – should be great fun.

There are lots of other activities put on for your enjoyment. Join in as much as you like and enjoy the company of your club members. Have a look at the calendar for July in this newsletter.

Gluten Free Cakes

We have some members who require gluten free food at our General Meetings. The hotel kindly supplies us with gluten free cakes for them on a special plate, which will be at the front of the room where our secretary sits at the meetings. These are only for the members who need gluten free food, so please don't touch them otherwise.

Beware of scammers

In June scammers sent out an email with my name at the bottom saying that I was very busy and asking you to reply. They looked genuine, but if you replied they sent you another email asking you to quickly buy \$700 of gift cards and send the pin details to them.

If you got something like this I hope you realised it was scam and ignored it.

Please be really careful and if an email asks you to spend money or do something quickly, it might well be a scam. Please let me know at the next meeting if you received the email.

Ted Morton has provided additional information re scams – see page 17 in this newsletter.

Thought for the month

If you don't try, you don't succeed!

Look forward to seeing you soon.

President Mike



CLUB CONTACTS

President: Mike Hartnell 0419 717 382
Secretary: Alison Soutter 0400 525 700
Treasurer: Brian Soutter 0410 603 050
Newsletter: Jenny Jones 0405 310 537

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

Club Email Address:
combinedbelroseprobus@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2025/2026

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

CLUB SUB COMMITTEES 2025/2026

Audio Visual	Terry Stewart
Honorary Auditor	Chris Wood
Birthday/	Ros Thompson/
Lucky Door	Mike Hartnell
Book & Jigsaw	
Exchange	Judy Morton
Book Club	Sandy Cameron
Cards & Games	Ros Thompson/
	Di Pill
Cinema Outings	Gloria Attwooll
	Rosemary Daly
Coffee Mornings	Ros Thompson and
	Di Pill
Hospitality	Di Pill
Mahjong Group	Sandra Murphy
Photographer	Peter Loveday
Reception	Warren Needs
Returning Officer	Mike Gibbs
Walking Group	Helen and Dennis
	Miles
Website Admin.	Ross Swadling
Wine Apprec,	Mike Staniland
Wrap with Love	Lesley Walker
	Liz Pawsey



JULY 2025

2 nd	Carousel
7 th	Breakfast/Coffee Morning
8 th	Book Club
9 th	Mahjong
9 th	Cards and Games
10 th	General Meeting
13 th	Mark Vincent in Concert
17 th	Magical Mystery Tour
19 th	Hawkesbury Yulefest
23 rd	Mahjong
23 rd	Cards and Games
24 th	Committee Meeting
25 th	July Walk
27 th	Le New Paris Skies

AUGUST 2025

8 th	Picnic, St Ives Showground
12 th	Book Club
13 th	Mahjong
13 th	Cards and Games
14 th	General Meeting
21 st	Magical Mystery Tour
27 th	Mahjong
27 th	Cards and Games
28 th	Committee Meeting
29 th	August Walk
31 st	A Sunday Soiree

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), Megan Hartnell (social) and Mike Hartnell (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 Brian Soutter.

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 CLUB

Sandy Cameron (0417 829 449)

CHESTNUT STREET BY MAEVE BINCHY



Irish Author Maeve Binchy

This book was published in 2014 (2 years after her death in 2012). It was published by her husband and was composed of 36 short stories which she had written over the years but had never published.

The large print (not usual these days) was very welcome, especially for those of us who need glasses.

Because she is such a popular author I felt safe choosing this author and hoped it would be enjoyed by all. Unfortunately, this was not the case for me as I found it to be mind numbing twaddle. I hope the rest of the group did not share my experience.

Valerie Gardner
Book Club Member

BREAKFASTS/COFFEE MORNINGS/PICNICS

Ros Thompson) (0416 086 766)
Di Pill. (0403 003 639)

BREAKFAST/COFFEE MORNING

On Monday 16th June 16 lovely ladies met at Acacia at Glenrose Village for breakfast/coffee and chat. The welcoming staff and service at this venue is excellent. Hoping to see many more of you at the next rendezvous. 5 men met at Imbue. It is pleasing to see the numbers increasing.

Our next breakfast/coffee morning is **Monday 7th July 9:30AM.**

Ladies at Acacia Glenrose.
Men at Imbue Cafe cnr. Yindela and Pound Ave. Davidson. 9:30 AM.

Please contact Ros or Di by phone, text or email if you would like to attend by Saturday 6th. July so we can book the tables.

PICNIC

The next St. Ives Showground Picnic will be **Friday 8th August at 10:00 AM.** Bring your own chair.

Sign up sheet will be at next General Meeting.

Di Pill

Mobile: [0403 003 639](tel:0403003639)
Email: dp1926@optusnet.com.au

Ros Thompson

Mobile: [0416 086 766](tel:0416086766)
Email: rosthompson@yahoo.com

CARDS AND GAMES

Ros Thompson (0416 086 766)
Di Pill (0403 003 639)

On Wednesday 25th June a lovely morning was spent by three of our members playing Scrabble, they then joined the Mahjong players for morning tea and a chat.

Dates for July
Wednesday 9th
Wednesday 23rd.

At : Forest Kirk Church Hall,
Fitzpatrick Avenue, French Forest.

Time: 9:30 am to 12:00pm.

You are most welcome to come part of the time. It's a great time for a chat and fellowship. You're welcome to bring a friend or a favourite game.

We look forward to seeing you.

Di and Ros.

ENTERTAINMENT

Warwick Brady (0418 793 684)

Hi Everyone,

CAROUSEL

We have already received 77 bookings for the celebration of Rodgers and Hammerstein's production of "Carousel" with the Sydney Musical and Opera Society on **Wednesday 2nd July at 7.30pm**

A fabulous production. Anyone who has not made their booking you will have to contact Glen Street Theatre where if available **tickets are \$45.00 each.**

MARK VINCENT IN CONCERT

Mark Vincent presents a spectacular live showcase of songs including a repertoire of classical masterpieces, Broadway showstoppers and timeless pop and jazz standards. We are going to the show on **Sunday 13th July at 2.00pm. Ticket price is \$90.00** Mark will be joined by a special guest for a selection of breathtaking solo and duet performances.

LE NEW PARIS SKIES

Le New Paris Skies - A Sunday Soiree on **Sunday 27th July at 4.00pm.** The Award - Winning Entertainer Milko Faucault - Larche has joined forces with Parisian born leading lady Corinne Andrew to create this Moulin Rouge style production celebrating the essence of French popular music. Milko and Corinne combine some famous ingredients to dish out la creme de la creme of French Chanson. Edith Piaf, Charles Aznavour and many more. With the Paris Skies Show Band and the Dargie Dancers. The show is performed in French and in English. **Tickets are \$40.00.** Please make your bookings with Warwick as soon as possible.

A SUNDAY SOIREE

On **3.00pm Sunday 31st August** "A Sunday Soiree" - Viva Pavarotti. Experience the power and passion of one of the greatest opera singers of all times with a special performance

honouring the late Luciana Pavarotti. Regarded as Australia's own Bocelli lyric tenor is Paul Tabone who has performed to audiences across the globe including Bucharest, Sydney Opera House, London's West End and on Broadway. **Ticket cost \$45.00. Groups of 10 \$40.00**

THE GRANDPARENTS CLUB 2

Following sold-out shows and overwhelming demand, the team "The Grandparents Club 2" present a feel good show with the celebration of grandparents life. All the fun of a holiday with friends. Starring Lynne McGranger from Home and Away, Wayne Scott Kermond (Singing in the Rain and the Producers) Maeredithe O'Reilly (my Fair Lady and Andrew James (The Buddy Holly Story). The show is **Saturday 20th September at 7.00pm. Price \$67.50.** Bookings are now open.

BACH TO BROADWAY

A Morning Music Event- Bach to Broadway. A stunning musical journey through the Classic Music of Bach, Beethoven and Mozart to the hits of Broadway such as Phantom of the Opera, West Side Story, Chicago, Beauty and the Beast, Boy from Oz and More. **11am Monday 20th October at \$30.00 each ticket** - a Headlined show. Bookings are open already.

Thanks to everyone, please make all bookings as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

Warwick Brady

Entertainment Officer

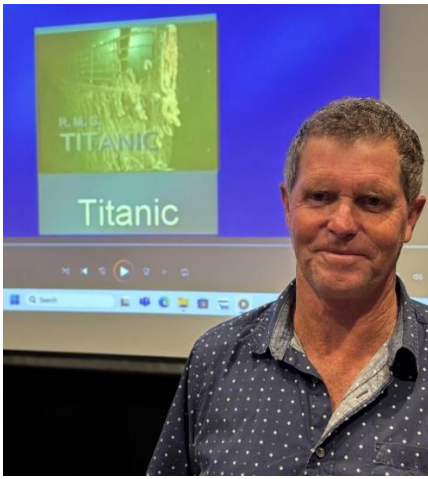
Mobile: 0418 793 684

Email: warwickandlorna@yahoo.com

GUEST SPEAKERS

Cherry Robinson (0438 186 584)

JUNE SPEAKER



Andrew Rogers

What a wonderful experience our last speaker, Andrew Rogers had back in 1998 when he was the winner of a trip down to the Titanic. His was the lucky ticket of 250,000 and I wonder what the prize would be worth today!!!. Maybe no one would want to go after the disastrous recent attempt. He was very humble as he told his story and I have had many positive comments from members since.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

JULY

Tash Wooley - Home Care Packages and the changes coming shortly.

AUGUST

Melinda Murray - mounted Policewoman

Cherry Robinson

Guest Speaker Coordinator

Mobile: 0438 186 584

Email: cherryrobinson259@gmail.com

MAHJONG CLUB

Sandra Murphy (0407 068 990)

The Mahjong club is going strong with fourteen players at our last gathering. We meet in a lovely spacious venue, The Kirk church hall which is warm in winter and cool in summer. If you can play or would like to learn this old Chinese game, please join us. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. looking forward to seeing you.

Sandra Murphy

Mahjong Coordinator

Mobile: 0457 388 325

Email:

sandramurphyfoz@yahoo.com.au

SOCIAL

Megan Hartnell (0402 102 055)

ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

What a wonderful day we had at Cromer Golf Club last Thursday to celebrate the club's 18th anniversary. Beautiful weather, lovely venue, good food and terrific company. Who could ask for more? Everyone enjoyed it so much that we have decided to go there again on **Thursday 18th December** for our Christmas celebration. Save the date !

DOYLE'S AT WATSONS BAY

Our next lunch is on **7th August** at Doyle's restaurant at Watsons Bay. Unfortunately, the express ferry from Manly to Watsons Bay has been suspended for the winter. The good news is that we can have a lovely outing on the harbour going from Manly

through Circular Quay to Watsons Bay and return all for \$2.50! I will confirm the Manly Wharf meeting time at the July meeting.

The “winter special” price is \$56.50 for Fisherman’s Chowder plus Fish&Chips with garden salad and a complimentary drink. It is possible however to order from the a la carte menu with a price adjustment and to order dessert and tea or coffee if you wish. We think it is better therefore to let people pay on the day.

I will need numbers though by 1st August so please register online or with me at the July meeting.

Megan Hartnell
Social Convenor

Mobile: 0402 102 055

Email: megt11@bigpond.com

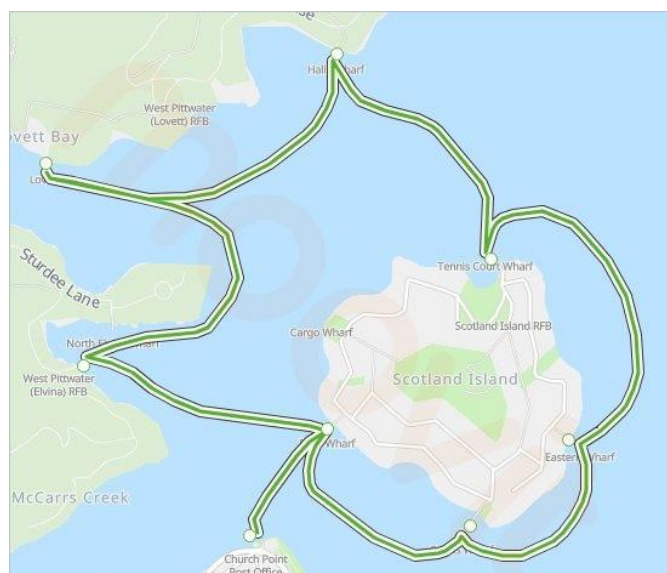
TOURS (DAY EXCURSIONS)

Geoff Jones (0412 420 213)

CHURCH POINT FERRY AND PITTWATER

On a beautiful winter’s day 25 of us enjoyed a ferry trip around Scotland Island, Lovett Bay and Elvina Bay. For the whole of the trip the on-board ticket collector/tour guide told us about points of interest, local history and famous people and interesting characters who have lived and built houses on the island. After the ferry we enjoyed morning tea/lunch at the adjacent waterfront restaurant.

All arrangements (bus timetable, tour guide, restaurant booking) were organised by our President Mike Hartnell. Many thanks Mike for a lovely day out.



JUNE MAGICAL MYSTERY \$2.50 OPAL CARD TOUR

This really was a mystery tour!!

On a sunny winter's day 10 of us gathered at Central Station for coffee and then to catch the train south for the 75 minute trip via the Royal National Park to the beachside village of Thirroul.

In 1922 D H Lawrence lived in Thirroul with his wife Frieda. He wrote his novel Kangaroo in Thirroul and included some of the local characters, sights and scenes in the book.

At Central Station we were given printed sheets that Geoff had prepared with information re destination, train timetable, stations along the way, places to go when we got there and some history of the area.

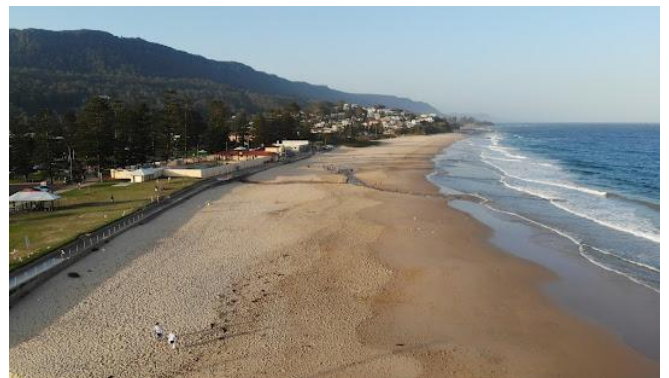


Our train was running late and at Thirroul the driver quickly closed the carriage doors before all of us had left the train. 6 of us were left on the train leaving the remaining 4 on the platform laughing at our predicament!

We got off of the train at Wollongong just in time to catch a train back to Thirroul where the rest of our group had already found somewhere nice to have lunch.



After lunch some chose to explore the high-end shops, some walked to the beach (1.1 Km each way).



The train journey back was comfortable and uneventful and we arrived back at Central just after 4pm.



JULY MAGICAL MYSTERY \$2.50 OPAL CARD TOUR

Magical Mystery Tour **Thursday 17 July 2025**. We are heading north to our mystery destination for sightseeing, gastronomic delights, culture and fascinating conversation.

1. At 9.32am catch the 197 bus from Belrose Supercentre to Gordon Station to get the first of 2 northbound trains, look at beautiful scenery and we get off at a station by the water's edge. Have a pre-prandial stroll and drink, or just sit and admire the views.
2. Dine on fresh local seafood
3. Have a relaxing train ride back and get the 197 bus back to Belrose at around 4.30pm

Geoff Jones

Mobile: 0412 420 213

Email: geoffjones1874@gmail.com

TOURS (LONG STAY)

HAWKESBURY WINTER YULEFEST

The 2-day outing Winter Yulefest **19-20 July is fully booked**.

ZIG ZAG RAILWAY/MUDGEES TOUR 11th to 14th OCTOBER 2025

Our On Course tour to the Zig Zag railway has been confirmed and we have firm dates now, **October 11-14**. See the flyer in this newsletter.

So far we have 27 interested so it will be a fun tour.

Please come to me down at the back of the room at the July meeting to register or confirm your attendance, so that we can have final numbers.

A \$200 deposit is due by 16 July.

TRADE TRAVEL

One of our respected members, Ted Morton, has made contacts with Trade Travel, a Probus South Pacific Gold Partner. This could open our travel options up a bit more in future. We have invited Ted to address our group at the July meeting after the speaker for 10-15 minutes to give us ideas on the new possibilities, so stay if you can for a short time. Thanks Ted.

Mike Hartnell

OnCourse

TOURS AND TRAVEL



HAWKESBURY WINTER YULEFEST



19TH – 20TH 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.onsoursetours.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 ****



THE GREAT ZIG ZAG RAILWAY & MUDGEE TOUR

11TH TO 14TH OCTOBER 2025

4 DAY TOUR

Join us on an unforgettable journey to the majestic Blue Mountains and Mudgee, where nature's wonders await. Our specially curated 4-day tour is designed to offer a perfect blend of relaxation, exploration, History and breathtaking scenery. Our journey takes us over the Blue Mountains and home through Merriwa, Denman and the Hunter Valley.

Step back in time as we ride the historic Zig Zag Railway, a remarkable engineering feat that winds its way through the rugged terrain of the Blue Mountains. Soak in the panoramic views of lush valleys and dramatic cliffs on our unforgettable journey filled with nostalgia and awe-inspiring scenery.



Mudgee, aboriginal for 'nest in the hills', is a charming town nestled in the Central West region of New South Wales. Boasting a rich history dating back to the 19th century, the town is characterized by its well-preserved heritage buildings, many of which now house boutique shops, cafes, and galleries.



A flourishing wine industry has seen the town expand in recent years, however Mudgee has retained its character with settlement here dating back to the 1820s and its 'golden' past remains very evident. Surrounded by rich grazing country and a diversity of agriculture and horticulture, all framed by stunning National Parks, the district has seen enormous interest in recent years. In 2023, Mudgee made history by becoming the first town to be inducted into the Australian Tourism Awards Hall of Fame in the Top Tourism Town category!

Our accommodation for this tour is at the Parklands Resort Mudgee (Ph 6372 4500), set on 15 hectares of gardens and pasture land, where we will enjoy its friendly country hospitality and excellent facilities.

Highlights include:-

- Zig Zag Railway
- Mudgee Honey Haven
- Mudgee Cheese & Wine Tasting
- Historic Gulgong - the Ten Dollar Town
- Henry Lawson Centre & Holtermann Museum
- Lunch, Stud Tour and Tasting at Gooree Park
- Songs from the bush at Gulgong Opera House
- Merriwa & Pokolbin

Cost per person for a minimum of 30 passengers is \$1,390.00 twin share

Cost per person for a minimum of 25 passengers is \$1,490.00 twin share

This includes group discount and pick-up, accommodation, all meals (except for 1 lunch), admissions and guides. Single supplement is \$360.00.

*** Due to unforeseen circumstances the itinerary may change ***

WALKING GROUP

Helen Miles (0407 078 963)

MAY WALK – FRIDAY 30TH MAY

Thirteen members and one guest enjoyed good weather for our walk from QVB through Chinatown, Paddy's Market, the old Goods Line, Chinese Gardens and Barangaroo led by Malcolm. We enjoyed our morning coffee in Paddy's Market before continuing on along the old Goods Line to the Chinese Gardens in Darling Harbour where we had our cheese and biscuits. Some members of the group decided to return home from here while others spent an hour or so enjoying strolling through the Gardens before walking through Darling Harbour to the Barangaroo Metro station and the return trip home.

Thank you Malcolm for leading an enjoyable day out and thank you Peter for all your great photos.





JULY WALK - FRIDAY 25th JULY

Our July walk is on **Friday 25th July**, in Manly and North Head and is led by Lyn and Jock. Meet at the Glenrose bus stop at 8.20am to catch the 8.33am 141 Bus to Manly where we will look around the Corso and beach before having coffee at 3 Beans Cafe near the corner of Darley Road. We will then catch the 161 bus to North Head from outside Manly Wharf which is a loop trip past the old Manly Hospital. We will start our walk from the Bella Vista Cafe and along the redesigned Fairfax Walk with 2 new viewing platforms which were reopened on 9th June 2023. We are hoping that we might see some whales while enjoying cheese and biscuits. The distance is approx. 1km and would be regarded as an easy walk. From North Head we have the choice of lunch at the Bella Vista Cafe, catching the bus or walking back down to Manly for lunch before catching the 141 Bus back to Glenrose. Please let Helen know if you are coming from a different area so we can all meet in the Corso at Manly.

Helen Miles
Walks Coordinator
 Mobile: 0407 078 963
 Email: milesawile@bigpond.com



WRAP WITH LOVE

Lesley Walker (0404 828 261)

Liz Pawsey (0403 206 460)

Did you see some of the beautiful blankets on display at the June Probus meeting? These were completed by our busy members. Some blankets were created from scratch by our members, while others were assembled squares knitted (or crocheted) by others. A real team effort. Look out for possibly more displayed blankets (at the back of our meeting room) at our July Probus meeting.

Some members have posed a question to me – **“I have been helping mum move and she has an accumulation of yarn left over from her knitting days. Can you use it?”** The simple answer is **YES**. Bring it to us at a Probus meeting and we will be able to make use of it. You’ll be amazed how these discarded pieces can be utilised. The only yarn we do not accept is the “fluffy/feathered yarn” which was very popular some years ago for making scarves!

Remember the perfect required yarn for WWL is 8 ply Acrylic. All donations gratefully received!

Happy knitting!

Lesley Walker: Mobile 0404 828 261
Liz Pawsey: Mobile 0403 206 460



SCAMS

I have received this excellent article from my Bank. As scams are often directed to older people, particularly those living alone, I thought this article might be a good one for our membership.

Ted Morton

Online dating, social media and instant messaging have made it easier to connect with potential partners worldwide. However, they have also opened the door to a growing threat — dating and romance scams.

In 2023 alone, Australians lost a staggering \$200 million to romance scams, according to the ACCC’s Scamwatch.

This alarming figure highlights the growing threat, and the true cost is even higher when considering the devastating emotional toll on victims.

At Gateway, we are committed to providing you with the knowledge and tools to help safeguard your heart and finances from these deceptive schemes.

Love at First Scam: Spotting the Warning Signs

Dating and romance scams involve fraudsters using fake online personas to build trust, form relationships, and ultimately exploit victims for money or sensitive information.

Recognising the warning signs can protect you from devastating financial and emotional harm. Here are some of the most common red flags to watch for:

- Fast-tracked feelings: Scammers express deep feelings early on and rush into an exclusive relationship. They may profess love using emotional manipulation to build trust and create emotional dependency.

- Money requests: They pressure you for financial help, insisting you transfer funds to help them out of a dire situation, such as medical emergencies or travel expenses, and backing it up with a convincing sob story.

- Their stories don't add up: They fabricate identities to establish online relationships under false pretences. Inconsistencies in their background, shifting details, or vague responses to personal questions can signal they're fabricating their identity.

- Avoiding face-to-face interaction: Despite their deep affection, they always have excuses like work commitments, military deployment or sudden emergencies whenever you suggest a video call or meet ups.

- Unusual payment methods: To stay anonymous and untraceable, they request money through wire transfers, cryptocurrency, gift cards or obscure financial platforms instead of traditional banking methods.

How to Protect Yourself Against Romance Scams

Verify before you trust

- Run a reverse image search to check if their photos appear elsewhere.

- Check their social media presence — few friends or recent profiles can be red flags.

- If you've met someone online, ask for frequent video calls or in-person meet ups.

Take it slow & ask questions

- Legitimate connections don't require instant exclusivity or large monetary gestures.

- Ask detailed questions to verify their story. If you notice inconsistencies, that's a warning sign.

Protect your money and bank account

- Never send money to someone you've only met online.

- Monitor your online banking transactions regularly for unusual transactions.

- Set up account alerts and enable two-factor authentication for extra protection.

Guard your private info

- Never share your bank details, passwords, credit card details or other sensitive data with someone you've never met.

- Be cautious about the amount of personal information you share online.

Check for tricks before you click

- Avoid clicking unknown links and downloading files until you've confirmed the sender's legitimacy.

- Report suspicious activities immediately.

VIVID

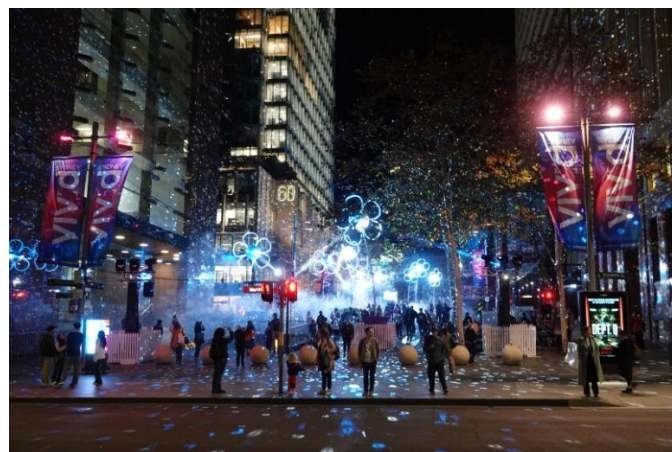
My daughter, Wendy, and I visited the Vivid display in Sydney CBD on the evening of 2 June 2025, generally visiting Martin Place and the Circular Quay areas.

I thought perhaps some of the Probus members who have not seen the display may be interested in some photos, which I attach.

For several of the buildings, the light colour changes, while on the Opera House there are numerous different patterns. Particularly in the Circular Quay area there are continually changing light beams. The Sydney Harbour bridge is a source of changing colours and patterns, and I have attached photos giving a few examples of such changes.

Peter Loveday

(Note from the Editor – Due to lack of space I have only been able to include some of Peter's photos.)







July Birthdays



6th Sandra Stevenson

7th Jock Cameron

12th Sue Marsh

18th Graeme Oake

20th Cathy Tusa

20th Denka Van Den Bosh

25th Christopher Nielsen

28th Sandra Murphy

29th Elaine Winslade

31st Bruce Nicholson
