

# Combined Probus Club of Belrose Inc.



## February 2026 Newsletter Edition No 217

In accordance with the Constitution and Standing Resolutions, Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Combined Probus Club of Belrose Inc. shall be held at The Forest Hotel on Thursday 12 March 2026 to commence at 11am for the purpose of conducting the following business:

### Annual General Meeting Agenda

- Meeting opens, President welcomes members and introduces and welcomes official guests.
- Apologies
- Minutes of last year's AGM
- Business arising from last year's AGM
- Correspondence (addressed to this year's AGM)
- Presentation of the President's Annual Report
- Presentation of the Annual Financial Statement
- Appointment of Auditor
- Election and induction of Officers and Committee Members
- Elected President to assume position of Chairman of the meeting
- General AGM Business
- Announcement of date, place and time of next AGM
- Close of AGM

### COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF BELROSE INC.

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

### COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned members of the Combined Probus Club of Belrose Inc., nominate the following Club member for the following committee position:

#### Nominee

Name: .....

Committee Position: .....

#### Proposer:

Name: .....

Signature:.....

Date:.....

#### Seconder:

Name:.....

Signature:.....

Date:.....

#### I accept the nomination:

Signature:.....

Date:.....

This nomination form is to be lodged with the Secretary no later than the February meeting.  
(Constitution 5 (c))

## CLUB PRESIDENT MIKE HARTNELL



The President's Chair  
NSW Parliament House

Welcome to February. Another busy and enjoyable month with lots of things on.

Nominations for committee positions are due in by our February General Meeting. You'll see a nomination form in this issue and if you are interested in putting in to help your club please get your nomination signed and in by then.

Our club did a survey a bit over a year ago and we got lots of good feedback from many of our members. The survey asked for ideas on what our members would like the club to do in the year ahead, and what their interests are.

Things like the birthday draw, the morning teas and picnics, the mahjong group, the cards and games group came from the survey. The book club was also an idea liked in the survey. Cherry had already started thinking about a book club and was able to get it started with the people who put their names down in the survey. When we read the book reviews in the newsletter we realise how much people are enjoying it. Thanks Cherry.

What other ideas do you have? Which other things would you like to do and think other club members would enjoy? Have a talk to friends within the club and if it looks as if your idea is popular let the committee know so we can look at it.

During January Rosemary Daly organised a hugely successful cinema outing for us. 30 members turned up, saw a great movie and enjoyed friendship and fellowship together afterwards (good Probus values). Thanks very much Rosemary.

Unfortunately we had some sad news during the month with the passing of our esteemed member Neville Marsh. Neville was a distinguished contributor to both Rotary and Probus.

Our love and thoughts are with Sue and her family.

Thought for the month

*The “truth” depends on who is telling the story and what they want you to believe. What you choose to believe is entirely up to you.*

Look forward to seeing you soon. Have a terrific month.

Mike



From left to right - President Mike Hartnell  
and newbies Barbara Edmunds and  
Jacqueline Taylor

## 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	Mike Hartnell
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
	Merle Fox



## FEBRUARY 2026

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Art Gallery of NSW
	- Dangerously Modern -
	Australian Women Artists in
	Europe 1890 - 1940
5 <sup>th</sup>	Breakfast/Coffee Morning
10 <sup>th</sup>	Book Club
11 <sup>th</sup>	Board Games and Cards
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mahjong
12 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting
	- Forest Hotel
	5 Frenchs Forest Road E.
	Frenchs Forest 2086
14 <sup>th</sup>	Glen Street Theatre
	- 9 to 5 The Musical
18 <sup>th</sup>	Glen Street
	- Retired Laughing
19 <sup>th</sup>	Magical Mystery Tour
25 <sup>th</sup>	Board Games and Cards
25 <sup>th</sup>	Mahjong
26 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting
27 <sup>th</sup>	February Walk

## MARCH 2026

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Breakfast/Coffee Morning
5 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch - The Manly Club
9 <sup>th</sup>	Glen Street Theatre
	- Australian Army Band
10 <sup>th</sup>	Book Club
11 <sup>th</sup>	Board Games and Cards
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mahjong
12 <sup>th</sup>	Annual General Meeting
	- Forest Hotel
	5 Frenchs Forest Road E.
	Frenchs Forest 2086
25 <sup>th</sup>	Board Games and Cards
25 <sup>th</sup>	Mahjong
26 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting
27 <sup>th</sup>	March Walk
27 <sup>th</sup>	Glen Street Theatre
	- Rhinestone Cowboy

## 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) 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)

### NEXT MEETING

Our first meeting for 2026 will be on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 2.15pm at the Belrose Hotel** (please note new venue).

### NEW BOOK CLUB GROUP

We don't have any vacancies in our current group at the moment but if anyone is interested in starting up a second Book Club Group, please contact me so that I can help you set up. Six or eight people is an ideal number. Our group meet over coffee once a month to discuss the chosen book. Lively discussions are always assured”

**Sandy Cameron**

Mobile: 0417 829 449

## BOOK & JIGSAW 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. Jigsaw puzzles may also be exchanged.

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

**Judy Morton**

**Book Exchange Coordinator**

Mobile: 0427 235 400

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

## **BREAKFASTS/COFFEE MORNINGS/PICNICS**

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

## **BREAKFAST/COFFEE MORNING**

All welcome (men and women) to attend our first breakfast/coffee morning for 2026 on **5th February 9:30am at the** Blue Gum cafe at Glenaeon Retirement Village

**Please RSVP** by text or email to Di or Ros,

Thank you.



## **PICNIC AT ST IVES SHOWGROUND**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Another beautiful morning at St. Ives Showground shared with the pleasant company of some Probus members. We all enjoyed chatting with each other, catching up on news and partaking of yummy pastries and coffee from the Black Knight cafe.

All welcome to come along to our next gathering at the Showground on a date to be announced in the next newsletter.

### **Di Pill**

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

### **Ros Thompson**

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



## CARDS AND GAMES

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

### NEXT CARDS AND GAMES

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February  
At: Forest Kirk Church Hall,  
Fitzpatrick Avenue, French Forest.  
Time: 9:30am to 12:00pm.

Anyone interested in playing Scrabble or other games in February please contact Di or Ros.

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.

**Please RSVP to:**

#### **Di Pill**

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

#### **Ros Thompson**

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



## CINEMA

Rosemary Daly (0403 238 341)

“Song Sung Blue” starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson



On Tuesday 13th January 30 “Probiants”, (a record number), attended the movie “Song Sung Blue” at Warriewood cinema.

From the opening beat of music it was a totally enjoyable experience with perfect performances & vocals from both Hugh Jackman & Kate Hudson.

Based on a true story the film follows 2 struggling individuals, Mike & Claire Sardina who meet & find love through their shared passion for performing as a Neil Diamond Tribute act. It was an emotional story with strong chemistry & really great musical performances of all the wonderful Neil Diamond songs that most people know & love.

It was a movie to uplift, to make you both laugh & also to cry. We all gave it a "10 out of 10" & afterwards 15 of us stayed to share a coffee & chat.

**Rosemary Daly**

## ENTERTAINMENT

Warwick Brady (0418 793 684)



### 9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL

**Saturday 14th February at 7 30pm  
Tickets are \$55**

If you want to see the show please book asap

### RETIRED LAUGHING

**Wednesday 18th February at 7pm  
Tickets are \$65**

If you want to see the show please book asap

### AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND

**Monday 9th March at 11am Tickets are \$30**

If you want to see the show please book asap

### A NEW SHOW

Rhinestone Cowboy - A salute to John Denver and Glen Campbell

Relive the unforgettable hits of these music legends. Acclaimed vocalist John Stephan takes audiences on a journey through timeless classics

**Friday 27th March at 7 30 Tickets \$69.95**

Bookings now open

## RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN

An Evening with Rogers and Hammerstein from the Company that brought you Carousel. **Wednesday 20th May at 7 30 pm Tickets \$60**

The audience will be treated to the most beloved songs ever written including Some Enchanted Evening, You Will Never Walk Alone, Hello Young Lovers and I'm in Love with a Wonderful Guy and many more With soaring melodies, rich harmonies and unmistakable warmth

Kind Regards

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

## GUEST SPEAKERS

Cherry Robinson (0438 186 584)

### JANUARY SPEAKER

Lesley McQuire's interest in family history began when at 10 years old she was told the family descended from Alexander Selkirk after whom the book Robinson Crusoe was written. However, her research found the story to be false. The family had the wrong Alexander Selkirk. Their Alexander Selkirk was a Loyalist in the American Revolution.

Lesley gave a very interesting and detailed account of three of her ancestors which was titled "Loyally Yours, the other side of the American Revolution".

The Selkirk brothers left Scotland and moved to Boston Massachusetts in 1761 setting up a business which imported merchandise and high fashion goods. Accompanying her talk were some wonderful pictures of the times. For 40 years from 1760-1800 they will leave Scotland and settle in Boston and New York, North America, Shelburne, Nova Scotia, Canada, London, England and back to Glasgow, Scotland setting up businesses. Due to their strong links to the British Crown they became Loyalists in the American Revolution. For their loyalty they would become outcasts and never be allowed back into America after the Revolution. They submitted a claim for financial compensation from the British Government but it was rejected and led to financial ruin and bankruptcy.



Guest Speaker Lesley McQuire and Hastings Pawsey who gave the vote of thanks

## FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Paul Kearney Music of the 50's

## MARCH

Annual General Meeting - No speaker

**Cherry Robinson  
Guest Speaker Coordinator**

Mobile: 0438 186 584

Email: [cherryrobinson259@gmail.com](mailto:cherryrobinson259@gmail.com)

## MAHJONG CLUB

Sandra Murphy (0457 388 325)

Mahjong resumes on **Wednesday 11th of February, 9.30am** at The Forest Kirk hall, Fitzpatrick Avenue, Frenchs Forest.

We will continue to meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month and look forward to welcoming everyone who thinks 2026 will be a good year to learn or improve your Mahjong skills.

Morning tea is also an important part of our morning.

**Sandra Murphy  
Mahjong Coordinator**  
Mobile: 0457 388 325  
[sandramurphyffoz@yahoo.com.au](mailto:sandramurphyffoz@yahoo.com.au)

## SOCIAL

Megan Hartnell (0402 102 055)

### LUNCH IN MANLY

The Manly Club, Thursday, 5th March at 12 noon. This is in Gilbert Street which is a short walk from the bus stop if you are taking the bus from Glenrose shopping Centre.

Presently we have 26 registered and I have booked a space for 30 people so if you still wish to come, please let me know at the February meeting. This lunch is paid as you go for both food and drinks.

A number of lunches are in the planning stage for this year so watch this space in the next newsletter.

Happy new Probus year to all 😊

**Megan Hartnell**  
Social Convenor  
Mobile: 0402 102 055  
Email: [megt11@bigpond.com](mailto:megt11@bigpond.com)

A beautiful day for walking up through Martin Place past the old sandstone buildings and photos of Sydney in the early 1900s. A number of us arrived early and had a tour of the upper and lower chambers which was very interesting. Mike and I even found a photo of his grandfather hanging on the wall which was very special. He was the Minister for Health from 1939 till the mid 40s.

A great day had by all with superb food and lots of fellowship.

**Megan**



### NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE LUNCH



30 of us thoroughly enjoyed our lunch at Parliament house this week.



## OUTINGS

Mike Hartnell (0419 717 382)  
Geoff Jones (0412 420 213)

### ART GALLERY OF NSW

On **Monday February 2nd** we will be going to the Art Gallery of NSW to see the **Dangerously Modern** exhibition about Australian women artists overseas in the 1890s to 1940s. We have booked with Lorraine, an experienced guide to show us around at 12pm, then we can have a spot of lunch.

Tickets for the tour are \$35, or \$32 for concession holders.

Thanks Judee for arranging things.

#### **Mike**

Mobile: 0419 717 382

Email: [mikes@interpeace.com](mailto:mikes@interpeace.com)

### MAGICAL MYSTERY HISTORY TOUR

Our first tour in 2026 will be on **Thursday 19 February**. We will have a scenic train ride, two in fact: there and back. Plus some history, sightseeing and culture and not much walking and few stairs and a good lunch.

Meet 10 am at Central Station, Platform 18. Don't be late and bring your Opal card. There will be a sign on sheet at the back of the hall at our February meeting for those who are interested but have yet to put their names down.

TTFN+KBO

#### **Geoff Jones**

Mobile: 0412 420 213

Email: [geoffjones1874@gmail.com](mailto:geoffjones1874@gmail.com)

## TOURS

Ted Morton (0412 235 400)  
Margaret Ayre (0423 302 069)

### QLD SOUTHERN OUTBACK TOUR 11 to 22 OCTOBER 2026 WITH TRADE TRAVEL

The booking and payment of deposits for this tour is underway. Any members who have yet to complete their booking form and deposit payment (forms emailed previously) are asked to attend to this soon. The deposit is important as \$55 per person of the tour deposit of

\$200 per person needs to be paid to the airline as a deposit to secure the seats for our flights - Sydney to Toowoomba and return.

There have been a few members who have withdrawn from the tour. So there is an opportunity if any member has had a change of mind and would now like to join, please let Ted Morton know.

### POSSIBLE TOUR TO NORFOLK ISLAND IN 2027 WITH TRADE TRAVEL

If there is sufficient interest, Ted could organise a tour to Norfolk Island next year – likely in the first half of the year. A show of hands will be requested at the February meeting and if there appears to be sufficient interest in the suggestion it will be discussed with the Committee for approval to proceed and for timing to fit into the Club calendar of events.

**Ted Morton**



### CANBERRA YULEFEST 29-31 JULY 2026 WITH ON-COURSE TOURS

A 3-day tour is in progress going to Canberra on the 29th-31st July 2026 with On-Course Tours

Please see the full itinerary in the newsletter. A deposit of \$200 is due by the 29th March 2026

There are 25 rooms reserved for us at this stage.

10 rooms have already been booked.

Cost per person (minimum 30 people):  
\$1,075.00

Cost per person (minimum 25 people):  
\$1,225.00

Single supplement: +\$250.00

Many thanks

**Margaret Ayre**

# Queensland Southern Outback Trail

With Combined Probus Club of Belrose

**12 Days / 11 Nights - Fully Escorted**

**Tour Departs: Sunday 11 October - Thursday 22 October, 2026**



TRADE TRAVEL  
Flawless Journeys. Endless Memories.



**Day 1. Sun 11 Oct: Belrose - Sydney - Toowoomba - Goondiwindi**

**Lunch & Dinner**

**Flight Details: QF1412, Sydney - Wellcamp 11:55/12:40 (flight subject to change)**

Today we fly into Toowoomba to begin our Queensland Southern Outback Trail. On arrival, we travel to **Picnic Point Lookout**, one of Toowoomba's signature scenic viewpoints, and enjoy lunch at the café overlooking the **Lockyer Valley**. After lunch, we visit **Laurel Bank Park** for a relaxed stroll through its beautifully maintained gardens and seasonal floral displays. We then travel west through the **Darling Downs**, stopping in **Yelarbon** to view the striking **GrainCorp Silos** titled "When the Rain Comes." This stunning artwork was created by Jordache Castillejos, Jordon Bruce (Brightsiders), and Steve Falco (Procreative), and stretches across eight silos, capturing the spirit of regeneration in the Australian outback. We continue to **Goondiwindi**, on arrival, we check in to our motel and take time to refresh before dinner.

**Overnight Goondiwindi: Best Western Ascot Lodge Motor Inn**

**Day 2. Mon 12 Oct: Goondiwindi - St George**

**Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

This morning we explore the township of **Goondiwindi**, starting with a peaceful stroll through the **Botanic Gardens of the Western Woodlands**. These expansive native gardens offer gentle walking paths and a tranquil setting beside the lake - a relaxing start to our day. We then visit the **Customs House Museum**, a beautifully preserved heritage building. Inside, fascinating displays that tell the story of Goondiwindi's border-town history. Before departing, we stop at the **Gunsynd Memorial**, commemorating the famous "Goondiwindi Grey," and enjoy views from the **Border Bridge**, which links Queensland and New South Wales across the **Macintyre River**. Lunch is at the friendly **Queensland Hotel**, known for its classic country hospitality and hearty meals. After lunch, we travel northwest through peaceful outback landscapes, arriving in St George by mid-afternoon, after check-in at our motel, the remainder of the day is at leisure before dinner at the hotel.

**Overnight St George: Riverland Motor Inn**

**Day 3. Tue 13 Oct: St George**

**Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

This morning, we visit **The Unique Egg**, the world's only display of hand-carved, illuminated emu eggs - extraordinary works of art that have even been gifted to the **White House**. Next, we join our local guide for an informative **tour of St George**, learning about the town's rich heritage and rural lifestyle. We then meet a **local cotton farmer** to gain insight into one of the region's key industries, before visiting **Riversands Vineyard** for a **tour, wine tasting and lunch** among the vines. In the afternoon, we return to our motel to freshen up before embarking on a **relaxing sunset cruise on the Balonne River**. Enjoy the tranquil scenery and gentle commentary as the day winds down. We return to the motel for dinner and a chance to reflect on another memorable outback experience.

**Overnight St George: Riverland Motor Inn**

**Day 4. Wed 14 Oct: St George - Bollon - Cunnamulla**

**Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

After breakfast we depart St George and travel west to the charming outback town of **Bollon** for a memorable cultural experience, with a visit to the **Nullawokka First Nations Gallery**, showcasing local Indigenous art, followed by a **Kooma cultural presentation** by **Traditional Owner Bill Speedy**, who shares stories and traditions of Country. After this enriching morning, enjoy a **Native Flavours lunch**, highlighting bush ingredients and regional produce, we head west to **Cunnamulla**, arriving mid-afternoon to check in. An optional visit to the **Cunnamulla Hot Springs** offers time to relax in the mineral-rich artesian pools overlooking the **Warrego River**, or simply unwind at leisure. Later, join **fourth-generation local Peleta** for a **town tour**, featuring the striking **Cunnamulla Water Tower Art** by **Guido van Helten**.

**Day 4. Continued...** As the sun sets, enjoy complimentary drinks and nibbles, then the **3D Sound and Light Show**, where our holographic host, the Station Master, brings Cunnamulla's past to life. Conclude the day with a **traditional Aussie campfire dinner under the stars**.

**Overnight Cunnamulla: Club Boutique Hotel**

**Day 5. Thu 15 Oct: Cunnamulla - Eulo - Thargomindah**

**Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

This morning we stop at **Cunnamulla Fella Visitor Information Centre**, enjoy a self-guided tour of the **Artesian Time Tunnel**, the interactive displays and informative video on how the Artesian Basin was formed. Travel west to the little town of **Eulo**, "**The Montville of the Outback**", see the opals and jewellery at **Telegraph House Gallery**, or hand-crafted leather goods at Paroo Patch. We meet Col at the **Eulo Queen Hotel for lunch** and hear the history of the Eulo Queen. Continue to Thargomindah for check in to our motel, before our visit to the **Thargomindah Visitor Information Centre** to meet our local guide. Explore the first town in Australia and the third in the world to produce hydro-electric power for street lighting. We also take in a tour and demonstration of the original **Artesian Hydro Power Plant**. Late afternoon we return to watch the spectacular outback sunset, before returning to the motel for a lovely dinner.

**Overnight Thargomindah: Oasis Motel**

**Day 6. Fri 16 Oct: Thargomindah - Toompine - Quilpie**

**Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast and check-out before heading along the Quilpie- Thargomindah Road toward the opal town of Quilpie. En route, stop at the **famous Toompine Hotel** - known as the pub without a town. In the early afternoon, travel to **Toogunna Plains Farmstay**, a fifth-generation sheep and cattle property in the heart of the Channel Country. Settle in for a two-night stay in beautifully appointed ensuite cabins and enjoy locally sourced meals prepared by our host and resident foodie, Fiona Ferguson. This evening, celebrate the colours of the outback with **sunset drinks and canapés overlooking the picturesque Kyra Sandhills**, followed by a two-course dinner in the homestead garden.

**Overnight Quilpie: Toogunna Plains Farmstay**

**Day 7. Sat 17 Oct: Quilpie**

**Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Wake to the tranquillity of this 130,000-acre property and start our day with a gourmet cooked breakfast. We then, join our hosts for a morning **station tour**, offering a first-hand look at the challenges and rewards of life on the land. Enjoy **lunch in the 100-year-old shearing shed** with more station insights from our hosts. Early afternoon, we'll travel about 25 minutes to the **Eromanga Natural History Museum** to meet Australia's largest dinosaur. On a one-hour guided tour, discover fossil preparation in action, view incredible megafauna remains, and experience ancient creatures brought to life through immersive multimedia. As the sun sets, enjoy drinks and canapés on the museum's open-air pavilion, followed by an exclusive **five-course 'Taste of the Outback' long-table dinner** in the striking museum gallery.

**Overnight Quilpie: Toogunna Plains Farmstay**

**Day 8. Sun 18 Oct: Charleville**

**Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

This morning, we farewell our hosts at Toogunna Plains Farmstay and travel east to Charleville, the heart of Mulga Country. On arrival, we visit the heritage-listed **Hotel Coronas** to explore its 1929 origins during Charleville's wool boom and the colourful legacy of Harry Coronas, we enjoy lunch in the grand dining room before heading to the **Charleville Bilby Experience** to see the endangered nocturnal bilbies and learn about their successful breeding and release program. Later this afternoon, we delve into Charleville's intriguing wartime history on the **WWII Secrets Tour**, discovering why this remote outback town was selected as a top-secret base by the US military. We also learn about the highly classified **Norden bomb sight**, once considered revolutionary wartime technology. This evening, we enjoy the **Big Sky Twilight Tour** at the Cosmos Centre, viewing planets and star clusters through powerful telescopes while expert Sky Guidos share fascinating insights. We then return to our motel for a relaxed dinner.

**Overnight Charleville: Mulga Country Motor Inn**

**Day 9. Mon 19 Oct: Charleville - Mitchell - Roma**

**Breakfast & Dinner**

After breakfast, we visit the **Outback Date Farm** for a guided tour, learning how this unique crop thrives in the harsh outback environment and hearing the story behind this surprising local success. We then travel east to **Mitchell**, stopping for a light lunch at the **Great Artesian Spa Café**, before continuing to **Roma**, the heart of Queensland's cattle country. After check-in and time to refresh, we visit the iconic **Roma Big Rig**, meet our local guide, and learn about the region's pioneering oil and gas industry. As the sun sets, we enjoy a regional port and the captivating **Big Rig Night Show**, before returning to the motel for dinner.

**Overnight Roma: Roma Explorers Inn**

**Day 10. Tue 20 Oct: Roma**

**Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Today after breakfast we set out on a **full-day tour** with local experts from Boobook Explore, offering a rich insight into the history and heart of Roma. We begin with a guided visit to the iconic **Roma Saleyards**, the largest cattle-selling centre in the Southern Hemisphere, followed by a stop at the historic **Roma Power Station**. We then enjoy a stroll through the tranquil Bush Gardens and admire the town's famous Biggest Bottle Tree. Later, we travel through Mandandanji Country to **Massey Downs**, a working cropping and cattle property. Here, we explore the station gardens and hear stories of life on the land. Morning tea and lunch are included. Tonight, after a short break at our motel, we visit **Western Queensland Spirit**, a distillery on a former citrus and grape farm producing award-winning small-batch spirits infused with native botanicals. Enjoy a **private tour, tasting, and relaxed dinner**.

**Overnight Roma: Roma Explorers Inn**

**Day 11. Wed 21 Oct: Roma - Surat - Toowoomba****Breakfast & Dinner**

We farewell Roma this morning and travel south to **Surat**, a picturesque riverside town steeped in Cobb & Co history. At the **Cobb & Co Changing Station Museum**, we view the original stagecoach, explore the Social History Museum, and enjoy the impressive 25,000-litre freshwater aquarium. Take a relaxing walk along the Balonne River and enjoy morning tea (or early lunch) in this peaceful township. From Surat, we continue east through the towns of **Miles**, **Chinchilla** and **Dalby**, enjoying scenic countryside views along the way. Arriving in Toowoomba in the late afternoon, we check into our hotel and settle in before dinner.

**Overnight Toowoomba: Potters Hotel****Day 12. Thurs 22 Oct: Toowoomba - Sydney - Belrose****Breakfast**

This morning, after breakfast, we check out and visit the **Queensland Cobb+Co Museum**. This unique museum celebrates Australia's transport heritage and features the National Carriage Collection - a stunning display of horse-drawn vehicles that played an important role in the development of Queensland. We enjoy time to explore the fascinating exhibits and immerse ourselves in the stories of early travel and settlement. After our visit, we head to Toowoomba Airport for our flight home. On arrival, we are transferred to Belrose, reflecting on the many special memories shared with the **Belrose Combined Probus Club and Trade Travel** during our Queensland Southern Outback Trail.

**Flight Details:** QF1413, Wellcamp - Sydney 13:05/15:50 (flights subject to change)

## Tour Highlights & Inclusions

**Tour Highlights:** Picnic Point Lookout; Laurel Bunk Park; GrainCorp Silos; Gunsynd Memorial & Border Bridge; Botanic Gardens of the Western Woodlands; Customs House Museum; Queensland Hotel; Unique Egg; Heritage Tour; Cotton Farm Tour; Riversands Vineyard Wine Tasting & Lunch; Balonne River Sunset River Cruise; First Nations Gallery; Cultural Presentation; Native Flavours Lunch; Hot Springs Experience; Water Tower Art; 3D Sound & Light Show & Camp Fire Dinner; Cunnamulla Fella Visitor Information Centre; Artesian Time Tunnel Tour; Opal & Art Gallery; Leather Craft Shop; Outback Pub Lunch; Visitor Centre & Guided Tour; Artesian Hydro Power Plant Tour; Outback Pub Stop; Station Farmstay; Sunset Drinks & Canapés; Station Tour & Shearing Shed Lunch; Natural History Museum Tour & 'Taste of the Outback' Dinner; Historic Hotel Tour & Lunch; Bilby Experience; Big Sky Twilight Tour; Top Secret WWII Tour; Outback Date Tour; Town Tour – Heroes Avenue, Bush Gardens & Biggest Bottle Tree; Sound & Light Show; Saleyards Visit; Power Station Stop; Cropping & Cattle Station Tour; Distillery Tour, Tasting & Dinner; Cobb & Co Changing Station Museum; Cobb+Co Museum & more.

**Tour Price ex Homeport Includes:**

- Return Airport Transfers from/to Belrose
- Trade Travel Tour Host
- Return flights with Qantas from Sydney to Wellcamp (Toowoomba)
- Quality coach travel
- 11 Nights quality accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner as per itinerary
- All entry fees, cruise & guides as per itinerary

**Tour Cost ex SYD: \$6898 per person Twin Share (Single Supplement \$1198 - limited capacity).**

A minimum of 20 passengers is required for this tour to proceed.

The tour prices are valid for travel in 2026. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change without notice.

**Deposit:** A deposit of **\$200.00 per person** is due on booking to secure your place on this tour, along with completed booking form (\$55.00 is non refundable at time of booking)

**Final Payment:** Due no later than **Friday 7 August, 2026**.

**For information, bookings & travel insurance contact:**

**Trade Travel 1800 034 439**

Email: [bookings@tradetravel.com](mailto:bookings@tradetravel.com)



Central Reservations: PO Box 1715 Nundah QLD 4566  
Freecall: 1800 034 439 | Email: [bookings@tradetravel.com](mailto:bookings@tradetravel.com)  
Website: [www.tradetravel.com.au](http://www.tradetravel.com.au) | ABN: 91 061 091 378



## CANBERRA YULEFEST

### Day 1 – Mittagong to Canberra

We set off together this morning, pausing in Mittagong to enjoy Morning Tea before continuing our journey south. Our first stop is Fedra Olive Grove, where we enjoy a delicious lunch. From here, we indulge in a wine tasting at the charming Contentious Character winery, with the option for anyone who wishes to wander up to Jasper and Myrtle Chocolates for a sweet treat. This evening, we settle into the elegant Hotel Kurrajong and gather for dinner.

**Overnight:** Hotel Kurrajong

**Meals Included:** Lunch & Dinner

### Day 2 – Canberra city sights and Yulefest celebration

After breakfast, we set off on a **city sights tour**, taking in Canberra's embassies, national institutions, and key landmarks. We pause for **morning tea at the Portrait Café** before exploring the **National Portrait Gallery**, where portraits of Australia's most notable figures share the story of the nation through art and photography.

Our morning continues with a guided visit to the **Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House**, offering fascinating insight into Australia's political heritage and the people who shaped it.

We then enjoy **lunch and some free time in Manuka**, one of Canberra's most popular shopping and café precincts, known for its boutique stores and relaxed atmosphere.

**OnCourse**  
TOURS AND TRAVEL

(02) 9986 2400

travel@oncoursetours.com

oncoursetours.com

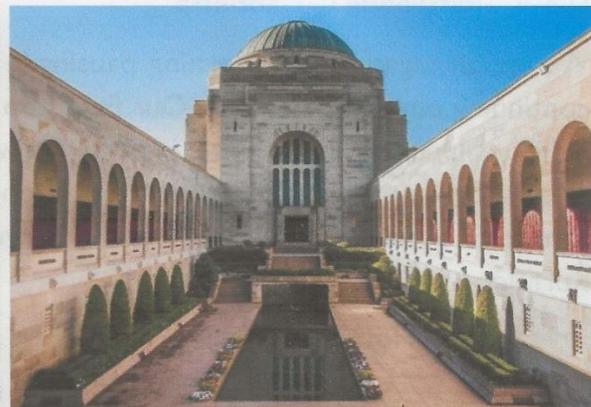
Please note: Itinerary subject to change due to operational requirements or local conditions.

In the afternoon, we visit the **Australian War Memorial**, a moving and significant tribute to those who have served. We explore the galleries and reflect during the **Last Post Ceremony**, a poignant conclusion to the day's sightseeing.

To finish the day, we enjoy our **special Yulefest celebration** — a much-loved highlight of the tour. Celebrate the season with a traditional Christmas-style meal shared in warm company, creating the perfect festive atmosphere to round off a memorable day in Canberra.

**Overnight:** Hotel Kurrajong

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



### Day 3 – Canberra to Sydney

Following Breakfast, we travel to Bungendore to enjoy Morning Tea at the charming Café Woodworks. We explore the impressive Woodworks Gallery and browse the Leather and Trading Store across the road. Our journey then takes us to Goulburn, where we enjoy Lunch at the historic Goulburn Brewery.

With hearts full and bags perhaps a little heavier, we make our way back to Sydney, bringing our wonderful getaway to a close.

**Overnight:** Breakfast & Lunch

**OnCourse**  
TOURS AND TRAVEL

(02) 9986 2400

travel@oncoursetours.com

oncoursetours.com

Please note: Itinerary subject to change due to operational requirements or local conditions.

## Pricing

Cost per person (minimum 30 people): \$1,075

Cost per person (minimum 25 people): \$1,225

Single supplement: +\$250

This includes all experiences, meals, accommodation, and luxury coach travel as listed in the day-by-day itinerary.



**OnCourse**  
TOURS AND TRAVEL

☎ (02) 9986 2400

✉ travel@oncoursetours.com

🌐 oncoursetours.com

Please note: Itinerary subject to change due to operational requirements or local conditions.

## WALKING GROUP

Helen Miles (0407 078 963)

## WRAP WITH LOVE

Lesley Walker (0404 828 261)  
Liz Pawsey (0403 206 460)  
(Merle Fox 0411 250 530)

### FEBRUARY WALK

Our February walk is at **Narrabeen Lake** on Friday 27th and is led by Lyn & Jock Cameron.

We will meet at Middle Creek Reserve which is a right hand turn off Wakehurst Parkway just over Middle Creek and past Sydney Academy of Sport & Recreation. We will **meet at 9.30am** and walk along the northern edge of the lake, stopping for cheese and biscuits near Bilarong Bushland Reserve, before continuing on to the shops for coffee.

Keen walkers can continue on to the cars and others can rest and wait before all gathering together for lunch. The distance walked will depend on the weather.

Anyone requiring a lift or having room in their car please contact Helen to make arrangements (meet at 95 Blackbutts Road, F. F. by 8.50am). Parking is free to residents with a Northern Beaches Parking Sticker attached to their car.

**Helen Miles**  
**Walks Coordinator**  
Mobile: 0407 078 963  
Email: [milesawile@bigpond.com](mailto:milesawile@bigpond.com)



Since this worthwhile project was launched by our Probus Club in 2012, our enthusiastic group has completed and handed to the charity, Wrap with Love, 1719 wraps as at the end of January.

We are so grateful for the regular knitters and crocheters of the 25cm (10in) squares, donations of yarn (8pl acrylic) and the "sewer-uppers". These all contribute to making this project work so well.

If anyone reading this would like to become involved, please to not hesitate to contact either of the current co-ordinators mentioned below.

Lesley Walker 0404 828 261  
Merle Fox 0411 250 530  
Liz Pawsey 0403 206 460



This wrap was put together by Merle but completely knitted by a friend of our Probus Club, our first male contributor – well done Roy! Look forward to your next one.

## NEVILLE MARSH



I have been asked to write a few words about Neville Marsh

Neville grew up at Katoomba where his parents owned the Palais Royale Guesthouse; the place to stay in Katoomba. This was where Neville learned to love the Blue Mountains and its many walks which he knew so well. It also was the start of his love of Australian animals. As a boy Neville kept pet possums at the home. He and his brother were exposed to a world of music, and ballroom dancing. He often acted as M C for evenings in the ballroom. Importance was given to English literature which led into elocution lessons and gave him a love of poetry. On the other side of his upbringing he was taught the manly arts of shooting, boxing, judo, wrestling and gymnastics.

His working life proved him to be successful in marketing, working for Olivetti and IBM. This of course led into the world of Information Technology. Neville had considerable knowledge and achieved a very successful career.

Neville met Sue when they attended college together where he used his sports training to rescue Sue from an unwanted admirer. Those lessons learned earlier became very handy. It was only a matter of time before they married and settled down to family life. The family of two became a family of four when Debbie arrived and then Belinda. Ella, Debbie and Rob's daughter arrived in 2006 thus making the proud grandparents a family of six. One of the greatest pleasures for Neville were his girls of whom he was immensely proud.

When Neville's daughters expressed interest in gymnastics, Neville together with Sue started The Manly Warringah Gymnastics Club in 1978. Neville was the Club's President for 20 plus years. It is still going strong and training gymnasts to compete to the highest levels.

As a member of Belrose Rotary Club, Neville used his marketing skills to great advantage. During a Rotary fund raising project for Shelter Box the people of Port-au-Prince were in desperate need of shelter. Rotary members were collecting donations from the public at the local shopping centre. Neville installed TV screens at the centre that continuously showed the plight of those people. As a result, the collections were an outstanding success, enabling the Club to purchase many Shelter Boxes.

Members of the Rotary Club would go away on 4wheel drive weekends venturing into the national parks. Now Neville loved to run, so he would run ahead of the vehicles and make sure there were no obstacles and ensuring the track was safe to travel. He was in his element camping in the bush.

He together with Barry took some European Rotary Exchange students for a few days to Jenolan Caves. They stayed in bush cabins surrounded by wallabies and spent a couple of days hiking the walking trails which he knew so well. The students loved it.

When Sue and Neville became members of our Probus Club they enjoyed the Club's trips away. The one to China comes to mind during which Neville impressed the Chinese and others by running across the top of the Great Wall of China from one outlook post to the next outlook post. He just loved to run. It was unfortunate that later in the tour he became ill and spent considerable time in a Shanghai hospital.

Neville was a great friend of ours, loyal, intelligent, and had a wicked sense of humour. He loved poetry and literature. Neville's greatest loves were his family, being in the great outdoors and the Australian bush.

I close with this quote. It is not mine but it is a perfect fit

*“Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave and impossible to forget”*

**Lesley Hackshall**

## February Birthdays



1 <sup>st</sup>	Gloria Attwooll
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Brian Soutter
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Robyn Steel
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Barley Stewart
4 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Baker
4 <sup>th</sup>	Bill McQuire
6 <sup>th</sup>	Ken Attwooll
6 <sup>th</sup>	Judee Radford
11 <sup>th</sup>	Colin Fordred
14 <sup>th</sup>	Rosemary Daly
15 <sup>th</sup>	Trish Nielsen
15 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Steel
16 <sup>th</sup>	Helen Hurley
19 <sup>th</sup>	Liz Pawsey
27 <sup>th</sup>	Edina Forsythe
27 <sup>th</sup>	Enid Oake



30 January 2026

Dear Management Committee,

Each year, Probus South Pacific Limited (PSPL) seeks nominations from Probus Club members who wish to serve on the PSPL Board or on the related PSPL Nominating Selection Committee (NSC).

PSPL is now calling for nominations from Probus Club members to fill upcoming vacancies for Representative Member/Directors for New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia and New Zealand.

Directors Nicholas Erby, Brian Hoult and Margaret Drake are currently serving in these roles, and their terms of office will end in August 2026. The term of office for the successful candidates will be from August 2026 to August 2029.

The role of a PSPL Representative Member/Director is, in conjunction with the Board, to ensure the success of Probus in the South Pacific region. This is a volunteer position which previously required travel to Sydney on a quarterly basis. However, all meetings are currently being held via technological means with the exception of the Annual General Meeting in August.

To be eligible to nominate for the role of Representative Member/Director, a nominee must be a current member of an accredited Probus Club in either New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia or New Zealand and have at least 12 months' experience serving on a Probus Club Management Committee.

Nominations for the role of Representative Member/Director must be proposed and seconded in writing by the President and Secretary of the nominee's Probus Club using the official Nomination Form. If the nominee is currently a President or Secretary of their Club, another member of the Management Committee must propose or second the nomination.

In addition to seeking nominations from members of Probus Clubs to serve on the PSPL Board, PSPL is also seeking nominations from two Probus Club members to serve on the respective NSCs.

The NSC is responsible for interviewing and assessing the Board nominees to determine their suitability. The interviews will be conducted by the NSC during the month of May 2026 via technological means.

The NSC is comprised of the PSPL Chairman, its Vice Chairman, and one additional Director plus two Probus Club members from the areas of selection. Nominations to serve on the NSC must be proposed and seconded in writing by the President and Secretary of the nominee's Probus Club, using the official Nomination Form. If a nominee for appointment to an NSC is from the same Probus Club as the candidate for appointment as a Representative Member/Director, his or her nomination will not be accepted. Both the proposer and the seconder must certify in the Nomination Form that the candidate is considered to have the level of knowledge and experience needed to properly assess the Representative Member/Director nominees.

Members who have business experience in finance, accounting, communications, or marketing, or as a public company director, are urged to consider nominating for the PSPL Board. Given the large proportion of female Probians, we strongly encourage female members to nominate.

Nominations must be received by 5.00 pm AEST on 30 April 2026 either by post to the address below or by email to [silvanam@probussouthpacific.org](mailto:silvanam@probussouthpacific.org)

To assist us in communicating this message to your Club's membership, it would be greatly appreciated if the following advertisement could be included in your Club's upcoming newsletters. To download the advertisement in JPG click [here](#) or PDF [click here](#).

To download a copy of this letter in MS Word please [click here](#) or for PDF [click here](#).

If your Club would like to propose a nominee and requires a Nomination Form or needs further information, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Probus friendship,

Silvana Martignago  
Chief Executive Officer

**PROBUS SOUTH PACIFIC LIMITED**

Contact the PSPL Team

Australia 1300 630 488 or +61 2 9689 0200 New Zealand 0800 1477 6287

Email: [admin@probussouthpacific.org](mailto:admin@probussouthpacific.org) Website: [www.probussouthpacific.org](http://www.probussouthpacific.org)

Facebook

Website

Email

Instagram

Facebook