



# Asquith Mixed Probus Club BULLETIN

## President's Corner.

We have successfully held our Annual General Meeting; the new Committee has had its first meeting and are very involved in their responsibilities to ensure that we have a most enjoyable year.

I extend a very warm welcome to our New Members to AMPC and encourage you to become involved in the activities, outings, and meetings where you will meet a very friendly group.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful year of “fun, friendship, and fellowship.

Sandra Death

President AMPC

2023/24 AMPC Committee



Port Kembla Day Trip



### Meeting Dates at Magpies

#### General Meetings

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**10am for 10.30am start.**

Website:

<https://www.asquithmixedprobus.org.au>

Email: [info@asquithmixedprobus.org.au](mailto:info@asquithmixedprobus.org.au)  
[webmaster@asquithmixedprobus.org.au](mailto:webmaster@asquithmixedprobus.org.au)

**Bulletin: Editor: Sylvia Gratton**



**Asquith Mixed Probus Club Inc.**

The Secretary AMPC, 9 Warruga Crescent,  
Berowra Heights 2082

Formed by the Rotary Club of Berowra on  
2 October 2008.

Club No: 9003799

District: 9685 PD3 Inc. No.: 9890687

**Bendigo Bank details for deposits.**

BSB No: 633-000 Account No.: 139 637  
029

**PRIVACY:** In accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 and recommendation from Probus South Pacific, this newsletter is private and confidential for members of Asquith

Mixed Probus Club use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.

## COMMITTEE NOTES - MARCH 2023

1. **Well here we go again**, AGM is over and guess what, I'm still here! Surprise, Surprise. Come on you people, I do need an Assistant Secretary, please think about it. I wish to thank our new Vice President, Denise, who took the minutes of the Committee Meeting, due to both Jim and I attending a funeral. It's times like this we need an Assistant.
2. **As has been the case** in the past, the **Immediate Past President** will be seeking Members to act as Observers at Committee Meetings. Meetings are held the week following our General Meeting, and it is a way of seeing the work done in the background, who knows, you may like to take on a Committee position in the future.
3. **Mal and his Committee** are doing a great job organising day excursions, and some future tours.
4. **Mal** has requested the purchase of a magnetic whiteboard to display functions etc.

***Pam Slater Secretary***

**SOMETIMES YOU MEET  
SOMEONE AND YOU  
KNOW FROM THE  
FIRST MOMENT THAT  
YOU WANT TO SPEND  
YOUR WHOLE LIFE  
WITHOUT THEM.**



**Apparently there are  
2 types of flu.  
The harmless one that  
women and children get,  
and the "near death"  
version that men get.**



**DOLLS** When? the Wednesday following our monthly ‘member meeting’ at 10:15 for a 10:30 start. Please join us for tea, coffee, cake and a chat. Wool, needles and stuffing supplied and the good news is you don’t need to be able to knit. Contact Barbara Williamson.

**MAH-JONG** The group meets every Wednesday afternoon from 1.30pm at Asquith Bowling Club. Contact Pam Clarke for more information.

**CARDS** 500 cards held 1<sup>st</sup> and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10am at Magpies. New players welcome. Phone Mary.

**MEN’S GROUP** Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 10am in the Pavilion at Magpies. Contact Robert Allison

AMPC Men’s Group	Robert Allison	Dolls	Barbara Williamson
Auditor	Robert Allison	5 <sup>th</sup> Thursday BBQ	Lance Williamson
Books DVD	George Gates	Mah-jong	Pam Clarke
Jigsaws	Robert Montgomery	Theatres	
		Walks	Laurie Keaton
Cards 500	Mary Glasby	Web Site	Robert Allison
Public Officer & Historian	Sandra Death	Assist. Tours/Excurs.	Yenda Holland
Assist. Tours/Excurs.	Helen Nancarrow	Assist. Tours/Excurs.	Lula Andersen

### AMPC COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023-24

AMPC Committee Members		Phone	Email
President	Sandra Death		
Vice-President Elect	Jim Jeffries		
Vice-President	Denise Mayhew		
Secretary	Pam Slater		
Treasurer	Angus Dougall		
	<b>Committee</b>		
Bulletin	Sylvia Gratton		
Hospitality	Rhonda Wilson		
Membership	Barry Willick		
Programme	Jim Jeffries		
Tours/Excursions	Mal & Suellen Steel		
Welfare	Vicki McPherson		
Assistant Secretary			
Assistant Treasurer			
Walks Representative	Dianne Watson		
Historian/Public Officer	Sandra Death		
Past President	John Davies		

## Pt Kembla visit March 2023

35 Probus members had a scenic train trip to Port Kembla on a hot sunny day. A delicious lunch & cooling beverage at the inviting Coniston pub went down a treat. Great organising by the pub staff and tour staff meant the day ran very smoothly.



We had two options.

One was a bus tour of the port. There was an introductory video before commencing the tour which gave us an idea of the size of the port. It is enormous.



All cars imported into Australia come via Pt Kembla. We saw wind turbines (both the blades and the towers) cars wrapped in plastic & train carriages in bubble wrap all waiting to be moved on. Wheat, coal, cement, canola and cruise ships are all moved through Pt Kembla.



New Gas & Hydrogen projects are being built for our energy needs. And the port is 90% owned by local Super funds. We visited two viewing sites which revealed both the enormity of the port and beautiful beaches which looked so tempting on such a hot day.

Thanks to the meticulous planning from Mal, Suellen, Lula and Yenda the day went like clockwork.

Contributed by Helen



The steelworks tour began with a short video explaining the process of making steel.

We were then kitted out in a long-sleeved coat, protective glasses, hard hat and earphones before being driven to a set of stairs which were climbed to enable entry to a huge Foundry (Basic Oxygen Steelmaking) just in time to see red-hot liquid added to a “witch’s cauldron” of molten iron. Old washing machines, vacuum cleaners, microwaves & other scrap is added to the beginning of the process.

After a while oxygen is then blown into the cauldron while flames, silver sparkles and red slag keep spitting out of the top. It was very hot. We then walked the gantries to the area where red hot iron is expelled from lots of rollers to make slabs of steel.

Unfortunately, there was a break-down in the Hot Strip Mill where the steel is rolled down to a thickness of 3-5 cm at 60 km/hour before being collected into large coils. It was all extremely interesting.

Contributed by Yenda



## **Day Trips**

### **April 20<sup>th</sup> Visit and explore DANGAR ISLAND**

- **9.24am train from Hornsby platform 5** to Hawkesbury River station, stops at Berowra 9.33am **OR** drive yourself and park. Please note it is school holidays so parking could be difficult and ferry could be popular.
- **10.15am ferry from Brooklyn Wharf** to Dangar Island. Concession paid on the day **\$5.20 each way. NO OPAL card.**
- Coffee and an optional wandering explore of the island
- For those interested, we have booked the Café for 12 noon lunch for 24 people

**PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME ON THE SIGN ON SHEET** so we can confirm accurate numbers for lunch at the café or you could bring a picnic lunch.

- Return ferry 1.15pm or 2.30pm. Return train 2.27pm or 3.26pm

### **May 18<sup>th</sup> DISCOVERY DAY AT WESTMEAD Children's Medical Research Institute 10 -2pm**

**This outing is FULL to capacity and we have a waiting list, should anyone cancel.**

- **8.35am** train from **Hornsby** to Strathfield, and on to Westmead arriving **9.34am**
- **711 bus** at **9.46am** to Westmead Hospital Precinct
- Talk/lecture on 'What is in our genes?' in Conference room, small group tour through laboratories meeting and talking with researchers of diseases such as cancer, epilepsy and genetic disorders
- **Includes** delicious homemade morning tea and freshly made sandwiches for a light lunch, tea and coffee. (Please speak to us about dietary needs)
- Option to walk 10 mins/750m back to Westmead Station or catch the bus
- Disabled Parking available for a couple of cars for those with limited mobility who find train and bus travel difficult

### **June 15<sup>th</sup> TOUR OF ARCHIBALD, WYNNE AND SULMAN EXHIBITION \$27 @ NSW Art Gallery**

**9.30am 1 hour guided private group tour of the exhibition.** The gallery does not open to the general public till 10am.

**Sign up and pay to secure your spot.** We are limited to 30 people.

Take this opportunity to view the Archibalds with friends and explore the recent changes to our Art gallery.

Transport details in newsletter next month. We will be catching the train from Hornsby to Martin Place Station followed by a short walk to the Art Gallery across the Domain.

## TOURS

### Mayfield Gardens Festival & Oberon in Autumn

**April 2 - 4th**

**8.00am** bus pick up: Asquith Bowling Club – 1 Lodge Street, Hornsby

Please arrive **at least 10 mins prior to departure time.**

### 8 Day Eyre Peninsula Tour **FULL** 20 -27 July 2023

**A Great Coastal Journey to Port Lincoln, Ceduna and the Head of Bight during Whale Season.**

**A small group tour of no more than 25 people with Australian Iconic Tours showcasing natural wonders, local produce, history and the fabulous hospitality of the Eyre Peninsula.**



## HOSPITALITY

### ONE OFF POT LUCK MEAL

**Date & Time determined by host.**

This Pot Luck Meal is a fun event and an ideal way to meet others. Members decide if they want to be a GUEST or a HOST.

The host would provide the main part of the meal and the guests would be asked by their host to bring extras such as starter, salad, vegetables or dessert. The guests also bring their own drinks.

Each Host will be allocated 4 other members. Please sign up by stating your choice of Guest or Host



Rhonda Wilson

**Our AGM Speaker  
Robert Allison**

**Welcome to AMPC**

**Ros Blackman**



## Walks

We have two very interesting walks coming up. The April Walk is our historic walk focusing on train/tram aspects organised and led by Dianne and Kevin. In May, we have one of Sydney's most scenic walks – short but very challenging. It does pose significant safety issues. Registrations will be e-mailed the special conditions and on this occasion a reply is required. Please click on the reply symbol on your computer to ensure your reply is listed under email sent. A limit of 20 per walk is set (40 total).

### Thursday 27 April

**Leads:** Kevin Watson and Dianne Watson.

**Where:** Blackwattle Bay Foreshore to Glebe Tram Sheds

**What:** Two walks. 1. Central to Wentworth Park via old Goods Line. Thence Blackwattle foreshores to Glebe Tram Sheds

2. Light Rail Central to Fish Markets and then Blackwattle Foreshores to Glebe Tram Sheds.

**Lunch:** A varied cuisine of your choice from numerous cultures.

**Travel:** 9.04 Hornsby Platform 3 to Central CCN train Cars 2/3

### Thursday 25 May

**Leads:** Kevin Watson and Laurie.

**Where:** Kambala School Rose Bay to Watson's Bay

**What:** 1. Hermitage Foreshore walk (2.5km) to Nielsen Park with extension to Watson's Bay via Parsley Bay Footbridge (2.5km). **Parts rated moderate.**

2. Hermitage Foreshore walk (2.5km) to Nielsen Park 325 Bus to Watson's Bay. **Parts rated moderate.**



**Special Conditions:** The walk is one of Sydney's most Scenic but it **requires special attention from participants** –narrow paths – slippery when wet many rock steps, and a signposted overhang. Special conditions will be e-mailed out with a reply required.

**Walk Cap:** 20 per walk total 40

**Travel:** Hornsby 9.04 Plat 3 CCN train Cars 2/3 arrive Redfern 9.41 change to Plat 11 for Edgecliffe: Buses 324-325 to Kambala Stand D.

**Bring:** Light Morning Tea. Lunch at the Bay or picnic in the Park.



**Wednesday April 19<sup>th</sup>**

**2.30 p.m. Berowra RSL Club (upstairs auditorium)**

**997 Pacific Highway, Berowra (opposite railway station)**

**Only \$7 including tea and biscuits**

Berowra District Mixed Probus Club invites any of our members who are interested to attend their monthly trivia afternoon. They promise an afternoon of friendship, fellowship and fun, with Quizmaster Keith Carson.

The quiz consists of 4 rounds of 12 questions, plus True & False, and Dead or Alive competitions. The standard team size is 4 or 5, and teams may be formed in advance, or you can join a team on the day.

Please book with Keith, per the contact details below. If you pay electronically or by depositing at Bendigo Bank, that helps to reduce the handling of cash, but the option of paying cash on the day is also available.

The Berowra Mixed Probus Club bank account details: BSB: 633 000. Account number: 137 367 892. Contact Keith Carson.

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS

### APRIL 2023

Our speaker this month is Ross Clements.

Ross was a National Teacher within many Engineering Colleges attached to Telstra and on retiring tutored high school students in Science, Maths and Chemistry.

He was President of a Model Makers Club and today is the Speaker Organiser for the Brookvale Probus Club (so he knows all about lining up Speakers)

He has been invited by other Probus Clubs to be their Guest Speaker as he has a large range of subject titles in his portfolio.

In view of the commitment by State and Federal Governments of all persuasions to reduce the use of fossil fuels we have asked Ross to talk about renewal energy- its generation by Hydro, Thermal, Solar, Nuclear etc.

He may also talk about the storage of such energy by battery or Hydrogen.

### MAY 2023

#### Matt Murphy

At school, Matt Murphy failed English and couldn't see the point of history. He became a fireman and has been serving in Sydney's inner city for 33 years. He is now also a part time historian and teacher, tolerating the attitudes of kids towards history that he used to share. His previous book, Weight of Evidence, is about what was the longest civil court case in New South Wales. Matt's younger self would be aghast that he is now writing history books but be consoled by the absurdist voice old Matt has achieved. Matt also can't believe he has to write his own bio.

## Australia and its formation - through the distorted view of a rum bottle.

Could the Rum Rebellion have been averted if Major Johnston wasn't hungover?

Would the Eureka Stockade have been different if the rebels weren't pissed?

How were prisoners to get drunk if Macquarie closed the only pub in the gaol?

And why should sailors under fourteen be deprived of their sixteen shots of rum per day?

These are just some of the questions raised in Matt Murphy's account of Australia's colonial history. Brimming with detailed research and irreverent character sketches, Rum looks at not just how much was drunk in colonial Australia (a lot!), but also the lengths people went to get their hands on it, the futile efforts of the early governors to control it, and the often disastrous and/or absurd consequences of its consumption.

Those consequences aren't just in our past. Murphy goes beyond foundation stories to look at the legacy our love affair with alcohol has created, from binge drinking to lockout laws and from prohibition to urinating on the parliamentary carpet.

So, here's to Rum, for making bad decisions look like a good idea at the time.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	CONVENOR	PAGE	PHONE NO
Every Wednesday	Mah-Jong Asquith Bowling Club	Pam Clarke	4	
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed. 10am	500 Cards Magpies	Mary Glasby	4	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Weds of Month	Men's Group Magpies	Robert Allison	4	
2 <sup>nd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Mayfield Gardens/Oberon Trip	Mal Steel	7	
6 <sup>th</sup> April	Probus Meeting	Sandra Death		
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Dolls	Barbara Williamson	4	
13 <sup>th</sup> April	Committee Meeting	Sandra Death		
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Dangar Island	Mal Steel	6	
27 <sup>th</sup> April	Blackwattle Bay to Glebe Tram Sheds	Laurie Keaton	8	
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Probus Meeting	Sandra Death		
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Dolls	Barbara Williamson	4	
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Committee Meeting	Sandra Death		
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Discovery Day at Westmead	Mal Steel	6	
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Rose Bay to Watsons Bay Walk	Laurie Keaton	8 & 9	



**CONGRATULATIONS ON 10 YEARS MEMBERSHIP TO AMPC.**

**NICK AND JOY SPEYER AND WALL GAMBELL.**