



MARGARET'S MANTA

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Dear Members and Friends,

It's our pleasure to welcome Julia Poole as a new member of our wonderful club. We are delighted to have Julia join our club and look forward to getting to know her better at upcoming meetings and events.

After our last meeting some of us went to Glen Street theatre to see Davidson High School's, Season of Performing Arts show, it was fantastic, The Dance, Drama, and Music performed by the students was first class.

This month, I would like to pay tribute to the Wrap with Love team. A very big thank you goes to the four wonderful ladies who give their time and care to our Wrap with Love project.

We greatly appreciate the effort they put into this meaningful and important work.

Once a good number of granny squares have been handed in, the ladies meet at the Folly to design the blankets. This is a time-consuming task, as each blanket must be carefully planned before it can be sewn together.

Each blanket is made up of 28 ten-inch squares, and every square is numbered from 1 to 28 so the design can be followed accurately.

Last month, 16 blankets were designed and numbered, which means an amazing 448 squares were prepared.

Many of our Probus members, together with their friends, continue to knit and crochet squares for the club, and their generous contributions are sincerely appreciated.

Donations of 8-ply acrylic yarn, or monetary contributions to help purchase yarn, are always gratefully received.

Up to date 1778 completed blankets have been handed into Wrap with Love coordinator.

Thank you once again ladies for all your hard work.

Thought for the month

"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."

Yours Truly

President Margaret

CLUB CONTACTS

President:	Margaret Ayre	0423 302 069
Secretary:	Alison Soutter	0400 525 700
Treasurer:	Chris Nielsen	0409 242 888
Newsletter:	Jenny Jones	0405 310 537

Club Website:

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

Club Email Address:

combinedbelroseprobus@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2026/2027

President	Margaret Ayre
Past President	Mike Hartnell
Vice President	Margaret Lovett
Secretary	Alison Soutter
Assist Secretary	Christine Humphries
Treasurer	Chris Nielsen
Assist Treasurer	Colin Fordred
Entertainment	Warwick Brady
Guest Speakers	Cherry Robinson
Membership	Tony Lovett
Newsletter	Jenny Jones
Social	Megan Hartnell
Tours/Outings	Peter Moxham
Welfare	Lesley Walker

SUB COMMITTEES 2026/2027

Audio Visual	Terry Stewart
Honorary Auditor	Chris Wood
Birthday/Lucky Door	Di Pill Ros Thompson
Book & Jigsaw Exchange	Judy Morton
Book Club	Sandy Cameron
Cinema Outings	Gloria Attwooll Rosemary Daly
Coffee Mornings & Picnics	Di Pill Ros Thompson
Extended Tours	Ted Morton
Geoff's Journeys	Geoff Jones
Mahjong Group	Sandra Murphy
Reception	Jackie Taylor
Photographer	Peter Loveday
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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Payments for these two events are now due.
Please pay into our club's bank account

- \$30 Growing Old Ungracefully (Warwick Brady)
- \$86 Anniversary Lunch (Megan Hartnell)

JULY 2026

- 7th Book Club
- 8th Mahjong
- 9th General Meeting
- 13th Learn to Crochet
- 16th Anniversary Lunch
- 17th Archibald Exhibition
- 20th Coffee/Breakfast Morning
- 22nd Mahjong
- 23rd Committee Meeting
- 24th July Walk
- 27th Learn to Crochet
- 29-31 Yulefest Tour

AUGUST 2026

- 11th Book Club
- 12th Mahjong
- 13th General Meeting
- 18th Coffee/Breakfast Morning
- 20th Ahn Do The Happiest Refugee
- 26th Mahjong
- 27th Committee Meeting
- 28th August Walk

TO BOOK CLUB ACTIVITIES

REGISTER

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 Peter Moxham (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 Chris Nielsen.

Our club bank details are:

Combined Probus Club of Belrose

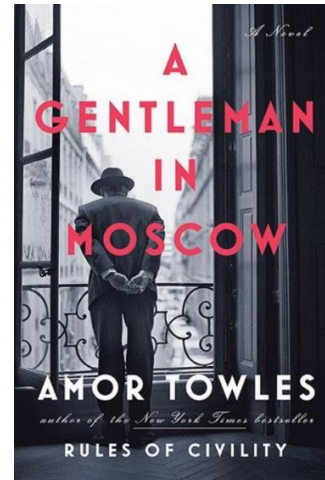
BSB: 032123

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



This book spans the period 1922 to 1954, a chiefly Stalinist period of hardship and starvation for most Russians. It chronicles the life of Count Alexander Rostov, who was spared a bullet to the head which was the fate of most aristocrats.

Instead of a life of leisure residing in palatial Suite 307 of the Metropol Hotel in Moscow, he was sentenced to house arrest for the rest of his life and forced to live in a small attic on the 6th floor of the hotel.

He made the most of his time befriending guests and the chef Zhukovsky and Maitre'D Duras and alleviated boredom by working as the Head waiter of the Hotel's restaurant.

The Metropol was an actual hotel and it was the scene of many political events during the reign of Stalin and then Malenkov and Krushchev, with the Count, as head waiter witnessing such events.

It was a turbulent period for Russians, with hardship and starvation widespread and about 18 million, including his poet friend Mishka, forced into Gulags in Siberia. Prior to his death in a Gulag, Mishka told the Count “Who would have imagined when you were sentenced to life in the Metropol all those years ago, that you had just become the luckiest man in all of Russia”.

This book was polarizing in that some book club members really enjoyed the book and loved the language, the alliteration and the characters. Others found it took a while to get into the book whilst some found it "too descriptive" and excessively long-winded and admitted to skipping parts that were overly verbose.

The book was over 500 pages and had small print so was a bit off-putting but on the other hand, this book was No. 3 in an ABC listener vote of the best novels of the 21st century.

Christine Humphries

CRAFT

Learn to Crochet – Granny Squares

Several members have asked to learn how to crochet granny squares, so I will be running two beginner-friendly lessons. at 1 Karina Crescent Belrose

Dates: Monday 13 July & Monday 27 July 2026 at 10am.

Please bring:

- 1 ball of 8-ply acrylic yarn
- 1 size 4.00 mm crochet hook

If you are interested, please call **Margaret Ayre** on 0423 302 069

COFFEE/BREAKFAST MORNING

A small group had a most enjoyable morning for breakfast/coffee at Acacia last week. It was a lovely time of fellowship and conversation. Thank you to those who attended.

Our next coffee/Breakfast:

Monday 20th July at 9:30 am

At Blue Gum cafe/restaurant

Location.Glenaeon,207 Forestway, Belrose

A sign up sheet will be at the back of the room next meeting

or

RSVP Di P. [0403 003 639](tel:0403003639)

Ros T. [0416 086 766](tel:0416086766)

We look forward to seeing you there.!

Coffee/Breakfast for August,

Tuesday 18th August at Blue Gum 9:30 am

Take care ,
Di and Ros



ENTERTAINMENT

Here are the details for the forthcoming shows

Ahn Do - The Happiest Refugee is on **Thursday 20th August at 7 30pm Tickets are \$74.90.**

Be part of one of the happiest shows to experience an unforgettable night at the theatre. We have many people booked for this show any still wanting tickets should contact me asap

A Taste of Ireland is direct from Off Broadway and London West End - the international acclaimed show is touring Australia in 2026. Performed by former World Irish Dance Champions including world class performers in the storytelling in a live celebration of Irish Music and Dance. **Thursday 3 September at 7.30pm Tickets are \$79.90**

The Gospel According to Paul The Second Coming - Jonatham Biggins is a masterclass in biographical theatre. Biggins superb acting alone carries the play but his sparkling and provocative script elevates the performance level.

We have our theatre booking on **Thursday 10th September 2026 at 7.30pm Tickets at \$90.00** Bookings are Selling Fast, please book now.

A number of excellent shows follow for the rest of the year and will be advised soon.

Thanks so much for all your support.

Warwick Brady
0418 793 684

GUEST SPEAKERS



Our June speaker Diana Noyce gave us a fascinating account of life on the Titanic, in particular the dining arrangements. The Titanic is an ongoing story with television and newspaper articles in the past month and an exhibition also.

The title of the talk was the final Repast on the Titanic and Diana explained the 1st, 2nd and 3rd class dining arrangements. 1st Class had alfresco and verandah cafes as well as a magnificent dining room and Escoffier inspired menus and in addition he designed how the kitchen and dining rooms functioned.

Another first was having specialist cooks.

Third class passengers prior to the Titanic had to provide their own food and cutlery, but now all was provided. The Titanic was also the first ship to have a swimming pool, in addition to a gym and Turkish baths.

Our July speaker is Ian Thompson whose subjects will be Insects.

Cherry Robinson
0438 186 584

MAH JONG CLUB



Next MJ meeting is **8th July**, a new financial year, perfect time to start something new.

We meet at **9.30 in The Kirk Hall on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.**

It takes ten minutes to start playing and enjoying Mah Jong but many years to become an expert.

We don't have any experts, but we do have people learning and enjoying themselves. Love you to come and join us.

Sandra Murphy
0457 388 325

MEMBERSHIP

New club member Julia Poole



Julia Poole is a retired Clinical Nurse Consultant and Academic.

She is a member of the Forest Kirk Uniting Church and has enjoyed hearing about this Probus club's fun times for many years.

Following her retirement 10 years ago Julia has enjoyed travelling overseas and lots of gardening but now focusses on her family, classical singing and spreading the message that *bystanders can help to prevent Domestic Violence and Abuse*

Julia's partner Robert Batchelor is hoping to join next month.

OUTINGS AND TOURS

ART GALLERY

Friday 17th July will be our guided tour of the Archibald Exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW. Entry fee for concessions is **\$27.**

The tour commences at 12 noon and at the conclusion, for those who wish, there is lunch available at the Gallery Cafe.

There is also the opportunity to view the John Laws' donated art collection.

Transport options:

1. Davidson bus 281 from Glenrose at 9:32 to Chatswood station, thence by Metro to Martin Place and a walk across the domain to the Gallery. Around 15 minutes.
2. From Stand D in QVB York Street, bus 141 to the Gallery departing at 10:54 and 11:34

CANBERRA YULEFEST

Late July our two night, three day tour of Canberra and surrounds has attracted 31 members. Travel insurance is recommended. Medical cards are available to those people on the tour. These need to be completed and handed to me in a sealed envelope when boarding the bus. They are then handed back at the completion of the tour.

BUS DAY OUTING

On the **1st October** we are planning a coach tour which will take us to Mrs. MacQuarie's Chair for morning tea, then travelling to Vaucluse House for a guided, tour. A two-course lunch at Coogee Legions Club follows and then a visit to the Kokoda Memorial Walking Track at Concord.

Price per Person is \$93 (based on a minimum of 30 people) \$111 per person (based on a minimum of 20 people)

We will commence with morning tea at Mrs MacQuarie's Chair, one of Sydney's most iconic lookout points, offering spectacular views of Sydney Harbour, the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. We will then travel to Vaucluse House, one of Sydney's only 19th century habourside estates, still surrounded by hectares of beautiful gardens and grounds. Built in 1803 it was once home to William Charles Wentworth, his wife Sarah and their family. During our guided tour we will explore the grand formal rooms, family spaces and service areas while learning about the lives of the Wentworth family and the servants who worked on the estate.

Our two course lunch is at Coogee Legions Club where we will enjoy a choice of main course, dessert and tea or barista coffee while taking in the water views from our reserved seating.

In the afternoon we will visit the Kokoda Memorial Walking Track, an 800 metre rainforest memorial to the New Guinea Campaign. We will enjoy a presentation from the volunteers before having time to explore the memorial, admire the beautiful Rose Garden or simply relax and enjoy the surroundings.

Vaucluse House



Peter Moxham
0417 299 283

TOURS WITH TRADE TRAVEL

At the June meeting I mentioned a Trade Travel tour to the Melbourne Flower Show next year. These tours are very popular and that tour has now been filled. The good news is a new tour has just been released. A copy of the itinerary for the new tour commencing 16 March is attached to this newsletter.

If interested please let Ted know as soon as possible by text or phone to 0412 235400 so that the places can be secured. The booking forms will then be sent to you.

Ted Morton
0412 235 400

GEOFF'S JOURNEYS \$2.50 OPAL OUTING TO COCKATOO ISLAND, WOOLWICH Thursday 18 June 2026

Cockatoo Island is significant as a site that includes the only remaining dry dock in Australia built using convict labour, as well as buildings and fabric related to the administration, incarceration and working conditions of convicts and wayward girls and boys and the shipbuilding industry.

On 18th June fourteen club members and one visitor gathered at Manly Wharf to take the ferry to Circular Quay and then another ferry to Cockatoo Island via Barangaroo. We were blessed with perfect weather for our day out.

The following photo was taken off Barangaroo of 2 of the spindles which will form part of the Monuments for Fishes comprising five composite sculptures, crafted from fiberglass with bright orange, yellow, pink, purple, black and white colours offering optical contrast and high visibility in the waters



Before exploring the island we stopped for coffee.



Vast industrial spaces and the machine shop. We also saw, but not shown here, dry docks, ship building infrastructure and tunnels.





On Cockatoo Island we saw where Kevin Radford did his apprenticeship and worked with his friend Paul "Crocodile Dundee" Hogan before they worked as riggers on the Harbour Bridge together.

Geoff Jones
0412 420 213

SOCIAL

ANNIVERSARY LUNCH CROMER GOLF CLUB

Thursday 16th July at midday.

We are drawing close to our very special Probus Birthday lunch 🍰👏🥂😊!our anniversary lunch at Cromer Golf Club on 16th July. What a lovely venue to enjoy this beautiful winter weather.



At present we have 57 paid and 17 still to pay please by 6th July. It is \$86 pp therefore \$172 for a couple. I would be grateful if payment could be made asap.

TERREY HILLS TAVERN

Thursday 20th August

Our next lunch will be at Terrey Hills Tavern on 3rd September. It is a popular spot with good food (tried and tested last week !) Plenty of choice for either a light snack or a more substantial meal

Order and pay on the day. Please register your interest up the back at the July or August meetings

LITTLE SNAIL PYMONT

Thursday 29th October at midday.

Registration is now open for this popular, terrific value lunch at \$48 pp for 3 courses.

This outing was thoroughly enjoyed by those who went last year so we have decided upon a repeat performance !! There is a parking station right next door for those who would prefer not to travel by public transport. Perhaps an opportunity to car pool and share the costs !

Put your name down on the list up the back at a meeting or contact me if you would like to come. Payment of \$48 pp can be made through the Club account.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Wakehurst Golf Club

Thursday 17th December

Save the date ! 🎁🎄👁️

Megan Hartnell
0402 102 055

WALKING GROUP

Our June walk on the 26th June was cancelled because of wet weather. This walk has been transferred to July.

JULY WALK

PLEASE NOTE. DATE CHANGE

Our July walk is on the 24th July - this is the 3rd Friday of the month, moved a week early because of the Probus Yulefest Tour on 29-31 July.

We are hoping to enjoy the Greenway Trail, postponed from June. Meet at the Glenrose Bus Stop at 8.50am for the 8.59am City Bus (271) to the Forest Way Shops stop where we will change to 160X Express Chatswood Bus (bus stop in Rabbett Street). From Chatswood we will catch the Metro to Central where we will stop for coffee before catching the Light Rail to the Leichhardt North stop.

From here we join the Greenway Trail, walking towards Dulwich Hill, where we will have lunch. For those not wanting to walk the full 6km, the Trail follows the Light Rail line and stops between Leichhardt North and Dulwich Hill are easily accessed.

Please let Helen know if you are coming by alternative transport and meet at Chatswood, at the entrance to the trains, (we should arrive between 9.30-9.45am), or at the Central Station Coffee Shop.

Helen Miles
0407 078 519

WELFARE



Sue Marsh has had a new knee,

She got it in Wyvern Hospital, as you can see.

Her days are filled with physio and exercises in rehab,

Oh the knee is so sore, sometimes really bad.

She's making great progress, her determination is strong,

But she's not quite ready to burst into song.

Another new knee maybe needed one day,

Right now Sue is saying "NO WAY!"

Lesley Walker
0404 828 261

WRAP WITH LOVE



Merle Fox delivering 16 completed blankets made by the Wrap With Love knitting group.

These blankets are to be distributed to underprivileged families in Sydney and country NSW.

A great effort from our little team.



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

MELBOURNE & BALLARAT KABLOOM

**TUESDAY 16 MARCH - SUNDAY 21 MARCH 2027 6 Days / 5 Nights -
Fully Escorted**

Enjoy a diverse getaway to the Melbourne, Ballarat, Dandenong's and the Bellarine Peninsula regions, and experience breathtaking scenery and colour, iconic landmarks, Australian sporting and mining history along with some amazing rail journeys and cruises. It doesn't just stop there, also included are some scrumptious fine dining experiences, and stunning colourful gardens displays. This thoughtfully curated getaway blends history, relaxation, colour and indulgence for a memorable Victorian Getaway.

Day 1. Tue 16 Mar: Homeport - Melbourne - Mt Macedon

FLIGHT DETAILS: Homeport - Melbourne (flights details to be advised) This morning, after arriving in Melbourne we head up to Mount Macedon, home of the Stokes Collection and Forest Glade Gardens. The remarkable collection reflects Cyril Stokes' lifelong passion for decorative arts. Following a guided tour, we explore the gardens and enjoy a picnic lunch in one of Australia's most beautiful settings. We then visit the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross before heading across to the Mercure Melbourne Caroline Spring which will be our home for the next 5 nights. After settling into our rooms, we will have time to check out the hotel facilities before enjoying dinner in the Westwaters Bistro.

Day 2. Wed 17 Mar: Melbourne Icons

After breakfast, we travel to the iconic MCG for a tour of the Australian Sports Museum, home to Australia's largest sporting memorabilia collection. We explore behind the scenes, including the Long Room, and walk on the famous turf. After refreshments, we board the MV Melba Star for a one-hour cruise along the Yarra River, passing some of Melbourne's most famous landmarks, gardens and sports arenas en route to Herring Island and Como House. Later, we visit the Eureka Skydeck for panoramic city views before returning to our hotel to freshen up before dinner.

Day 3. Thu 18 Mar: The Q Train

Today we travel down to the Bellarine Peninsula for a scenic drive through Saint Leonards and Port Arlington where we can take a stroll out along the Port Arlington Pier. Mid-morning, we arrive at the Drysdale Railway Station to board "The Q Train,". Enjoy a welcome drink on arrival before our 11.30am First-Class journey from Drysdale to Queenscliff, featuring a five-course degustation menu showcasing regional produce with paired drinks. Mid-afternoon we take a look through The National Wool Museum which tells the Australian story of wool, fibre and textiles. After a wonderful day out, we can relax back at the motel with the option to purchase a snack or drink.

Day 4. Fri 19 Mar: Ballarat Begonias - Sovereign Hill - Eureka

Today we travel across to Ballarat, beginning at the Lake Wendouree and Ballarat Botanical Gardens precinct, home to the Robert Clark Conservatory with its display of over 700 begonias. We also see the Prime Ministers Avenue and the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial. Next, we visit Sovereign Hill, where the spirit of the 1850s gold rush comes alive through demonstrations such as musket firing, gold pouring, and blacksmithing. Before departing, we view the Eureka Flag and explore the Eureka Centre. We then return to our motel to freshen up before meeting up for dinner.

Day 5. Sat 20 Mar: Dandenong's Puffing Billy & Kabloom Festival

This morning, we depart early for the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges and Puffing Billy Railway in Belgrave. We board the historic steam train for a scenic journey through lush mountain landscapes to Emerald Lake Park. Rejoining our coach, we travel via Monbulk to the Tesselaar Kabloom Festival of Flowers. Enjoy a tractor train ride and explore over 12 acres of vibrant blooms, capturing memorable photos among the colourful displays. There's also time to sample delicious international food from the food trucks. After a delightful day in the Dandenongs, we return to our hotel to freshen up before our farewell dinner.

Day 6. Sun 21 Mar: Melbourne International Garden & Flower Show – Homeport

After breakfast and checkout, we travel into the city Melbourne where we have the choice of a free morning to enjoy some retail therapy or visit the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, at the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens. Australia's top landscape designers are responsible for the breathtaking "Show Gardens" and the Great Hall of Flowers within the Royal Exhibition Building. Early afternoon we check-in at the Melbourne Airport for our flight back home after our amazing short break away in greater Melbourne with Trade Travel.

Tour Highlights

The Stokes Gallery & Forest Glades Gardens Australian Sports Museum & MCG Tour MV Melba Star River Cruise Eureka Skydeck The Q Train First Class Dining Experience National Wool Museum Ballarat Botanical Gardens Robert Clark Conservatory Begonia Displays Sovereign Hill Gold Mining Township Eureka Flag & Centre Iconic Puffing Billy Railway Journey Tesselaar Kabloom Festival Spectacular Melbourne International Garden & Flower Show

Inclusions

Trade Travel Tour Host Return airfares from Homeport - Melbourne with Virgin Australia Quality coach travel 5-Nights' accommodation Breakfast, lunch & dinner as per itinerary All entry fees, cruises, rail journeys & guides as per itinerary

Exclusions

Travel Insurance Optional touring Meals not included on the itinerary

Pricing

Ex Sydney/Adelaide: \$3,498 per person twin share Single Supplement: \$700 (limited single rooms)

Conditions

Spaces are limited - secure your place today, by submitting a completed and signed booking form along with AUD\$200 deposit per person A minimum of 20 paying passengers is required for this tour to proceed Deposit is non-refundable from Friday 20 November 2026 Final payment is due no later than Friday 15 January 2027, all payments made after this date are subject to a 100% cancellation charge The tour price is subject to change without notice Flights are subject to confirmation, change, and price increases at any time

For those members who have not seen the VIVID light show in Sydney for 2026 I attach some photos.

In general terms not only was it disappointing that the drone displays were cancelled, but in my view the economic situation probably caused a number of attractive features which were evident last year, not being included this year. Martin Place was vibrant and colourful last year but only one building (1 Martin Place, originally the GPO, and now Westin Sydney) was lit up this year.

In the Circular Quay area the most prominent features were the Opera House, the Sydney Harbour Bridge; the buildings lit up behind Circular Quay; and the Arts Centre. There were also laser beams, and lights on some of the boats sailing in the harbour, to add to the overall effects.

The photos in this Email 1 relate to the building in Martin Place and the Opera House with some of the patterns of light used. Three more emails to follow.

Regards,
Peter Loveday



