



**August 2026 Newsletter**  
**Edition No 223**

**MARGARET'S MANTA**

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destination for captivating stories



Dear Members and Friends,

**Welcome to Our New Members**

A very warm welcome to our two new members, Robert Batchelor and Sandra Ferguson. We encourage you to join in our activities, ask questions, share your thoughts, and get to know the people around you. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need guidance or support. We want you to feel comfortable, included, and valued as part of our club community.

**Birthday Lunch Celebration**

A huge thank you goes to Megan Hartnell, Trish Nielsen, and the support from their spouses for organising our wonderful birthday lunch on Thursday 16th July at Cromer Golf Club. The meal was delicious, beautifully presented, and the entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We certainly got our money's worth!

It was a day that truly ticked all the boxes: friendship, fellowship, and fun.

We enjoyed a very interesting talk from Ian Thompson on insects. It did make me wonder whether ladybirds stay still long enough for anyone to count their spots!

Thank you to all the ladies who came along for a lesson in crocheting. I hope you gained some knowledge.

The outing was to the Archibald exhibition, which was well worth a visit. Thank you to Judee Radford for organising the day out. Despite the weather, we certainly did not let it spoil the day.

Members have been asking for a day out by coach, and Peter Moxham has organised one for 1st October 2026 with On Course Tours. The outing will visit Vaucluse House and the Kokoda Memorial Walking Track at Concord. You can book through our website or put your name down with Peter at the General Meeting. The more people who come along, the lower the tour price will be.

The first day of September is National Wattle Day in Australia. To celebrate, you might like to wear something floral to our September meeting.

Thought for the month

*"August teaches us that the journey is just as important as the destination"*

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.belroseprobud.org.au/>

Club Email Address:

[combinedbelroseprobud@gmail.com](mailto:combinedbelroseprobud@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    | Di Pill                |
| Door              | Ros Thompson           |
| Book & Jigsaw     |                        |
| Exchange          | Judy Morton            |
| Book Club         | Sandy Cameron          |
| Cinema Outings    | Gloria Attwooll        |
|                   | Rosemary Daly          |
| Coffee Mornings & | Di Pill                |
| Picnics           | 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              |



**Payments for the following activities are now due. Please pay into our club bank account**

|         |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|
| \$79.90 | Taste of Ireland         |
| \$90.00 | Gospel According to Paul |

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### **AUGUST 2026**

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Book Club                   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Mahjong Club                |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | General Meeting             |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Coffee/Breakfast Morning    |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Lunch – Terry Hills Tavern  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Anh Do The Happiest Refugee |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Mahjong Club                |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Committee Meeting           |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | August Walk                 |

### **SEPTEMBER 2026**

|                  |                                               |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Picnic, St Ives Showground                    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Geoff's Journeys \$2.50 Opal Outing           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Taste of Ireland, Glen Street Theatre         |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Book Club                                     |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Mahjong Club                                  |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | General Meeting                               |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Gospel According to Paul, Glen Street Theatre |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Mahjong Club                                  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Committee Meeting                             |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | September Walk                                |

## **HOW TO BOOK AND PAY FOR 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 AND JIGSAW EXCHANGE ~**

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**

0427 235 400

## **~ COFFEE/BREAKFAST MORNING ~**

Another get together with a small group of people was enjoyed on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July at Blue Gum Cafe at Glenaeon. This is an ideal destination for a gathering as it is quiet and comfortable allowing for relaxed conversation with good coffee and food.

Our next Coffee/Breakfast Morning will be at the same venue on **Tuesday 18th August 9:30 AM .**

Date: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August

Location: Blue Gum Café / Restaurant at Glenaeon, 207 Forest Way, Belrose.

Time: 9:30 am.

Please RSVP for booking purposes.

You can either sign up at our next meeting (back of room) or contact,

Di Pill [0403 003 639](tel:0403003639) or

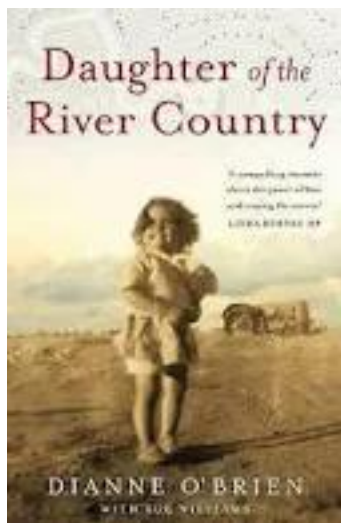
Ros Thompson [0416 086 766](tel:0416086766)

Looking forward to having you attend.

Take care,  
**Di and Ros.**



## ~ BOOK CLUB ~



Daughter of the River Country by Dianne O'Brien (with Sue Williams)

Dianne O'Brien was adopted but it was many years before she was aware of this and also of her heritage.

We all felt this was a harrowing read. So many misfortunes befell her but through her many experiences she has been able to help other people.

Dianne was born in the 1940s and is one of the "stolen generation". Unfortunately her adoptive mother died when she was quite young and her adoptive father abandoned her. She was placed in the notorious Parramatta Girls Home when pregnant and forced to marry the man who abused her in order to keep her baby. Against fierce opposition she was determined to keep her child.

At the hands of different partners Dianne endured a lot of abuse. She raised six children mostly on her own and has many grandchildren.

A turning point in her life was when she learnt of her aboriginal heritage. She has become a respected elder and in 2017 was named Grandparent of the Year.

**Di Pill**

## ~ ENTERTAINMENT ~

Hello Everyone, here are the forthcoming shows:

### ANH DO THE HAPPIEST REFUGEE

**20th August at 7:30pm \$74.90.**

26 Tickets have been sold. Be part of one of the happiest shows to come to Glen Street

### A TASTE OF IRELAND

**Thursday 3rd September at 7:30 pm \$79.90.**

Direct from off Broadway and London West End - the International acclaimed production is touring Australia in 2026. Performed by world Irish dancing champions. **Money is now due**

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL – THE SECOND COMING

**Thursday 10th September at 7:30pm \$90**

Jonathan Biggins is a Masterclass in biographical theatre - Biggins superb acting alone carries the play. **Money now due**

### CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

**Friday 9th October 7:30 pm \$60**

The featured artists are the BEGGARS who entertained us brilliantly last December. They feature music of the 60s and 70s including legends like Fleetwood Mac, The Eagles, Linda Ronstadt, Crosby Stills Nash and Young Carole King and many more. Please make your bookings as soon as possible.

Further great shows will be presented shortly.  
Thanks again for your support

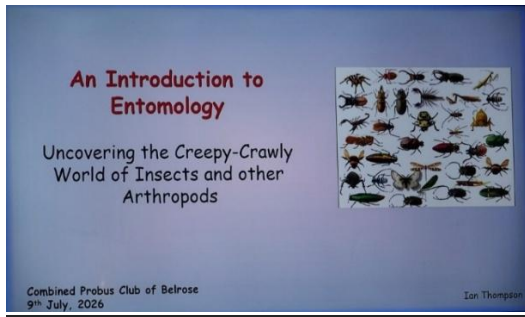
**Warwick Brady**  
0418 793 684





## ~ GUEST SPEAKERS ~

### JULY SPEAKER



Guest speaker Ian Thompson and Les Bassett who gave the vote of thanks

Our speaker last month Ian Thompson spoke on Garden Insects, and what a fascinating subject it was. I'm sure we learnt a lot of new facts about insects, for me the fact they make up half the animal and plant kingdom was a surprise. Secondly their means of reproduction varies considerably, with the female praying mantis decapitating the male whilst mating!!!

Whilst their colouring is beautiful Christmas beetles can devastate Eucalypts and Shield or Citrus Bugs cause severe eye problems and necessary precautions should be taken.

Ian's knowledge is always amazing and he made me think how wonderful nature is.

### AUGUST SPEAKER

The August guest speaker is Evan Penn and his subject is Cambodia where he has spent some time.

**Cherry Robinson**  
0438 186 584

## ~ MAHJONG CLUB ~



Photo taken at a recent Mahjong Day

**Sandra Murphy**  
0457 388 325

## ~ MEMBERSHIP ~



President Margaret with Sandra Ferguson and Robert Batchelor both of whom were inducted at our July general meeting

## ~ OUTINGS AND TOURS ~

### OCTOBER VAUCLUSE HOUSE

On **October 1st** we have the opportunity to visit the ten acres of beautiful landscaped gardens with the historic Vacluse House the centrepiece. This will be a guided tour with morning tea at Nielson Park and lunch at the Coogee Legion Club before travelling to Concord to visit the Kokoda Memorial Centre which includes a walk in a rainforest setting.

Pricing as follows:

30 persons or above \$93 pp and

20 to 30 persons \$111 pp.

Numbers will be taken at our August meeting.  
Payment by late August.

### JULY ARCHIBALD EXHIBITION

A small group of Probus members visited the Art Gallery in mid-July to view the Archibald Exhibition, as well as taking in the impressive Young Archies' display and the John Laws' collection.

A light lunch was enjoyed at the Gallery cafe following the guided tour led by our knowledgeable volunteer guide, Lorraine. Thank you Judee Radford for your input.

### JULY CANBERRA YULEFEST TOUR

Thirty one people enjoyed a wonderful three day, two night tour of Canberra and surrounding attractions. Some of the highlights included the National Portrait Gallery, a guided tour of old Parliament House and the recently completed multi million dollar air and maritime exhibition at the Australian War Memorial where the last post was performed. We were blessed with sunshine throughout and enjoyed a great variety of wonderful food. Jock Cameron summed it up when thanking the driver guide by saying that he was "full up to pussy's bow"

**Peter Moxham**  
0417 299 283

## YULEFEST TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

### Day 1

#### Morning Tea Lake Alexandra Reserve, Mittagong



#### Lunch – The Olive Grove



#### Lake George





Wine Tasting on the waterfront, Kingston



Non-wine drinkers coffee tasting!



## Day 2

### National Portrait Gallery

The Gallery's newest collection exhibition is a playful display of more than 100 portraits spanning the 1930s to today and featuring painting, photography and mixed-media.



Guided tour of old Parliament House.

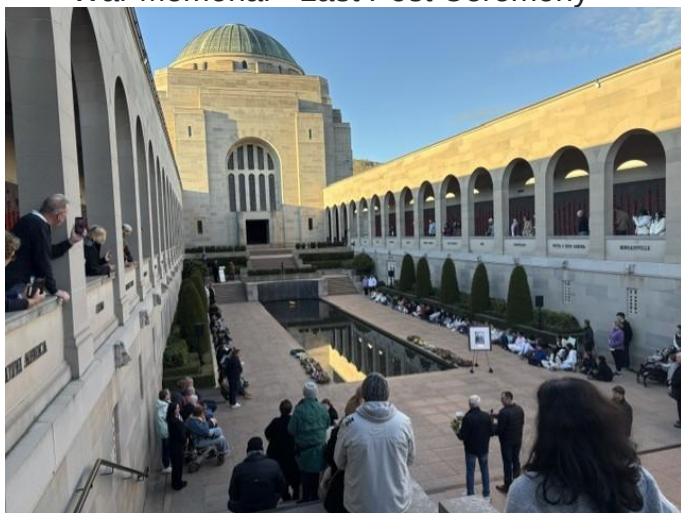


National War Memorial - Anzac Atrium  
A bright, glassed connection space displaying large acquisitions including an F-111 fighter-bomber, a Black Hawk helicopter, an Australian Light Armoured Vehicle, and the bridge of HMAS Brisbane





War Memorial - Last Post Ceremony



Delicious Yulefest Dinner



### Day 3

Mount Ainslie Lookout, Canberra



## GEOFF'S JOURNEYS \$2.50 OPAL OUTINGS

### LUCY OSBURN-NIGHTINGALE MUSEUM

If you have been to hospital in Sydney you should give thanks to Lucy Osborne and her determination to establish Florence Nightingale's principles of nursing.

You will have a chance to do this on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** when we visit the Lucy Osburn-Nightingale Museum in the old Sydney hospital.

Originally called the Rum Hospital because convicts were paid to import rum for resale, Sydney Hospital was founded as a convict hospital in 1788 and was the first building on Macquarie St. It was completed in 1894 and the two outer wings remain today in the form of The Mint and NSW Parliament House.

In 1868 what is now called the Nightingale Wing was completed, and the Lucy Osburn-Nightingale Museum is located on the first floor. The museum is home to a collection of medical equipment, records, implements and pathology that portrays the history of nursing and medicine in Australia from the arrival of the first fleet in 1788.

Visitors can walk back in time into original furnished rooms, view photos, artefacts, surgical instruments, costumes and the oldest morbid anatomy specimens in Australia.

### COCKATOO ISLAND



On our way to Cockatoo Island last June the ferry stopped at Barangaroo and we wondered about these sculptures near the wharf.



## Monuments for Fishes



In partnership with Infrastructure NSW, Lendlease has unveiled a major new public artwork, "Monuments for Fishes", by acclaimed Australian artist Mikala Dwyer in Watermans Cove at Barangaroo South.

One of the largest floating and kinetic artworks in the world, the piece features five sculptural monuments rising to 23 metres above sea level from the harbour, inspired by lightweight fishing floats and paying homage to Indigenous fisherwomen.

Crafted from carbon fibre, fibreglass and steel, the monuments respond to the surrounding environment, swaying with the tides, winds and currents, and resonating with the changing light and reflections.

The installation marks the completion of the broader Public Art and Cultural Plan for Barangaroo, delivering five permanent public artworks over more than ten years.

**Geoff Jones**  
0412 420 213

## ~ SOCIAL ~

### ANNIVERSARY LUNCH CROMER GOLF CLUB

73 of us enjoyed a wonderful day of excellent food, fellowship and fun once again at Cromer Golf Club. We were so impressed by the quality of the food and the efficient and friendly service at a venue where parking and access is so good. They certainly looked after us! The funniest part of the lemon game was when people cut them up to squeeze on their fish ! We should have anticipated that !

### CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We have decided to have our Christmas lunch on 17th December at Cromer Golf Club again. It works for us and "better the devil you know"!

To change it up a bit we will have a colourful Hawaiian theme! Should be bright and cheerful for a summer get together! The food however will still be a Christmas alternate drop served at our tables. If you don't wish to "dress up" that's perfectly fine. Maybe just a touch of colour with a lei from a \$2 shop! Hopefully my hibiscus will still be flowering. Otherwise I have plenty of frangipanis in the garden. 🌸 We might even do the limbo !!! ( or not ! )

Details of cost coming soon so then you can pay into the Club account.

Meanwhile ..... Save the date **Thursday 17th December** for some summer fun and laughter at Cromer Golf Club.

### TERRY HILLS TAVERN

#### **Thursday 20th August at 12 noon**

Great choice of meals in a warm and inviting venue close to home. Come along and enjoy lunch with your Probus friends. It's pay as you go so no need to pay ahead of time.

I just need numbers please by 15th August to finalise our booking. Put your name on the list at the August meeting or send me a text or email.

## THE LITTLE SNAIL AT PYRMONT

Don't forget payment for the Little Snail on **Thursday 29th October . \$48pp for 3 courses** is terrific value. Pay into the Club account please. If you haven't already registered there is still plenty of time. Put your name on the list at the next meeting or text/ email me if you wish to come

There is a parking station right next door for those who would like to drive in.

**Megan Hartnell/Trish Nielsen**

0402 102 055

Megt11@bigpond.com

## ANNIVERSARY LUNCH CROMER GOLF CLUB



Megan Hartnell - Master of Ceremonies









## ~ WALKING GROUP ~

### AUGUST WALK

Our **August walk is on Friday 28th**, Como to Oatley and is led by Helen. Meet at the Glenrose bus stop at 7.55am for the 8.05am City Bus (271) to the QVB. We then catch a train at 9.31am from Town Hall to Como where we will walk down to the Marina for our Coffee. We then walk across the bridge towards Oatley with cheese and biscuits on the way. It is approx. 3km slightly uphill, we will be taking it easy. We will have lunch at Oatley before returning home. Please let Helen know if you are coming from another direction.

### JULY WALK

Twenty brave walkers set out, on the coldest morning of the year so far, for our walk along the Greenway Trail. The weather turned out to be perfect, unlike some of our bus and rail connections, but everyone managed to meet up at Central for coffee before boarding the Light Rail to Leichhardt North, where we commenced the walk.

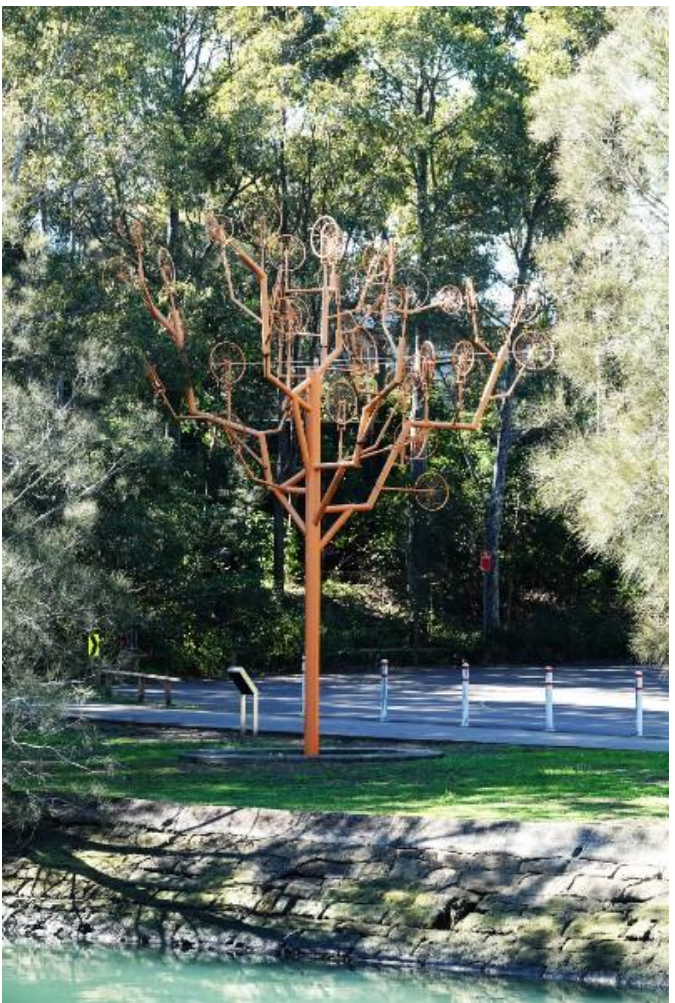
Although long, the walk is mostly flat along the Hawthorne Canal, through parkland and trees, where we stopped for cheese and biscuits. The one section along suburban Weston Street has fascinating old houses and cottages. From here we rejoined the walkway along the light rail track, through parkland to Dulwich Hill station, and to lunch at the Rebels N Misfits Cafe. Luckily I had booked our tables as the cafe only holds about 25 inside. We returned home by Light Rail, Metro and Bus after a long, enjoyable day in perfect Winter weather.

A big thank you to Peter Loveday for his photos and to Alison Soutter and Margaret Ayre for suggesting this walk. Unfortunately Steve Baker was missing from cheese and biscuits and our group photo as he was photographing fences!!!

**Helen Miles**  
0407 078 519









## CHANGES TO COUNCIL PARKING PERMITS

In case you have not received notification Northern Beaches Council have changed their policy on parking permits

Remember those simple parking permits that come with your Annual Rates Notice. You just peel them off and add to your windscreen. But not anymore! The new digital process is described on the Northern Beaches Council website. This will take some time to do and you may need help from one of your grandchildren too!

You will need to register an account with the council and provide photographic evidence of your driver's licence and rates notice. Don't leave it too late. The changes apply from September 2026.



### AUGUST

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Ros Thompson    |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Silvia Gore     |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Di Pill         |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Carole Stewart  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Jane White      |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Barbara Edmunds |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Les Bassett     |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Alison Soutter  |

## ELIZABETH "LIZ" HUNTER



Jill Pearce on the left and Liz Hunter

Liz was born Elizabeth Rennick in Melbourne on 27th February 1933.

In the late 1950s she went to London by ship, in a shared cabin with three other girls she had never met but they all became life-long friends. Of the 4 travellers, only one is still alive. Liz worked as a secretary in a company in London where she met her future husband, Noel Hunter. They married in Chelsea (London) in September 1965 and she became Stepmother to Paul and Gillian.

Noel was offered a job in Sydney and they arrived here in 1966. They moved to Belrose in 1967. Liz decided to apply for a position as a P.A. with Tuckers (an importer & distributor of spirits) in the CBD, a job she loved and stayed with until she retired.

She joined our Probus Club in 2011 after her good friends Marian McDuff, Jill and Lyle Pearce had joined a few years before. Liz enjoyed her years with our Probus Club. She joined the "Wrap with Love" group and contributed hundreds of beautifully knitted squares for the group. She played Bridge with Forestville RSL Club twice a week and also Lindfield once a week until ill health forced her to curtail her activities.

She leaves behind her 2 Stepchildren, 6 Grandchildren, 8 Great-grandchildren and 1 Great-Great-grandchild. Her family, friends and Probus friends, will miss her greatly.

**Jill Pearce (neighbour for 60 years)**